

**ETHN 129x USP 135:**  
**Asian and Latina Immigrant Workers in the Global Economy**  
**TTh 9:30-10:50AM, SSB 102**  
**Fall 2010**

Instructor: Grace Kim  
Office: SSB 249  
Office hours: Tuesdays 11-12:30, Thursdays 11-12:30, or by appointment  
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**Overview:**

In *Ghostly Matters*, Avery Gordon writes: "... even those who live in the most dire circumstances possess a complex and oftentimes contradictory humanity and subjectivity that is never adequately glimpsed by viewing them as victims or, on the other hand, as superhuman agents. It has always baffled me why those most interested in understanding and changing the barbaric domination that characterizes our modernity often – not always – withhold from the very people they are most concerned with the right to complex personhood."

In a move to "complexify" the lives of Asian and Latina immigrant women, this course locates racialized gendered labor formations betwixt and between global economic processes, local and national politics, and individual histories. Grounding contemporary labor migrations from Latin America and Asia in the history of colonialism and US imperialism, we will explore the ways in which larger structural processes have differentially shaped the meanings of work, family, and motherhood across national, racial and class lines, as well as how Asian and Latina immigrant women redefine those social fields and make them meaningful for themselves and their communities. Paying particular attention to personal stories (captured in ethnographic studies and feature films), the primary goal of this course is to understand individual lives not as mere "reflections" of larger structural transformations and cultural conflicts, but as co-constitutive of those very struggles and shifts that make up globalization. To that end, we will examine the personal narratives and social movements of nurses, maquiladora, domestic and sex workers, among others, and the ways in which they resist and challenge labor exploitation, imperialism, militarization and neoliberalism. Our secondary goal is to consider how our analysis of Asian and Latina immigrant workers challenges liberal feminist perspectives.

**Required Texts:**

- 1) Hondagneu-Sotelo, Pierrette. *Doméstica: Immigrant Workers Cleaning and Caring in the Shadows of Affluence* (Berkeley, CA: UC Press, 2001).
- 2) Pellow, David Naguib and Lisa Sun-Hee Park. *The Silicon Valley of Dreams: Environmental Injustice, and the High-Tech Global Economy* (New York: NYU Press, 2002).

\*\* All texts on reserve at Geisel Library or available for purchase at the UCSD bookstore.

\*\* With the exception of the Ehrenreich article for Week One (available online), all other readings will be made available on WebCT as pdf files.

### Grading and Course Requirements:

Attendance and active class participation	20%
Essay #1 (3-5 pages), due week 5	20%
Essay #2 (5-7 pages), due week 9	30%
In-class Final Examination	30%

Scale: A	93-100 points	C	73-75
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	86-89	D+	66-69
B	83-85	D	63-65
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	76-79	F	below 60

\*Attendance and participation constitute a significant portion of your grade. Arrive to each class session on time and stay for its duration. Tardiness and absences will result in the lowering of your grade.

\*Active participation means thoughtful engagement with the readings/lectures, meaningful contributions to class discussions, and respectful collegiality toward your classmates and instructor. Visits to my office hours will also count toward class participation.

\*As this is a fairly writing-intensive class, I strongly suggest that you see me during my office hours to discuss your drafts and/or visit the Office of Academic Support & Instructional Services (OASIS) for writing support. You can drop by OASIS on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Center Hall, M-F 8am-4:30pm, or contact them at 858 534-3760 or [oasis@ucsd.edu](mailto:oasis@ucsd.edu).

\*All written work must be typed in 12 pt Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins. For proper essay format and citation guidelines, please refer to the MLA stylebook. Proofread, spell-check, paginate and staple all work before handing in.

\*The final exam will consist of both short and long essays. It will focus primarily on the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of class, but will ask students to integrate concepts and perspectives covered in the 1<sup>st</sup> half.

### Policies:

\*All course requirements must be completed by the specified due date and time in order to pass the course and receive a grade. Any one missing assignment will result in a course failure. If you are taking the course P/NP, you must complete all assignments and receive at least a 70% on each.

