Poli115A: Gender, Politics and Globalization
Spring Quarter 2011

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Course website: The course maintains a website through WebCT at http://webct.ucsd.edu. Here you will find the course syllabus, all course handouts, the course discussion board, course announcements, and TurnItIn.com for your research project assignments.

Course Description:
What have been the effects of globalization on gender, and how has gender, in turn, influenced conceptions and processes of globalization? These are the two central questions that inform this course. We will begin by asking what we mean by “gender” and how gender is used as a category of analysis in the social sciences. We will then examine competing conceptions of globalization and assess the ways in which globalization is a gendered phenomenon through comparative case study analysis. Specifically, we’ll examine economic, cultural and political dimensions of globalization, and assess the ways in which globalization processes associated with these dimensions have had gendered consequences. Within “economic” globalization, we will assess the gendered impact of global restructuring in three main areas: (1) industrial production, (2) agriculture, and (3) services. Within these broad economic categories, we’ll focus specifically on the development of export-processing industries, high-value agricultural industries, and domestic services. Within each of these areas, we will also assess the gendered dimensions of global migrations and evaluate the ways in which men and women have been differently impacted by these migrations, as well as by human trafficking. We will then turn to the “cultural” dimensions of globalization and focus, in particular, on the gendered dimensions of the resurgence of religious fundamentalism globally. Specifically, we will assess the gendered impact of Islamic fundamentalism in several case studies drawn from the “global south,” as well as the ways in which masculinities and globalization are embedded in the emergence of extremist groups on the far right within the “global north.” Finally, we will examine some of the explicitly “political” dimensions of globalization and the ways in which these have been both influenced, and been influenced by, gendered relations of power at international, national and local levels. At the international level, we will assess the influence of international organizations and institutions (i.e. IMF, WB, WTO, UN, ILO) on gender relations in different national contexts, as well as the ways in which these institutions have been reciprocally influenced by social movements and organizations using gender as a central organizing principle. Within this context, we will examine the emergence of transnational feminist movements promoting gender equity as a central movement goal, and their political impact. At national and local levels, we will examine the gendered impact of political globalization in processes of democratization, and examine the impact of specific political strategies, such as gender quotas, in promoting gender equity within local and national level political institutions. The course concludes by examining the impact of gender mainstreaming as a strategy in promoting gender equity globally, nationally and locally, and assesses the possibilities and limitations of competing conceptions of gender justice in our contemporary globalized world. Throughout the course, we will draw on case study analysis to examine the complex and multifaceted relationship between gender and globalization, and from this empirically grounded perspective we will critically assess contemporary theoretical debates on global justice.
Course Requirements:

Summary:

(1) Midterm Exam: Thursday, 28 April (week 5)  
(2) Research Project: 
   (a) a one paragraph (single-spaced) research proposal due to WebCT by midnight  
      Wednesday, 20 April; hard copy due in class Thursday, 21 April (week 4)  
      (b) research project (8 - 10 double-spaced pgs.) due to WebCT by midnight  
      Monday, 25 May; hard copy due in class Tues., 26 May (week 9)  
(4) Final Exam: Monday, 6 June, 3 – 6 p.m.  

Exams:

There will be two exams in this course: a midterm and a final. The midterm exam will constitute 20% of your final grade, and the final exam is worth 35%. For both exams, you will be asked to define, state the significance, and provide an empirical example of key concepts drawn from course readings, lectures, and/or films. For the midterm, you will be asked to write on four of five concepts, and for the (cumulative) final, you will be asked to write on five of six concepts. The midterm is scheduled for Thursday, 28 April (week 5) and the final exam (cumulative) is Monday, 6 June (finals week). A study guide for your midterm will be posted to the course WebCT board on Friday, 22 April by midnight, and a study guide for your final exam will be posted on Wednesday, 1 June by midnight. Please note that exams cannot be made up without exceedingly well-documented evidence of an emergency, or prior approval by the professor.

Research Projects:

In addition to midterm and final exams, this course also requires that you write a short (8 - 10 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1 inch margins) research paper, which will count for 45% of your final grade (this includes the points earned for the research proposal). Depending on your personal interests and goals, you may choose to write either a more traditional research paper, or a policy paper. Regardless of which option you choose, your projects should focus on a specific problem related to the gendered dimensions of globalization, and you should consult a minimum of five relevant academic sources outside of course readings. These sources can be academic books or articles from peer-reviewed journals. The general purpose of the research assignment is to allow you the opportunity for more in-depth analysis of a problem or question related to gender and globalization of particular interest to you, and to further hone your critical thinking and writing skills in defending the positions you put forth. In addition, since we can only address a small subset of country case studies in a 10-week quarter, it gives you the opportunity to explore a case study of your interest and choice. A one-paragraph (single-spaced) proposal of your research project is due to WebCT by midnight on Wednesday, 20 April with a hard copy due in class on Thursday, 21 April (week 4). Final papers are due no later than midnight on Monday, 23 May to WebCT, with a hard copy due in class on Tuesday, 26 May (week 9). Because of the size of the class, and the importance of maintaining standards of fairness for all students, late assignments will be penalized one-third of a grade for each day that they are late. Please also note that e-mailed versions of assignments cannot be accepted under any circumstances.

