

SEX, LOVE, & GLOBALIZATION
Fall 2007

Professor Florence Babb

WST 6935—Section 9640 / ANG 6930—Section 7452; Mondays 3-6pm; 2303 Turlington

Office hours: 1-3 Mondays, 11:30-12:30 Wednesdays, and by appointment
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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:

Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie Russell Hochschild, eds. *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy*. Henry Holt and Company, 2002.

Linda Anne Rebhun, *The Heart is Unknown Country: Love in the Changing Economy of Northeast Brazil*. Stanford University Press, 1999.

Nicole Constable, *Romance on a Global Stage: Pen Pals, Virtual Ethnography, and "Mail-Order" Marriages*. University of California Press, 2003.

Ara Wilson, *The Intimate Economies of Bangkok: Tomboys, Tycoons, and Avon Ladies in the Global City*. University of California Press, 2004.

Martin Manalansan, *Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora*. Duke University Press, 2003.

Denise Brennan, *What's Love Got to Do with It? Transnational Desires and Sex Tourism in the Dominican Republic*. Duke University Press, 2004.

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 Uekrongtahn, 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