



WGSS/CCS/MCL 3321: Gender and Transnational Studies (Fall 2014)

What Women Want—Women's Transnational Identities on the Global Stage

In this course we will consider how diverse aspects of globalization shape the lives of individuals and communities in the US and abroad. In particular, we will focus on the impact of globalization on the lived experiences and cultural identities of women of color in varied contexts around the world. In reading narratives of diasporic and transnational identity past and present, we analyze women's experiences of race, gender, sexuality, class and national identity as shaped by converging cultures and consider the emotions conveyed through the narrative form. Themes of migration, labor, agency, rebellion, colonialism, blackness, Latinidad, colorism, racial ambiguity, gender ambiguity, queer identity, sex and sexual violence emerge from the assigned readings. We will consider thriving underground economies of goods and labor as well as social movements that respond to neoliberalism's unequal distribution of resources. We will begin by taking a look at communities that make up the global city of Houston and then expand our analysis to consider parts of the world from which so many Houston natives once came. Films, images and art work in and out of the classroom will complement our understandings of narratives of transnational identity. Students will develop a research project on gender and development in a particular region of the world (within or outside of the US) and conclude the semester with a presentation of their work. They should also be prepared to share their writing with classmates and provide feedback to their peers on writing content and form in order to develop their own skills in writing about gender and the impact of globalization.

For more information please contact
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