If you choose the traditional research paper option, your paper should have a clear thesis statement linking gender and globalization, and your argument should be carefully developed with supporting evidence. If you choose the policy paper option, for the purposes of this assignment, you will become a policy analyst focused on a problem directly related to gendered dimensions of globalization employed by either a governmental organization, inter-governmental organization, or a non-governmental of your choice (see research guide linked to course website for examples) and your brief will be directed to an organization (or state agency, etc.) of your choice. Regardless of which research option you choose, your projects should focus on a specific problem linking gender and globalization. Please see “The Policy Brief Described (pdf)” link on the course website under “library guide,” as well as sample policy briefs to see how different groups organize their policy analyses and briefs. If you need help narrowing your topic, or if you run into problems finding information on the topic you’ve chosen, please consult me, your TA, a reference librarian at Geisel, or the political science research librarian at Geisel, Annelise Sklar.

As mentioned above, a one-paragraph (single-spaced) proposal of your research project is due by midnight, Wednesday, 20 April to WebCT. Please also bring a hard copy to class on Thursday, 21 April (week 4).
If you are writing a research paper, proposals should include: (1) a brief statement of the gender problem linked to globalization that you will investigate and why, and; (2) a brief statement and justification of your case study. If you are writing a policy paper, in addition to (1) and (2), please include: (3) the organization you will represent, and (4) your target organization(s). (If you’d like, you can write an internal policy brief – written to persuade members of your own organization to take specific action on a problem linked to gender and globalization, and/or to change its current policy or course of action.) Please use case studies not covered in the course. Although it’s understandable that your project will evolve from the proposal stage to your final research paper or policy brief, the more precise you can be in stating the problem or question that is of interest to you, the better feedback the TAs and I will be able to give you. Of course, your TAs and I will also be available throughout the quarter through office hours and the WebCT board (see below) to assist you as your projects develop. Detailed research guides will be posted to the course website and discussed in class next week. You will also find research links on the course website to assist you. If there is sufficient student demand, I am also willing to organize a research workshop during week 6 to assist you with your projects. (We will take a class poll just after midterms to determine student interest.)

Class Participation:
As an upper division political science course, you are expected to come to class meetings prepared to discuss central questions, puzzles and concerns that arise from course readings assigned for that day, or current events that are related to course topics. The most recent academic literature on teaching and learning has documented a strong causal relationship between active participation/discussion and student learning. Ideally, at least 20 minutes of most 80 minute class sessions will be devoted to questions and discussion. There are two main ways to participate in the course: (1) class discussion, or (2) substantive postings on the course WebCT board. General participation in the course in one of these two ways will be used to “bump-up” any borderline final grades. For example, if you end up with an 89% in the class, but have made a conscious effort to participate through in class discussions or the WebCT board, your grade will be bumped-up to an “A-“. In addition, please do come to office hours to discuss course readings, lecture, films, your research, etc. The TAs and I look forward to getting to know and learning from each of you!

Course Readings:
All readings for the course are available via electronic reserves from Geisel Library, or from weblinks provided on the course syllabus. To access reserve items, go to http://libraries.ucsd.edu/services/reserves.html and follow the links. If you have any questions about reserves, instructions can be found at: http://libraries.ucsd.edu/proxy. You can also confirm your username by going to: http://www-no.ucsd.edu/services/netusername.html. If you encounter any problems, call or email network operations at 858.534.1857, or userserv@ucsd.edu, and/or contact me.

Course Schedule:
Week 1: Gender, Politics and Globalization

Tuesday, 29 March: Course Introduction
Announcements:
• Amartya Sen, “Justice: Local and Global,” Helen Edison Lecture Series, Thursday, March 31st, 7:00 pm, UCSD Price Center Ballroom West
• Clinton Global Initiative, UCSD, April 1 – 3.
Readings: None.

