Course description and objective:

This graduate seminar will consider the diverse ways in which intimacy and power mix with sex and gender in an increasingly transnational world. We will read and discuss various theorizations and ethnographies by scholars in anthropology, history, and cultural studies, as well as in feminist studies. Topics will include, but won’t be limited to, the gender division of labor in the transnational “care” industry; new forms of romance mediated by the Internet and global economy; non-heteronormative sexualities in diverse locales; diasporic cultures and intimacies; commoditized sex and romance in tourist circuits; and the impact of globalization on youth and family relationships. The course will focus on recent and innovative ethnographic writing based on studies carried out in the US and beyond, in areas of Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and their diasporas. Videos and occasional recommended outside lectures will complement course material.

Course books, available at Wild Iris Bookstore, 802 W. University Avenue:


Course requirements and policies:

Participation

Because the course meets just once each week, full attendance in all classes is essential. Students are expected to come to class having done the reading and ready to participate in discussion. Everyone will have an opportunity to play a part in facilitating the weekly discussion. A 2-3pp précis (graded on a 20-point scale) will be due on those dates when we finish reading a book, to ensure thoughtful attention to the reading. [50% of course grade]

Paper

There will be a course paper of approximately 20-25pp based on additional reading due at the end of the semester. I will expect to receive proposals for these papers by the end of October, including short bibliographies of material to be referenced. These papers may draw on multiple works in order to support a specific topic of relevance to the course, or they may take the form of a review essay on a theme appropriate to the course. Everyone will have an opportunity to give an oral presentation of their subject matter during the final weeks of the semester. [50% of course grade]

Academic Honesty

The University of Florida’s honor code requires all students to be honest in their academic work. University policies on cheating, plagiarism, and related issues are available at: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.html

Accommodations

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to me when requesting accommodation.

Course readings:

August 27 Introduction to the course
Video, “Chain of Love” (dir.: Marije Meerman, 2001, 50 min.)

September 3 Labor Day—no class
Read from Global Woman

September 10 Global Woman, to end (précis due)

September 17 The Heart is Unknown Country, to p.107

September 24 The Heart is Unknown Country, to end (précis due)
October 1  
*Romance on a Global Stage*, to p.115

October 8  
*Romance on a Global Stage*, to end (**précis** due)  
Video, “In the Name of Love” (dir.: Shannon O’Rourke, 2003, 58 min.)

October 15  
*The Intimate Economies of Bangkok*, to p.101

October 22  
*The Intimate Economies of Bangkok*, to end (**précis** due)  
Video, “Beautiful Boxer” (dir.: Ekachai Uekrongtahm, 2004, 113 min.)

October 29  
*Global Divas*, to p.88 (**final paper proposals** and bibliography due)

November 5  
*Global Divas*, to end (**précis** due)

November 12  
Veterans Day, no class  
Read from *What’s Love Got to Do with It?*, to p.115  
Video, “Heading South” (dir.: Laurent Cantet, 2005, 105 min.)

November 19  
*What’s Love Got to Do with It?*, to end (**précis** due)

November 26  
Presentation of projects

December 3  
Presentation of projects

December 7  
Final papers due