



Academic Year 2017-2018

Syllabus

Gender Flows

CFU 6

Prof. Alessandra Chiricosta

Transnational Women's Movements

Course Description

This course will provide students with an overview of the field of Gender and Women's Studies, Feminisms and Women's Movements, with a specific focus on the global, intercultural and transnational dimension of Women's and Feminist debates and activism. The course will adopt an intersectional perspective which illustrates how relationships between systems of oppression surrounding race/ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality, and citizenship are interconnected and historically bound. As an introductory course, it is designed to offer a range of interdisciplinary tools and methods for understanding and analysing issues at stake. Therefore, it is divided into three sections. The first one will outline the historical development of Feminisms as political, philosophical and social movements and will provide an analysis of the principal issues addressed and methodologies adopted. The second section is dedicated to the Third Way of Feminism and the prominent role that the criticism towards ethno-centrism has played in shaping its course. Post-colonial feminisms have been playing a pivotal role in articulating a critical discourse on so-called "Human Issues and Rights", that opened new international arenas of discussion and political action both at an Institutional and a grass root level. It will be observed how and to what extent women's transnational dialogue - and activism - has been working at the convergence of top down and bottom up approaches, giving particular attention to the UN Beijing Platform (1995) and the EU CEDAW. The third section will explore meanings and practices of De-colonization, how they are working in shaping a new idea of transnational and global women's networks.

Teaching Method

Each Topic of the first two Sections will be divided in two parts: Framework and Lemmas. The first will introduce a Topic from an historical angle, outlining the theoretical framework in which the Topic has been conceived and discussed. The latter intends to provide a critical analysis on how specific meanings, concepts and categories related to the Topic at stake have been developed and used in the context of Feminisms, Gender and Women's Studies.

While Framework lessons are intended as Lectures, Lemmas' lessons are seen as a space of interaction and debate, in which students are asked to actively participate.

In the third Section specific readings and videos about De-colonization will be analysed and proposed as themes of discussion.

Schedule of Topics

Topic 1	Framework: The Three Waves of Feminisms: an historical overview.
Topic 2	Lemmas: Feminisms, Separatism, Essentialism, Waves of Feminism.
Topic 3	Framework: Here I stand. Methodologies and Issues in Feminist Philosophies
Topic 4	Lemmas: Sex, Gender, Body, Nature/Culture, Queer Theory.
Topic 5	Framework: Post-Colonial issues. Spivak "Can the subaltern Speak?" Talpade Mohanty "Under a Western Eye"; Minh Ha "Woman, Native, Other"
Topic 6	Lemmas: Race/Ethnicity; Intersectionality, Postfeminism, Reflexivity
Topic 7	Framework: Transnational Women's Movements at the intersection of top down and bottom up approaches. The UN Platform of Beijing, the CEDAW and the EU Istanbul Convention.

Topic 8	Lemmas: Global Feminisms, Mainstreaming, Empowerment, Human Rights
Topic 9	Transnational and Transcultural dialogue today: movements, critical issues and perspectives.
Topic 10	Decolonizing Theories and Practices: Building Transnational Feminist Solidarity Networks.
Topic 11	Decolonizing Theories and Practices: Indigenous Relationalities and Ecofeminisms.
Topic 12	Conclusions and final discussion

Textbook and Materials

- 1) McLaren, M. (ed.by) *Decolonizing Feminism. Transnational Feminism and Globalization*, Rowman & Littlefield, London-New York, 2017 (Preface; Introduction; Selected articles from Part 1; Part 2; Part 4)
- 2) Pilcher, J. and Whelehan, I. *Key Concepts in Gender Studies*, Sage, Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, Singapore, Washington D.C., Melbourne, 2015 (only Lemmas discussed in classroom)
- 3) Spivak, G.C. "Can the Subaltern Speak?" in Cary Nelson and Lawrence Grossberg's *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*, University of Illinois Press, 1988.
On line version is available at http://abahlali.org/files/Can_the_subaltern_speak.pdf
- 4) Mohanty, Chandra Talpade, *Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses*, boundary 2, Vol. 12, No. 3, On Humanism and the University I: The Discourse of Humanism, 1984. pp. 333-358.
On line version is available at http://www2.kobeu.ac.jp/~alexroni/IPD%202015%20readings/IPD%202015_5/under-western-eyes.pdf
- 5) Besides the assigned readings, student are asked to pick one extra reading (an article, a chapter or a section) among those suggested in "Further Readings", and discuss it in the oral exam.

Further readings:

On Feminist and Women Philosophy:

- Stone, Alison, *An Introduction to Feminist Philosophy*, Polity Press, Cambridge, 2007
- Jaggar, Alison M. and Bordo, Susan R., *Gender, Body, Knowledge*, Rutgers University Press, New Jersey, 1997
- Butler, Judith, *Undoing Gender*, New York/London: Routledge, 2004.
- Braidotti, Rosi, *Nomadic Subjects. Embodiment and Sexual Difference in Contemporary Feminist Theory*, Second Edition, Columbia University Press, New York, 2011.

On Post-Colonial and De-Colonial Feminist approach:

- Trinh Thi Minh Ha, *Woman, Native, Other*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, 1989
- Mohanty, Chandra Talpade, *Feminism Without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity*, Duke University Press Books, 2003.
- Shiva, Vandana, *Monocultures of the Mind: Perspectives on Biodiversity*, Natraj Publishers, 2011

On Transnational Women's Movements:

- Basu, Amrita, (ed.by) *Women's Movements in the Global Era. The Power of Local Feminisms*, (2003)..
- Roces, Mina and Edwards, Luise (ed by) *Transnational Women's Movements in Asia*, Routledge, London-New York, 2010

Readings on other issues related to the Course, according to specific requirement, can be asked to the teacher.

Assessment

By the end of the course, students will:

- demonstrate an introductory understanding of the field of gender and women's studies, and utilize a range of interdisciplinary tools and methods.
- construct and enhance a critical understanding of intersectionality, including an awareness of gender and its complex intersections with other social, cultural, and biological categories, including but not limited to sex, race, ethnicity, class, nationality, sexuality, ability, and age.
- cultivate a language framework for thoughtfully articulating the critical vocabulary in the field of gender and women's studies.

- show an understanding of post-colonial and de-colonial theories and practices in the context of transnational women's movements.

Methods of evaluation for attending students: attendance 30%, active participation to the in-class discussions 30%, final exam 40%.

Methods of final exams for attending students There will be a final oral exam. Attending students must be present at least to 80% of classes.

Non attending students will be evaluated only on the final examination.

Office hours

Monday afternoon, at the end of the lesson.

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NOTE: Since the course is provided for a limited number of students, **Erasmus or non-Global Governance students** who would like to attend the course need to contact the Secretariat of Global Governance by e-mail global.governance@uniroma2.it for registration and inform the Professor of the course. They are required to sign a code of conduct like all Global Governance students, accepting all values and rules. Please read it carefully before enrolling and notice that attendance is required from the very first lesson.