

ETHNIC STUDIES 129 (and USP 135)

Asian and Latina Immigrant Workers in the Global Economy
MWF 9:00 to 9:50AM @ SOLIS 109

Instructor: Dr. Lisa Ho
Office Hours: 10:30 to 11:30AM on Wednesdays
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Course Description

This course will explore how globalization, neoliberalism, and capitalism have shaped the lives of Asian and Latina immigrant women in the United States. Also, we will examine how these systems rely on the racialization and gendering of these women to construct them into disposable forms of labor that are vulnerable to the structural and cultural violence. But, we will also focus on how these practices of disposability and exploitation have created platforms for resistance and empowerment. We will contextualize these moments within the larger legacies of colonialism, militarism, and imperialism. The course will address the following themes: race, gender, globalization, neoliberalism, space, femicide, activism, and others.

Course Expectations

Due to the size of the course, this class will be a mixture of discussion and lecture. Students will be expected to be diligent with the readings and provide contributions via participation and discussion questions.

Required Readings:

Comfort Woman by Nora Oka Keller*

All other readings will be available via TritonED as PDFs.

***Please purchase as soon as possible. We will be reading this novel for WEEK FIVE.**

Requirements:

Attendance: 10 Points
Discussion Questions (2): 10 Points
Response Papers (2): 20 Points
Midterm: 20 Points
Final Project: 40 Points

Discussion Questions: You are required to provide a discussion question for any of the readings that are listed on the syllabus—you will need to do this twice for the quarter. Each question is worth five points. You will need email me your question before the day of the reading by 5PM. For instance, if you pick a reading on a Wednesday, you will need to send me your question on Tuesday by 5PM. This question needs to be able to encourage discussion amongst your classmates. Your question should push your classmates to think critically about the reading you selected. Discussion questions will be graded based on completion.

Response Papers: You are required to turn in TWO response papers. Each paper is worth 10 points. Your response paper must address an entire week of readings/weekly

unit. Your paper must be a comprehensive and cohesive analysis of how the readings work together to help you understand the week's theme. Your paper should focus on analysis and NOT summary. Whatever week you choose, you must turn in your paper the Monday after the week has ended. For instance, if you decide to write about week five—you must turn in your response paper on the Monday of week six. You must turn in a hardcopy of your response.

Midterm: The nature of the midterm will be determined by class participation and sustained engagement with course readings.

Final Project: In a group of three or less, you will be required to create a lesson plan for any of the week of readings listed for the course. In addition to the lesson plan, each individual will need to provide a 3-4 analytical paper of that week. I will provide instructions and a rubric during week three. Final projects will be due on Friday of week ten.

***You must complete all assignments to pass the course.**

*** You are allowed two absences, if you miss more than two class sessions, your attendance grade will be reduced by two points for each additional absence.**

No Electronics

No laptops and cell phones during class. Please print all of your readings and bring them to class.

Respect and Collegiality

Please respect the opinions and perspectives of your fellow classmates. If a student is being disruptive and disrespectful, they will be asked to leave.

Week One

What are we working with?

Monday: Introduction

Wednesday: Race, Gender [KW]

Friday: Globalization, Neoliberalism [KW]

Week Two

The Structures of Capitalism

Monday: Capitalism [KW]

Wednesday: "Global Exchange" from *Disposable Domesticities*

Friday: *Maquilapolis: City of Factories* [In-class showing]

Week Three

Reproductive & Affective Labor

Monday: Labor [KW] & "The Commodification of Intimacy: Marriage, Sex, and Reproductive Labor" by Nicole Constable

Wednesday: "I'm Here, but I'm There": The Meanings of Latina Transnational Motherhood by Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo and Ernestine Avila

Friday: "Gardeners of Eden" from *Paradise Transplanted* Migration and the Making of California Gardens

Week Four

Reproductive & Affective Labor

Monday: Affect [KW]

Wednesday: "Life Support: India's Production of Vital Energy" from *Life Support: Biocapital and the New History of Outsourced Labor* by Kalindi Vora

Friday: "Transnational Gestational Surrogacy: Expectation and Exchange" from *Life Support: Biocapital and the New History of Outsourced Labor* by Kalindi Vora

Week Five

Sexual Labor & Militarism

Monday: *Comfort Woman* by Nora Oka Keller

Wednesday: *Comfort Woman* by Nora Oka Keller

Friday: "Tracing the Disappearance of the Yanggongju" from *Haunting the Korean Diaspora* by Grace M. Cho

Week Six

The Colonias & Border

Monday: Border and Space [KW]

Wednesday: "Introduction" from *Jumble of Needs: Women's Activism and Neoliberalism in the Colonias of the Southwest* by Rebecca Dolhinow

Friday: "The Production of Colonias as Neoliberal Spaces" from *Jumble of Needs: Women's Activism and Neoliberalism in the Colonias of the Southwest* by Rebecca Dolhinow

Week Seven

The Colonias & Border

Monday: "The Production of Women as Neoliberal Leaders" from *Jumble of Needs: Women's Activism and Neoliberalism in the Colonias of the Southwest* by Rebecca Dolhinow

Wednesday: "Ciudadana X: Gender Violence and Denationalization of Women's Rights in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico" by Alicia Schmidt Camacho

Friday: Working on Final Projects in Class

Week Eight

Activism & Empowerment

Monday: "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses" by Chandra Mohanty

Wednesday: "Under Western Eyes Revisited: Feminist Solidarity through Anticapitalist Struggles" by Chandra Mohanty

Friday: "Spaces of Power: Feminism, Neoliberalism, and Gendered Labor" by Janet Newman

Week Nine

Activism & Empowerment

Monday: MEMORIAL DAY—NO CLASS

Wednesday: “Introduction: Encounters” from *Unruly Immigrants: Rights, Activism, and Transnational South Asian Politics in the United States* by Monisha Das Gupta

Friday: ‘Owning our Lives’: Women’s Organizations from *Unruly Immigrants: Rights, Activism, and Transnational South Asian Politics in the United States* by Monisha Das Gupta

Week Ten

Wrapping Up