Globalization, Sex and Families

This course takes a close look at what it means for the most intimate of relationships to be formed at a transnational scale. In recent decades there has been a dramatic increase in people crossing borders to engage in sex, find work in other’s households, or form families. We will examine several of the most common of these types of relationship, including: sex tourism, trafficking in women and children, international domestic work, transnational adoption, interracial marriage, and so-called “mail-order brides.”

We will learn about historical antecedents to the current globalization of sex and family and ask why these relationships are experiencing such a dramatic increase in recent decades. Economics, war, political relationships, media images of others, changes in fertility and marriage patterns, etc. will all be considered as factors. We will investigate the difference it makes to definitions of kinship, family, romance, sexuality, gender, racial identity, health and other personal domains when people cross borders to form intimacies.

Readings for the course will be interdisciplinary. We will read several monographs, including ethnographic and social scientific studies, fiction, as well as personal accounts and memoirs. Articles and films will also give a vivid sense of what it is like for persons engaging in such transnational intimacies. Do people who travel long distances for work, sex or marriage maintain family ties at “home” or do they make new homes for themselves? How do people engage in emotional and/or sexual intimacy across barriers of culture, language, class, and race? What kinds of stigma, exploitation or inequality might be generated through the globalization of intimacy? What are the costs of such phenomena? Are there gains? Do such new intimacies have something to teach us about the future?

Learning Objectives:
- to introduce students to how globalization, migration, ethnicity, race and labor affect personal relationships
- to give students tools for thinking critically, globally and crossculturally about notions of love, sex and family
- to develop students’ proficiency in speaking critically and clearly about issues of transnational intimacies
- to help students develop their own writing
- to help students be attentive to different writing genres and modes of representation and to experiment with them in their own writing
- to encourage students to integrate their course insights into their daily lives and relationships and their thinking about their own futures

Requirements (graded on 100-point basis):

Participation (20 points) – based on your attendance in class, attendance at film screenings, in-class writings, participation in discussion, and key passages. You can earn up to 12 points for class and 8 points for film attendance. You may earn a point for each attendance, but full credit will depend on participation as well. Since the class meets only once a week, attendance is very important, and I will need appropriate documentation or notification if you need to miss class. Excluding the first class meeting, you may miss one other class without an excuse, but this is discouraged. Note that viewing of films before class is required. You are strongly encouraged to view films at the class screening and discussion on Wednesdays in HSB at 7:15 106 at 7 PM. If you are not able to attend, please see me about previewing elsewhere.

Midterm Quiz (20 points) – covering readings, films and lecture/discussions through Week 7 (March 4).

Internet paper (20 points) – you will write a 4-page paper analyzing representations of people in actual and potential transnational relationships that can be found on the internet. More on this in class. Due in class, April 1.

Final Quiz (20 points) – based on readings/films in the 2nd half of the course, and on large concepts for the whole course.

Memoir (20 points) – you will compose a 4-5 page piece in the personal memoir style and taking up at least one of the themes of the class. This piece may be based on fact or fiction, and should develop some of the ideas we have generated about the emotional dimensions of global intimacy. Due May 10 in Anthro Dept mailbox, 305 RAB, by 12 noon.
**Academic Integrity:** Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated and will result in serious consequences including referral to the Dean. Using the ideas or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Be mindful to avoid any form of plagiarism, i.e. the incomplete citing of published or internet material, and of other forms of cheating such as the borrowing or sharing of work with other students. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism. Students are encouraged to read the policy on academic integrity at the following website: http://cat.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html.

**Required books (available at the Douglass and Rutgers bookstores):**

**All other readings are available through ereserve.** Go to Rutgers Libraries Home page, select “Find Reserves” and follow prompts.

**Films:** All films listed are required and will be on the quizzes and in papers. Most are required to be viewed prior to class meetings. You are strongly encouraged to view them *with the class* on Wednesday evenings 7:15 PM in HSB 106. Diana Won will facilitate screening and discussions. Alternately, you may view them at Douglass Music/Media library in the Douglass library basement prior to pick up for screening. Call ahead for availability at 932-9783 x34. Media Library hours: M-Th 9AM-11PM, F 9AM-9PM, Sa 10AM-6PM, Su Noon - 6P.

**1/21 – Week One – Overview**
Film (View in class): *Sisters and Daughters Betrayed* 2-6294, 28 mins.

**1/28 – Week Two – Migration Flows and the Global Economy**

Film (View before class): *Chain of Love*, 50 mins., 2-7212

**Adoption, Transnational Migration and Sex Work in Historical Perspective**

**2/4 – Week Three – Adoption – Migration Histories and Memoirs**
--McCunn, Pp. 119-246.

Film (View before class): *Precious Cargo*, 56 mins, 2-6034

**2/11 – Week Four – Adoptee Lives - Race, Ethnicity, Identity**
--McCunn, Pp. 248-308.

Film (View before class): Catfish in Black Bean Sauce, 119 mins.

2/18 – Week Five – Stories of Adoption, Parents and Return

Film (View before class): Daughter from Danang, 83 mins, 10-356 (DVD)

Film (View in class): First Person Plural 56 mins, 2-5495

2/25 – Week Six –“Mail Order” Brides?

Film (View before class): In the Name of Love, 58 mins, 10-685

3/4 – Week Seven -- Transnational Sex/Marriage

Film (View before class): A Foreign Affair: Two Brothers and a Bride, 92 mins, 2-7648

3/11 - Week Eight
MIDTERM QUIZ IN FIRST HALF OF CLASS PERIOD
NO FILM on Wed 3/10; review in HSB 106 7:15 PM


Film (Shown in class): Death in Thailand

3/18– NO CLASS, SPRING BREAK

3/25 – Week Nine – Transnational Domestic Work

Film: Brown Women, Blonde Babies, 28 mins., 2-2818
4/1– Week Ten Domestic Work: Relations with Employers

INTERNET PAPER DUE IN CLASS


Film (View before class): *Black Girl*, 60 mins, D-11

4/8 – Week Eleven - Domestic Work: The Families Left Behind


Film (View in class): *When Mother Comes Home for Christmas*, 109 mins., 2-5499

4/15 – Week Twelve – Sex Work and Questions of Agency


Film (View before class): *The Women Outside*, 2-6676, 52 mins.

4/22 – Week Thirteen – Desire, Youth and Exploitation

--Brennan, cont’d, pp. 91-153.


Film (View before class): *Sacrifice*, 50 mins. 2-5685

4/29 – Week Fourteen – Marriage, (Gay) Male Sex Work, and Other Scenarios

NO FILM on Wed 4/28; review on May 5 HSB 106 7:15 PM

--Brennan, cont’d, pp. 154-220.


FINAL QUIZ Friday, May 7, 2010

Memoir paper due May 10 in Anthro Dept mailbox, 305 RAB, by 12 Noon