Course Syllabus

Transnational Feminisms. Fall 2014. Tues, 5:30-8pm, Dickson 274

Instructor: Prof. Fawzia Afzal-Khan Director, Women and Gender Studies (soon to be “Gender, Queer, and Women’s Studies”).

Program webpage can be accessed at: http://www.montclair.edu/chss/womens-gender-studies/

Off. Hours: TW 2-3 pm. D-120

Ext: 7309

Email: khanf@mail.montclair.edu

ALL READINGS EXCEPT FOR THE NOVEL, My Year of Meats, are available on Canvas. Please order your copy of the novel from Amazon now.

Please go to the bathroom, bring your snacks, water etc WITH you to each class. You are NOT allowed to walk out during class time (except during a brief 10 min break around 6:50 pm). If you do leave, you cannot come back in. Please consider this fair warning. I will try to leave 15 mins at the end of each session for folk to meet with their group members and discuss/plan next round of activities.

Assignments:

- 50% = Group Provocations throughout the semester. Everyone in class is expected to participate and contribute equally to their groups. Please keep a portfolio of all the work you do for each provocation. This should include a description of what ideas you came up with for your group’s activities, questions you had for the assigned readings, a log of how your thinking and questions evolved from one unit to another, what particularly sparked your interest and why, and how the term “transnational feminism” started to take shape/become clearer in your mind. Keep a list of any internet articles or blogs or videos you came across that you felt deepened your understanding of issues discussed in class, and any transnational feminist organizations you were moved to research on your own, or activism you engaged in as a result of our class. I will collect this portfolio (in a nice, neat binder, properly labeled) TWICE during the semester. BRING IT TO CLASS AND HAND IN TO ME FOR A MIDTERM GRADE ON TUESDAY OCT. 14th OR OCT 21st. I will collect it again on WED DEC 2nd for a FINAL grade. EACH ENTRY SHOULD BE DATED. There is no stipulated length or format for entries; these can be as long or short as you need them to be. But remember—I have to be able to see and judge the level and seriousness of your engagement with the class and the issues being discussed. NO GRADE FOR YOUR GROUP WORK WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU WITHOUT THE PORTFOLIO

- 40% = Final paper, 8-10 pp. Your portfolio, if well and regularly kept, will help you write this paper.
10% = Posted discussions on Canvas throughout the term. You must respond to at least one person each week/per topic question

PLAGIARISM IS A SERIOUS OFFENSE; IF CAUGHT, YOUR WORK WILL RECEIVE A FAILING GRADE AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION TAKEN AGAINST YOU THAT COULD LEAD TO EXPULSION FROM THE UNIVERSITY. DON’T EVEN THINK ABOUT PASSING OFF OTHERS’ WRITING AS YOUR OWN!!!!

Rules:

3 unexcused absences are allowed during the term. After you have used these up, you automatically fail the course.

Being continually late will not be tolerated, nor popping in and out of class. If this becomes a pattern, you will be marked down or even asked to drop the class.

NO looking at cell phones in class-EVER!

TOPIC FOR FINAL PAPER:

Pick ONE of the themes we have discussed: viz. “Women and Violence,” “Women, War, Activism,” or “Gender and Sexuality”. Explain what happens to a problem or issue that you define in your topic area, when you use a transnational analytic frame. How does one’s understanding deepen, what different types of questions do you begin to ask, once you develop a transnational awareness?

OR

If you’ve become involved in some sort of activist work involving transnational feminist organizing, write a paper about this using several of the essays we have read as a theoretical grounding for your growing awareness and work. What can you identify as positive outcomes of transnational feminist organizing, what are some possible pitfalls?

Use the MLA format for in-text citations and Works Cited page. Here is a link:

https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/

SCHEDULE:

Week 1: NO CLASSES TUES SEP 2.

1. WEEK 2: Tues Sep 9th: Framing the Debate: Is Sisterhood Global? Fawzia will lead discussion 5:30-6:30, on:
“Sisterhood is Global”—Introduction from Sisterhood Is Global by Robin Morgan.

Please come to class having read this!!!

6:30-7:30 3 groups will form; you will meet in your groups to discuss and plan how to set up discussions for your unit each week. Group members are REQUIRED to READ and BE PREPARED TO LEAD/PROVOKE DISCUSSION ON THEIR UNIT EACH CLASS! COME PREPARED WITH ACTIVITIES TO SHARE WITH CLASS TO ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE AND DEEPEN THE QUESTIONS IN YOUR MINDS FORMED AS A RESULT OF YOUR READING. EVERYONE IN CLASS IS EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE/CONTRIBUTE TO CLASS DISCUSSION. 60% of your class grade will be based on group and class participation, including weekly online discussions with group and class members on canvas, and the portfolios.


a) Pp. 1-14= I unit—Group 1 responsible for reading, sharing, provoking classmates to think about issues in the this unit.


c) Pp. 47-57=3rd unit : Group 3 responsible. (students in group raise questions on each of the four articles in the unit—do background research on writers and the documents mentioned, play up/focus on, an angle that interests you etc)

1. Weeks 4-9 (SEP 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 21 and 28): Unit on Women and Violence (All groups—divide the readings amongst yourselves; each of the SIX films listed should be screened each week in class followed by discussion around appropriate readings. Each group will “lead” twice during this 6-week period, and thus be responsible for integrating two films into class discussion with the readings; plz agree on which group is doing what ahead of time---no room for confusion!!! ALSO—select 75 mins of film material to show during class—the rest of the time should be devoted to discussion of film and readings for the week. Think about how the films help you deepen your understanding or raise additional questions regarding the readings). Here are the readings and films to be considered:


ALL Students DO the Shelter activism on p 356

c) Ch 1 from *Transnationalism Reversed* plus film, *Saving Face*.

d) From the *Incite Anthology*, “Rethinking Anti-Violence Strategies.” Show with film, *Bhaji on the Beach*

e) From *Meridians*, “Are Women’s Rights Universal?” plus film, *Warrior Marks*

f) From *Feminism and War*: “Decolonizing the Grammar of International Law”+ the film, *Zero Dark Thirty*

g) Show and discuss, *Pray The Devil Back to Hell* (We May NOT get to this one)

1. **Weeks 10, 11, 12** (Nov 4, 11 and 18): Women, Ecology, Activism:


B) pp. 503-539 of *Women in a Globalizing World*—Alternatives and Resistance. This includes “LGBTQ Activism.” (group 2, Nov 11)

**INVITE Viviana Bernal** (former WMGS Program Assistant) to talk about her Food Justice work one of these class times for 30-45 min session! Reach out to her at: bernalvm@gmail.com; week 11, Nov 11 best).


1. **Weeks 13,14, 15** (Nov 25, Dec 2, Dec 9) : Gender and Sexuality in Transnational Contexts:

   **Film, Jihad for Love.** Dir. Parvez Sharma—watch this in class Nov 25

   Sharmeen Islam, “Toward a Global Network of Asian Lesbians” (pp 41-46 from *Lotus of Another Color*), plus discussion of film (*Jihad Agst Love*), Dec 2 (group 1)

   Jyoti Puri, “Nationalism Has a Lot To do with It! Unraveling Questions of Nationalism and Transnationalism in Lesbian/Gay Studies.” (Group 2) **PLUS**

- Final paper due Wed Dec 10 via Canvas by noon.