

## Spring 2019, ETHN 129/USP 135: Asian and Latina Immigrant Workers in the Global Economy

**Instructor:** Mellissa Linton-Villafranco, M.A. (Professor Villafranco or Profe)

**Class:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday (12 - 12:50pm in Center 217B)

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**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday (2pm - 3:30pm by appointment). Social Science Building (SSB) Office #246

"The schools we go to are reflections of the society that created them. Nobody is going to give you the education you need to overthrow them. Nobody is going to teach you your true history, teach you your true heroes, if they know that that knowledge will help set you free."

— Assata Shakur, *Assata: An Autobiography*

### Course Description

Cis and Trans women of color in the global economy are the backbone of several labor markets, including domestic labor, sex work, caretaking/affective labor and reproductive labor. The acceleration of global capital has situated Asian and Latina women as an exploitable contingent because of a range of intersecting issues, such as legal status, cultural heteropatriarchy and racialization.

We will think through and learn from how Asian and Latina women imagine and resist bodily exploitation through modes of embodiment, such as protest and cultural production like film. We will contextualize these moments within the larger legacies of colonialism, militarism, and imperialism. The course will address the following themes: race, reproduction, gender, globalization, neoliberalism, videography, space/place, femicide and activism.

The course will take a materialist feminist theoretical approach. Materialist feminism is a feminist departure from classical Marxism that understands gender as not just a cultural or biological category, but as a tool for economic extraction and exploitation. We will gain critical reading, writing and analysis skills through social scientific and cultural media texts.

The cultural medium we will focus on will be videography, as the quarter culminates in a final group video project created over the span of three weeks. On Fridays Week 2-6, we will have an Art Gallery space curated by students, with rotating stations. We will also be watching the film *Roma* (2018) as an example of an Indigenous Oaxacan woman enlisted in domestic labor for an affluent family living in Mexico City during the 1970s. Videography asks us: who has the power to represent themselves? What potential illuminations does visual art provoke in the human spirit? How is videography a tool of resistance to oppressive regimes?

## ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Assignments		Grading Scale			
Attendance and Participation	20%	94-100	A	73-75	C
Art Gallery Presentation	15%	90-93	A-	70-72	C-
Mid Quarter Writing Reflection (1)	25%	86-89	B+	66-69	D+
Creative Video Group Project Proposal	5%	83-85	B	63-65	D
1 <sup>st</sup> Edits of Video Group Project	5%	80-82	B-	60-63	D-
Final Video Group Project	30%	76-79	C+	0-60	F

=100%

**Attendance and Participation (20%):** Attendance is mandatory. You are allowed one unexcused absence throughout the quarter; thereafter, all absences will require a documented excuse due to illness, appointments, conferences and/or tournaments. Undocumented excuses will affect your grade.

While I will lecture Monday and Wednesday, your active participation is required in group discussions of the readings, engaging with classmates during the Art Gallery, and working in your respective group for the final project. Reading includes active engagements, like highlighting key passages, and having questions for discussion. Here are some ways you can participate: ask/answer questions, participate in group work and other in-class activities. Full credit will require active participation throughout the entire course and in group settings.

**Art Gallery (15%):** For Friday classes during Week 2-6, we will create an “Art Gallery” to bring reading themes to life. Considering this course’s emphasis on creative media production as a resistance strategy, the art gallery space is a way to prepare and inspire students for the final creative project. There will be three stations in the classroom, meaning 3 groups of 2-3 students each Friday will be responsible for curating our gallery for the day; a one-page document is also required (See rubric).

**Mid Quarter Writing Reflection: (25%):** In place of a midterm, you will have one [1] written reflection assignment due on Friday, May 3rd. It should be 4-5 pages, double-spaced. You must thoroughly engage three texts from the course. YES, A WORKS CITED PAGE IS REQUIRED! It should be printed, 12-pt font, Times New Roman, 1-inch margins all around.

**Creative Group Video Proposal (5%):** Your Video Group Proposal is due the Friday of Week 7. It should be a one-page, printed document that lists the student names in the group, and how the labor will be divided. Each person in the group should have a clear role. Details forthcoming.

**1<sup>st</sup> Edits of Creative Group Video Project (5%):** Professor Villafranco will provide feedback on your group video project proposal by Monday of Week 8. On the Wednesday of Week 9, your first edits are due: this should include a rough cut of the video project.

**Final Creative Group Video Project (30%):** The Final Video Project will have three components: the merit/intellectual quality/content of the Video Project, a one-page reflection on how the video relates to the course themes (one written by each group member), and your presentation to the entire class during Week 10. The final presentation consists of 5 minutes of presenting your project to the course and verbally explaining the purpose of the project. Each group member must talk and explain their role in the project. 2 minutes of questions will follow the presentation itself.

