WSS 308 (5465): GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN
www.albany.edu/faculty/jhobson/wss308

Spring 2011
Tuesdays & Thursdays
10:15-11:35 am
Lecture Center 3C

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COURSE DESCRIPTION
This interdisciplinary course will explore women’s lives, representations, and political movements in global perspective. We will begin by looking at the impact of Western colonization throughout the world, and women’s feminist reclaims of culture and identities, prior to examining contemporary issues. We will further develop a “decolonized” feminist worldview while engaging in digital mapping projects to understand the intersecting effects of gender, race, class, nationality, and sexuality on women’s lives.

GENERAL EDUCATION GLOBAL AND CROSS-CULTURAL STUDIES REQUIREMENT
This course fulfills the global and cross-cultural studies general education requirement, which provides students with 1) an understanding of the impact of nations, regions, and cultures upon other nations, regions, and cultures; 2) an understanding of the reciprocal interactions between individuals and global systems; 3) an ability to see cultural groups from their own points of view; and 4) an ability to use the analytic tools of a specific discipline to engage in comparative analyses of cultures, nations, and regions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Required Readings (available at the University bookstore and Mary Jane Books)


A course packet (hereafter abbreviated as “CP” in the course schedule) is available for purchase at Mary Jane Books.

Activities & Assignments

Class Participation: You are expected to come to class regularly and to contribute to discussions. You will also be expected to bring reading materials to class the day that we discuss them. Class sessions will be structured around lectures, discussions, and occasional class exercises. Failure to attend class on a regular basis will result in point deductions from your final grade. You are allowed three unexcused absences, but once you miss more than three classes, you will receive a 5-point deduction for each
additional absence. Exceptions will be made only for emergencies and illnesses, with proper documentation provided.

**Pop Quizzes:** Occasionally, you will be given quizzes in class based on reading assignments. The first quiz will be given on Blackboard (due by **Tuesday, January 25; 8:00 AM EST**), but the rest will be unannounced and given in class. Because these are unannounced, you must always anticipate a “pop” quiz, so be prepared by doing reading assignments ahead of class time and by showing up to class on time. Your two lowest quiz grades will be dropped from your final grade.

**Digital Cartographies – “Mapping Women’s Lives” Project:** This multimedia group project will explore women’s lives in global perspective through the integration of Google Maps, the web, and digital video. You will have the opportunity to sign up for a specific topic and to engage in team work as each member contributes to a multimedia story on said topic. You will first learn how to use Google Maps and to create web pages, which will then shape the multimedia project. After “Google mapping” the topic – either through pinpointing different landmarks and locations or illustrating routes and regions that your topic covers – team members will take on specific roles to enhance the project:

1. **The Writer:** responsible for organizing the team’s ideas in writing: beginning with the project proposal (1-3 pages, typed and double-spaced), due in class on **Tuesday, March 15**. S/he will also include a written article investigating the topic explored in the project: this article must shed light on the topic, integrating research materials and providing information on the different locations, routes, and/or region highlighted by the Google Map. The writer should include on the multimedia web site a 100-word summary of the project and the completed article (500-700 words in length), which must be turned in with the completed project on **Thursday, April 28**.

2. **The Cartographer:** responsible for editing all descriptions and placements included on the team’s Google Map. While each team member must contribute work to the Google Map, it is the Cartographer’s role to ensure all information provided is properly written, cited, and mapped. S/he must submit an early draft of the Google Map on Blackboard by **Tuesday, April 5; 8:00 AM EST** (provide the hyperlink). Any revisions needed must be corrected and resubmitted with the completed project on **Thursday, April 28**.

3. **The Researcher:** responsible for assembling the different research materials each team member contributes to the project and for completing an annotated bibliography based on this research (8-10 sources in Chicago style, with each citation accompanied by a 2-3 sentence summary), which is due in class on **Tuesday, April 5**. Please include at least three academic journal articles/books and at least two primary sources (e.g. archival data, newsletters, pamphlets, testimonials, original photographs, letters, personal interviews, witness videos, blogs, twitter, songs, etc.). Any revisions needed must be corrected and resubmitted with the completed project on **Thursday, April 28**.

4. **The Digital Storyteller(s):** responsible for providing an accompanying digital video that complements the written article and the Google Map featured in the team’s multimedia project. Up to two students can take on this role (i.e. one serving as video director and editor, the other as sound editor and audio narrator/script writer). Expanding the topic in a different format, the digital storyteller(s) may be as creative in the storytelling as s/he wishes (i.e. creating a non-fiction documentary-style video, a fictional drama, an avant-garde experimental art video, a smart journalistic photo-essay slideshow, or a digital machinima-based gaming style story). What is important is that the digital video enhances the topic already explored through the Google Map, the written article, and the annotated bibliography. A script and storyboard of the digital video
must be submitted in class by Tuesday, April 5. The digital video should only be 4-5 minutes in length and uploaded to our class blip.tv account, which will then be embedded on the team’s web page; this must be turned in with the completed project on Thursday, April 28.

5. The Web Designer: responsible for embedding Google Maps and the digital video onto the team’s web page, for providing workable hyperlinks, and for laying out and editing written work. S/he will submit the final version on a CD or flash drive on Thursday, April 28. The web designer is expected to take the lead in presenting the team’s project in class either on Thursday, April 28, or Tuesday, May 3.