\*Ten points will be deducted from your papers for every 24 hours they are late. In order to receive an extension, you must contact me at least 24 hours **PRIOR** to the due date and time. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** In the case of a medical/personal emergency, you must produce a doctor's note or other documentation in order for an exception to be made.

\*Please complete readings by the date they are assigned, and bring the text(s) with which we are currently covering to class.

\*Turn off phones and refrain from text messaging during class.

**Schedule (subject to change):**

**Week Zero: Course Introduction**

**Thurs 9/23** No readings

**Week One: Rethinking Women's Work and Feminist Solidarities**

**Tues 9/28** Ehrenreich, Barbara. "Maid to Order: The Politics of Other Women's Work." *Harper's Magazine* (April 1, 2000).  
<http://www.barbaraehrenreich.com/maidtoorder.htm>

Lorde, Audre. "The Uses of Anger: Women Responding to Racism." In *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches by Audre Lorde* (Berkeley, CA: Crossing Press, 1984), pp. 124-133.

**Thurs 9/30** Lowe, Lisa. "Work, Immigration, Gender: Asian 'American' Women." From *Immigrant Acts: On Asian American Cultural Politics* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1996), pp. 154-173.

Sassen, Saskia. "Global Cities and Survival Circuits." In *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy* (New York: Metropolitan Books, 2002), pp. 254-274

**Week Two: Colonialism and Racialized Gendered Labor Migrations**

**Tues 10/5** Choy, Catherine Ceniza. "Nursing Matters: Women and US Colonialism in the Philippines" and "The Usual Suspects: The Preconditions of Professional Migration." From *Empire of Care: Nursing and Migration in Filipino American History* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2003), pp. 17-57.

Briggs, Laura. "Colonialism: Familiar Territory" and "Sexuality, Medicine and Imperialism." From *Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science and US Imperialism in Puerto Rico* (Berkeley, CA: UC Press, 2002), pp. 1-45.

**Thurs 10/7** Film: *La operación*  
Screening and Discussion

**Week Three: Globalization, Immigration, and the Racialization of Paid Domestic Work**

**Tues 10/12** Hondagneu-Sotelo, *Doméstica*, Preface and Chapters 1-2.

Parrenas, Rhacel Salazar. "The International Division of Reproductive Labor." From *Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration, and Domestic Work* (Stanford, CA: Stanford U Press, 2001), pp. 61-79.

**Thurs 10/14** Hondagneu-Sotelo, *Doméstica*, Chapters 3-5.

**Week Four: Immigration/Welfare Policy and Racialized Motherhood**

**Tues 10/19** Hondagneu-Sotelo, *Doméstica*, Chapters 6-8.

Film: *Maid in America*  
Screening and Discussion

**Thurs 10/21** Chang, Grace. "Undocumented Latinas: The New Employable Mother." From *Disposable Domestic: Immigrant Women Workers in the Global Economy* (Cambridge, MA: South End Press, 2000), pp. 55-84.

Park, Lisa Sun-Hee. "Perpetuation of Poverty Through 'Public Charge'." 78 *Denv. U.L. Rev.* 1161 (2001)

**Week Five: At Home: Transnational Motherhood and Affective Labor**

**Tues 10/26** Hondagneu-Sotelo, Pierrette and Ernestine Avila. "I'm Here, but I'm There': The Meanings of Latina Transnational Motherhood." In *Gender and US Immigration: Contemporary Trends*, ed. Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo (Berkeley, CA: UC Press, 2003), pp. 317-340.

**\*\*Essay #1 Due In-Class**

**Thurs 10/28** Parrenas, Rhacel Salazar. "Gendered Care Expectations: Children in Mother-Away Transnational Families." From *Children of Global Migration: Transnational Families and Gendered Woes* (Stanford, CA: Stanford U Press, 2005), pp. 120-140.

Espiritu, Yen Le. "We Don't Sleep Around Like White Girls Do: Family Culture, and Gender in Filipina American Lives." In *Gender and US Immigration: Contemporary Trends*, ed. Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo (Berkeley, CA: UC Press, 2003), pp. 263-284.

