Feminist Politics

*Topic for Spring 2018—Topographies, Transnationalisms, Translations*

**Course Description:**
Drawing on historical and contemporary materials on Latin America, Europe, North America, and other world regions, this course will analyze the uneven topographies of space, place, and power in and across which feminist politics travel, are enacted and translated. Themes explored include comparative and transnational epistemologies; the horizontal and vertical flows of feminist politics into parallel social movements and national and international institutions (“sidestreaming” and “mainstreaming,” respectively); navigating and resisting development; and, negotiating, confronting, or colluding with neoliberalism. Particular attention will be focused on the transnational dynamics of each of these themes and to the complex cultural and political translations they require of feminist scholars and activists alike.

**Course Materials:**
All article- and chapter-length readings are posted on Moodle unless otherwise specified. The following are books we will be reading good chunks of or in their entirety. All are available for purchase online through the UMass-Amazon agreement and some are also at Amherst Books. Several are available as e-books through the W.E.B. Du Bois Library or can otherwise be accessed online.

**Course Requirements:**
Class participation, which will count for 50 percent of the grade for this course, will be assessed on the basis of: 1) engaged participation in seminar discussions; 2) online 250-word critical reading responses to seminar readings for 9 of our 11 class meetings, to be posted on Moodle no later than 10am on the day of class; and, 3) organization and facilitation of seminar discussion, working with one or more partners, *at least* twice during the semester (material posted for each these count as the equivalent of one reading response).

The final paper will count for the *remaining 50 percent* of your grade. It should be no more than 20-pp. long and may take one of the following forms: A) a research paper, drawing on course materials and original research; B) a research proposal or dissertation prospectus; C) a “rehearsal” of imagined comprehensive exam questions (two or more); D) a paper that is a draft comp for either the inter/intra-disciplinary field or contemporary theory; or E) a dissertation chapter on a topic relevant to this class.

You will submit three installments on the final paper: a **one-page topic statement on February 13**; a **3-5 pp. prospectus and preliminary bibliography on March 20**; and a **rough draft, for peer review, on April 25**. Students will exchange rough drafts with a partner and write reviews of each other’s work. These various installments will not be graded, but this 50 percent of your grade will be reduced by half a letter grade (A to an A-) for each that is not turned in on time. The **final draft of the term paper must be posted to Moodle by 5pm on May 7**. Your grade will be reduced by one half a letter grade for each day or part of a day that the paper is late, no exceptions.

**Course Outline**

**Part I—Theorizing Feminist Politics: Comparative and Transnational Perspectives**

**January 23—Introduction**

**January 30—Comparative and Transnational Feminist Epistemologies**

Readings:
Part II—Travels across Feminist Topographies

February 6—‘Sidestreaming’ Feminisms

Readings:

February 13—Mainstreaming Feminisms

Readings:
- Abers, Rebecca and Luciana Tatagiba. 2015. Institutional Activism: Mobilizing for Women’s Health Inside the Brazilian Bureaucracy. In *Social Movement Dynamics: New
Perspectives on Theory and Research from Latin America, ed. Federico M. Rossi and Marisa Von Bulow. Burlington, VT: Ashgate.

Research Topic Statement to be posted on Moodle by 4pm

Part III—Feminist in/and/against Development, Neoliberalism, Neoliberal Development

February 20—Feminists (Un)Doing Development
Readings:

February 27—Decolonizing Development
Guest Speaker: Claudia de Lima Costa, Professor of Feminist Theory and Cultural Studies, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil
Readings:

March 6—Feminisms Colluding with, Confronting, Resisting Neoliberalism I
Readings:


March 13—Spring Break

March 20—Feminisms Colluding with, Confronting, Resisting Neoliberalism II

Readings:

Prospectus and Preliminary Bibliography to be posted on Moodle by 4pm

Part IV—Transnationalisms and Translations

March 27—Feminist Activisms Go Global

Readings:

April 3—Locating Transnationalisms
Readings:

April 10—READING WEEK

April 17—NO CLASS (Monday classes held on Tuesday)

April 23—no class but Draft Essay for Peer Review to be posted on Moodle by 4pm

April 24—Feminist Politics of Translation
Readings:
May 1—Decolonizing Translations

Readings:
- Afro-descendant Feminisms in Latin America, Parts I and II: Brazil; South and Central America and the Spanish-Speaking Caribbean, guest edited by Sonia E. Alvarez, Kia Lilly Caldwell and Agustín Laó-Montes, Special Issue of *Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism*. 14 (1-2), 2016, select essays.

Peer Comments due to Author on May 1 by 4pm

Final Paper to be posted on May 7 by 5pm