**Community Guidelines:** Given the nature of the course there will likely be a wide range of opinions. Ideally the course will prompt you to think for yourself and to raise questions about conventional views and received wisdom. Please engage one another in discussion with respect and consideration. Abusive and harsh language, intimidation, and/or personal attacks will not be tolerated. These norms are reflected in the UCSD Principles of Community that we are all expected to follow (<http://www.vcb.ucsd.edu/principles.htm>).

- Be respectful: challenging someone should come from a place of curiosity and respect.
- Do not interrupt others while they are speaking.
- Step up/Step back: if you do not like speaking in class, challenge yourself to do so. If you feel like you have been taking over a discussion, step back and let others take the floor.
- Active listening: be patient and generous when listening.

**Electronic Devices:** You may use your laptop or tablet to take notes or for readings if it better suits your learning needs. If anyone in the class interrupts others because they are using their device for anything other than taking notes or scanning the readings, everyone will lose the right to these electronic devices. Silence cellphones before entering the classroom. **Reading off your phone is unacceptable.**

**Grading Policy:** You must complete all assignments and receive a passing grade in order to receive a passing grade in the class. For the P/NP option, a "Pass" requires the equivalent letter grade of C or above.

**Accommodations:** If you have a disability or condition that compromises your ability to complete the requirements of this course, you should inform me as soon as possible of your needs. I will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate you. If you have a note from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), please present your note to me within one week of

the start of the course. For further information on OSD, please visit <http://disabilities.ucsd.edu> or call 858.534.4382.

## COURSE READINGS

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All readings should be completed upon arriving to class. PDFs of all readings made available on our class Google Drive

### Unit I → Theoretical Lens of the Course: Classical Marxism and Materialist Feminism

#### Week 1

Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>

- Introductions, Syllabus, Intentions

Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Kalindi Vora, "Labor" Ch. 14 in *Gender: Matter*. Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks, 2017. Pgs 205-210

Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>

- Continued, Kalindi Vora, "Labor" Ch. 14 in *Gender: Matter*. Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks, 2017. Pgs 210-219

#### Week 2

Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>

- Angela Davis, Chapter 13, The Approaching Obsolescence of Housework: Women, Race and Class, 1983. (Note: entire PDF of book is on google drive. Only read Chapter 13).

Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>

- Maria Mies, Ch. 2 Social Origins of the Sexual Division of Labour. Pgs 2-29

Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>

- **Art Gallery**

### Unit II. Globalization and its Discontents: Asian and Latina Domestic Work

#### Week 3

Monday, April 15th

- *Preface of Domestica: Immigrant Workers Cleaning and Caring in the Shadows of Affluence* by Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo

Wednesday, April 17th

- Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, *Chapter 1: New World Domestic Order: Domestica: Immigrant Workers Cleaning and Caring in the Shadows of Affluence*. Pgs 3-28

Friday, April 19th

- **Art Gallery**

#### Week 4

Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>

- Central America and Free Trade: <http://cispes.org/article/central-america-free-trade-agreement-hits-el-salvador-ten-years-later>

Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>

- *Women in El Salvador: Continuing the Struggle* by Irina Carlota Silber and Jocelyn Viterna

Friday, April 26th

- **Art Gallery**

#### Week 5 (4/29- 5/3)

Monday April 29th

- Film (screened in class): *Roma (2018)* Directed by Alfonso Cuarón

Wednesday, May 1st

- Complete *Roma (2018)* Directed by Alfonso Cuarón

Friday, May 3rd

- **Art Gallery: Choose a scene from the film to dissect**
- **Mid Quarter Reflection due IN CLASS.**

### Unit III. Sex Work, Trans Women and Colonial Labor Migrations

#### Week 6

Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>

- Tadiar, Neferti Xina M. *Things Fall Away: Philippine Historical Experience and the Makings of Globalization*. Durham: Duke UP, 2009. Print.

Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

- The Philippines' Shameful Export, by Ninotchka Rosca *The Nation* (1995) Vol 260 #15

Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>

- **Final Art Gallery**

## Week 7

Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>

- Chapter 5: *Sacar el Cuerpo*: Transformista and Miss Embodiment by Marcia Ochoa

Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>

- Decriminalizing Prostitution is Central to Trans Rights <https://slate.com/human-interest/2018/02/decriminalizing-prostitution-is-central-to-transgender-rights.html>

Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

- **Discussion/Bare Bones Guide for Film and Video**

## Unit IV. Colonialism and the International Division of Reproductive Labor

## Week 8

Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>

- GUEST LECTURE: Maria Celleri, PhD. University of Maryland, Baltimore County Maria Amelia Viteri, "Citizenship(s), belonging and xenophobia: Ecuador and NYC"

Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>

- Check in with Video Project Group

Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>

- **Class cancelled**

## Week 9

**\*\*No class Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>—Memorial Day Holiday\*\***

Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>

- Kalindi Vora, selections from *Life Support: Biocapital and the New History of Outsourced Labor*

Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>

- Kalindi Vora, selections from *Life Support: Biocapital and the New History of Outsourced Labor*

**Week 10**

**Final Video Project Presentations in Class**

Monday June 3rd, Wednesday June 5th and Friday June 7th