**Week Six: Mobilizing and Militarizing Women's Lives and Labor**

**Tues 11/2** Enloe, Cynthia. "The Prostitute, the Colonel, and the Nationalist." From *Maneuvers: The International Politics of Militarizing Women's Lives* (Berkeley, CA: UC Press, 2000), pp. 49-107.

Moon, Katherine H.S. "Partners in Prostitution." From *Sex Among Allies: Military Prostitution in US-Korea Relations* (New York, NY: Columbia U Press, 1997), pp. 17-47.

**Thurs 11/4** Nguyen-vo, Thu-hoang. "Who You Truly Are: Coercion, Culture, and the Global Imaginary in the Governmental Rehabilitation of Sex Workers." From *The Ironies of Freedom: Sex, Culture, and Neoliberal Governance in Vietnam* (Seattle, WA: U Washington Press, 2008).

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**Week Seven: Genders in Production – On the Shop Floor**

**Tues 11/9** Salzinger, Leslie. "Producing Women: Femininity on the Line." From *Genders in Production: Making Workers in Mexico's Global Factories* (Berkeley, CA: UC Press, 2003), pp. 9-34.

Cabezas, Amalia. "The Tortilla Behemoth; Sexualized Despotism and Women's Resistance in a Transnational Tortilla Factory." In *The Wages of Empire: Neoliberal Politics, Repression, and Women's Poverty*, eds. Amalia Cabezas, Ellen Reese, Marguerite Waller (Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers, 2007), pp. 127-138.

**Thurs 11/11** **Veteran's Day Holiday**  
**No Class**

**Week Eight: Femicide, Border Violence, and the Global Economy**

**Tues 11/16** Staudt, Kathleen. "Violence at the US-Mexico Border: Framing Perspectives." From *Violence and Activism at the Border: Gender, Fear and Everyday Life in Ciudad Juarez* (Austin, TX: UT Press, 2008), pp. 1-27.

Film: *Senorita Extraviada*  
Screening and Discussion

**Thurs 11/18** Enloe, Cynthia. "When Soldiers Rape." From *Maneuvers: The International Politics of Militarizing Women's Lives* (Berkeley, CA: UC Press, 2000), pp. 108-152.

Falcon, Sylvanna. "'National Security' and the Violation of Women: Militarized Border Rape and the US-Mexico Border." In *The Color of Violence: The Incite! Anthology*, ed. Incite! Women of Color Against Violence (Cambridge, MA: South End Press, 2006), pp. 119-129.

**Week Nine: Feminized Immigrant Labor, Cold War Politics, and the High-Tech Economy**

**Tues 11/23** Pellow and Park, *Silicon Valley of Dreams*, Chapters 1-7.  
**\*\*Essay #2 Due In-Class**

**Thurs 11/25** **Thanksgiving Holiday**  
**No Class**

**Week Ten: Femininity(ies) and Feminism(s)**

**Tues 11/30** Pellow and Park, *Silicon Valley of Dreams*, Chapters 8-10.

Louie, Miriam Ching Yoon. "Movement Roots" and "'Just-In-Time' Guerrilla Warriors." From *Sweatshop Warriors: Immigrant Women Workers Take on the Global Factory* (Cambridge, MA: South End Press, 2001), pp. 195-246.

**Thurs 12/2** Final Exam Review and Wrap-Up

**\*\*FINAL EXAM, Thursday, December 9, 8-11AM, Room TBD**

**Majoring or Minor in Ethnic Studies at UCSD**

Many students take an ethnic studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a social science, non-contiguous, or other college requirement. Often students have taken three or four classes out of “interest” yet have no information about the major or minor and don’t realize how close they are to a major, a minor, or even a double major. An ethnic studies major is excellent preparation for a career in law, public policy, government and politics, journalism, education, public health, social work, international relations, and many other careers. If you would like information about the ethnic studies major or minor at UCSD, please contact Yolanda Escamilla, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor, at 858-534-3277 or [yescamilla@ucsd.edu](mailto:yescamilla@ucsd.edu).