There will be eight teams focusing on a specific issue from which you can choose. You will need to sign up for a team on Blackboard by Tuesday, February 15; 11:59 PM EST. All team members will receive an individual grade based on their team role and how well this work is reflected in the overall project. However, collaborative team work will be rewarded in the following way: The team that produces the best work in terms of content, aesthetics, and public scholarship will be rewarded with the FULL POINTS OF THE FINAL EXAM. In other words, those team members will be exempt from taking the final exam! The team that ranks second best will receive 10 bonus points on the final exam, while the team that comes in third will receive 5 bonus points on the final exam. Honorable mentions for exceptional individual work on other teams will be rewarded with 2 bonus points on the final exam. Presentations of these projects will take place the last two days of class. These presentations should run between 10-15 minutes in class. “Winners” will be announced on the last day of class. Missed due dates relating to this project will result in a 5-point deduction for each missing assignment.

Final Exam: This comprehensive exam will cover materials studied in the semester and include short-answer questions, true/false questions, quote/passage analyses, and a short essay. It is scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 1:00-3:00 PM.

HOW GRADES ARE DETERMINED:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
<th>DUE DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Each class session</td>
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<td>Pop Quizzes</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Unannounced</td>
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<td>Digital Cartographies Project</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Blackboard Sign-Up (Feb. 15)</td>
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<td>Practice Multimedia Exercise (Feb. 17)</td>
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<td>Proposal (Mar. 15)</td>
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<td>Early Drafts of Google Map, Annotated</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Bibliography, Script, and Storyboard (Apr. 5)</td>
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<td>Completed Project (Apr. 28)</td>
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<td>Presentations (Apr. 28 – May 3)</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>May 12, 1:00-3:00 pm</td>
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GRADING SCALE:

A = 100-93 points  |  A- = 92-90 points  |  B+ = 89-87 points |  B = 86-83 points  |  B- = 82-80 points
C+ = 79-77 points |  C = 76-73 points  |  C- = 72-70 points |  D = 69-65 points |  E = Below 65 points
EXPECTATIONS
Due to the contents of this course, sensitivity and respect for all are a must. Please turn off cell phones (or keep on vibrator alert in cases of “emergency” calls) before class begins. Texting and Internet surfing on personal laptops are considered disrespectful use of class time and will result in reduced points from your class participation grade if they become regular occurrences.

Late assignments will result in a 5-point reduction for each day late. After two days late, you will receive a “0” for that assignment. Plagiarism and cheating are university offenses and will result in failing grades.

TO AVOID PLAGIARISM:
Understand what it means: plagiarism results when someone uses the ideas or writings of another and presents these ideas or writings as her or his own. When citing sources, it is best to present ideas using your own original words. When quoting directly from sources, it is best to use direct quotes only if the phrasing is apt and powerfully stated; be sure to include proper citation. If the quote is not revelatory or eloquent but simply provides some useful information, then it is best to explain the information completely in your own words while providing proper citation.

TO AVOID COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT:
You will need to familiarize yourself with copyright policies on “fair use” of others’ creative works. Copyright “fair use” allows you to reproduce copyrighted work if your use of such work is “transformative” of the original or contains a small portion of it. Visit: http://fairuse.stanford.edu/.

COURSE SCHEDULE
Jan. 20  Course overview and introduction.

PART ONE: MAPPING OUR HISTORIES
Feb. 1   CP: Perera, “Claiming Truganini”; Fusco, “The Other History of Intercultural Performance.”
Feb. 3   CP: Shohat, “Taboo Memories, Diasporic Voices.”
Feb. 8   CP: Lerner, “In the Footsteps of the Cathars” & “Why History Matters.”
Feb. 10  Free Enterprise (Parts I – II).
Feb. 15  Free Enterprise (Parts III – IV).

Winter Break
PART TWO: MAPPING OUR BODIES


Mar. 3   VIDEO: Mama Wahunzi (Lawan Jirasuradej, 2001).


Mar. 10  VIDEO: Rape for Who I Am (Lovinsa Kavuma, 2005).

Mar. 15  FILM: Bordertown (Gregory Nava, 2006).
Due in class: Digital Cartographies Project Proposal.

Mar. 17  Film Screening continued.
BLACKBOARD: Garcia, “Sexing Violence in Mexico.”


Mar. 29  CP: Oxford, “Protectors and Victims in the Gender Regime of Asylum.”


Apr. 5   FILM: 4 Months, 3 Weeks, 2 Days (Cristian Mungiu, 2007).
Due on Blackboard: Google Maps Project Draft; Due in class: Annotated Bibliography, Script, and Storyboard.

Apr. 7   Film Screening continued.

PART THREE: MAPPING OUR WORLDS

Apr. 12  Earth Democracy (introduction & chapters 1-2).

Apr. 14  Earth Democracy (chapters 3-4).
BLACKBOARD: Carter, “Greening the Ghetto.”

Spring Break

Apr. 26  BLACKBOARD REVISITED: Lin, “Map of Memory: What is Missing?”

Apr. 28  Digital Cartographies Project Presentations (Teams 1-4).
Due in class: Digital Cartographies Web Project.

May 3    Presentations continued (Teams 5-8).

Final Exam on May 12, 2010 (1:00-3:00 pm)