Thursday, 31 March: What do we mean “gender”? How is gender used as a category of analysis?
Film excerpts: “The Global Assembly Line,” Educational TV and Film Center, NY, New Day
Readings:

Week 2: What is Globalization and How is it Related to Gender?
Tuesday, 5 April: In What Ways is Globalization a “Gendered” Phenomenon?
Guest: Annelise Sklar, Political Science Research Librarian, Geisel Library, visits to discuss gender and globalization research resources.
Film Excerpts: “The Global Assembly Line,” Educational TV and Film Center, NY, New Day
Readings:

Further Reading:

Thursday, 7 April: Research Methods, Methodologies and Epistemologies
Reading:

Further Reading:

Week 3: Economic Globalization and Its Gendered Impact
Tuesday, 12 April: The Gendered Impact of Industrial Production and Trade
Readings:

Further Reading:

Thursday, 14 April: The Development of Mexico’s Export-Processing (Maquila) Industry


Readings:

Further Reading:

Week 4: The Gendered Impact of Global Restructuring in Agricultural Sectors

Tuesday, 19 April: Gender Analysis of High-Value Agricultural Industries’ Global Restructuring

Research proposal (1 paragraph, single-spaced abstract –see instructions) due to WebCT by midnight on Wednesday, 20 April. Hard copy due in class on Thursday, 21 April.


Readings:

Further Reading:

Thursday, 21 April: The Gendered Dimensions of Mexico-to-U.S. Migrations

Hard copy of research proposal due in class.


Readings:
http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/19403/1/sp05ri04.pdf
Week 5: Gender and Global Migrations

Tuesday, 26 April: The Gendered Dimensions of Global Migrations

How, and why, are global processes of migration and trafficking gendered? In what ways are women and men differently impacted by migration and trafficking? What are the gendered meanings of migration in the context of globalization?


Readings:

Further Reading:

Thursday, 28 April: Midterm Exam

Readings:
None.


Tuesday, 3 May: Women and Fundamentalism Islam


Readings:

Further Reading:

Thursday, 5 May: Men and Fundamentalist Islam


Readings:
Week 7: Gender, Globalization and International Institutions
How have international level institutions, especially the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank (WB), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the United Nations (UN), and the International Labor Organization (ILO) and their policies differently impacted gender, and what changes can be noted over time?

**Tuesday, 10 May: The Gendered Impact of the IMF, WB and WTO**


**Readings:**

**Thursday, 12 May: The Gender Impact of the UN (especially CEDAW, Millennium Development Goals) and the ILO.**

**Film excerpts:** “Lines in the Dust,” Bullfrog Films, 2001. Literacy and gendered labor in Ghana.

**Readings:**

**Further Reading:**

Week 8: The Politics of Gender in a Globalizing World: Outside and Inside Institutions

**Tuesday, 17 May: Outside Global Institutions: Transnational Feminist Movements**

What are transnational feminist movements and what impact have they had on gender equity?


**Readings:**
Further Reading:

Thursday, 19 May: Inside State Institutions: Democratization, Representation and Quotas

Research papers are due by midnight on Monday, 23 May to WebCT. Hard copies due at the beginning of Tuesday, 24 May.


Readings:

Further Reading:

Week 9: Inside State Institutions: Democratization, Representation and Quotas

Tuesday, 24 May: Building Democracy From Below (and Above)? The Case of Liberia

Research papers are due by midnight on Monday, 23 May to WebCT. Hard copies due at the beginning of class today.


Guest Speaker (TBA): Gender, Globalization and Democratization in Sub-Saharan Africa

Readings: None.
Thursday, 26 May: Critical Perspectives on Gender Quotas

Readings:

Further Reading:
1. Global Database of Quotas for Women: http://www.quotaorganization.org

Week 10: Gender, Politics, Globalization and Justice? Where do we go from here?

Tuesday, 31 May: Inside Global Institutions: Gender Mainstreaming

What is gender mainstreaming? What impact has it had as a strategy to ensure that gender issues are taken into account in global institutions?

Readings:

Further Reading:

Thursday, 2 June: Gender, Globalization and Justice

Readings:

Further Readings:
1. Global Gender Gap Report, World Economic Forum:  
• http://www.allcountries.org/ranks/gender_gap_gender_equality_country_rankings_2008.html
• video results: http://video.google.com/videosearch?client=safari&rls=en&q=global+gender+gap+2008&oe=UTF-8&um=1&ie=UTF-8&ei=AanKScP3MJmktQOxhtCmCg&sa=X&oi=video_result_group&resnum=4&ct=title#
• http://www2.weforum.org/en/initiatives/gcp/Gender%20Gap/Countries2008/index.htm


Final Exam: Monday, 6 June, 3 – 6 p.m.