

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
LONDON
CANADA
WOMEN'S STUDIES AND FEMINIST RESEARCH**

WS 3350G FEMINISM ACROSS BORDERS

Where and When? 3 lecture hours, Tuesdays 1.30pm-4.30pm

Who's the Prof? Shuchi Karim (email: skarim63@uwo.ca)

Office Hours: Wednesdays: 11.00 am – 1.00pm (By appointments).

Course Description:

Is an inclusive feminism possible? Is a feminism that transcends borders and embraces a broader, more global spectrum of feminist voices than ever before feasible? Reading feminist authors from a diversity of backgrounds, we examine the attractions and challenges of a global feminism.

Course Objectives: the course aims to encourage the students to:

1. Engage critically with feminist works across a range of 'border' issues and from a variety of disciplinary/interdisciplinary perspectives.
2. Reflect upon key concepts, theories and approaches in feminist research in a global context, challenging our default assumptions about borders, identities and feminist politics.
3. Articulate the complexities of intersectionality and inclusivity from a feminist perspective.
4. Be able to identify key issues and debates within international feminist discourses, with a focus on challenges posed by 'Third World' women to dominant ideas of and about feminism.
5. Develop their own personal line of thought and argument on global/transnational feminist matters of contemporary world.

In addition to these, students will also develop their written, oral, and critical skills in these ways:

- By engaging in online discussions after every class where you will post at least one discussion question and respond to a questions posted by others in the class;
- Be more confident as a speaker through in-class presentations;
- Develop critical thinking and writing skills through assignments that are designed to encourage free informed thinking;
- Through tests and examinations designed to promote the synthesizing and consolidating of course material, students will sharpen their critical writing and critical thinking skills.

Assessment

1. Participation in on-line discussions (10%). You will be expected to post throughout the term, (a) a total of FIVE discussion questions, each in a different week, and (b) respond to a total of FIVE discussion questions posted by other students (on different topics from what you posted on your own discussion week. Discussions and questions should be posted after the class and before the next reading class (i.e. from Tuesday to Sunday timeline as we have class on Mondays).
2. Assignment 1: (20%) Reading analysis – presentation (10%) followed by a 1000 word analysis/reflection paper (10%).
3. Mid-term in-class test (20%) in form of an Open Book Response paper (based on the readings and issues arising from the first five classes).
4. Assignment 2: (20%): Class presentations of term paper proposal (includes topic overview, research question, thesis statement, methodology, annotated bibliography)
5. Term Paper (30%): 3000 words.

Further details of these will be posted on the course website.

Course Policies: Accommodation for students with disabilities: Please contact ws-ugrad@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you. You can also contact Services for Students with Disabilities at ssd@uwo.ca or by phone at (519) 661-2147.

Policy on Assignment and Paper Submission: All assignments and papers should be submitted online via OWL by the due date. Students are not required to submit hard copies of their assignments.

Turnitin: Required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review by the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement currently between the University and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>) (see <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/crsout.pdf>).

Policy on Missed/Late Assignments: It is the expectation that students in Women's Studies classes will submit assignments by the assigned dates. Late assignments will only be accepted without penalty if a prior agreement with the Instructor has been made. Students who submit assignments late without making a prior agreement with the Instructor, or without a valid medical certificate, will be penalized 3% for every 24-hour period past the assignment deadline.

An absence during a quiz or an exam will earn a "0" on the assignment, unless you have medical or compassionate grounds for accommodation.

UWO Senate requires that students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Attendance policy: Persistent absenteeism may be rendered grounds for failure in the course, in accordance with the policy of the Department of Women's Studies and Feminist Research. Circumstances requiring academic accommodation should be addressed with the Academic Counselor in the student's faculty of registration.

Scholastic Offences Scholastic offences are taken seriously. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offense. Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words, and must acknowledge others' ideas using citations and quotation marks where appropriate.

Students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/courseoutlines.pdf>

Schedule of classes, readings and assignments:

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| 8 th January | Introduction to course material and requirements, an introductory discussion on the following topics: why and how should we think about feminism across borders? What does 'intersectionality' mean and why is it important for our discussion on feminisms across borders? |
| 15 th January | Theme: Feminist Theory and exclusion: Maria Lugones and Elizabeth Spelman, 'Have We Got a Theory for You?'; Chandra Mohanty, 'Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses'. |
| 22 nd January | Theme: Transnational Feminism: Gendered Geographies of Power: Analyzing Gender Across Transnational Spaces. Readings: Sarah J. Mahler and Patricia R. Pessar, 'Gendered Geographies of Power: Analyzing Gender Across Transnational Spaces'; Manisha Desai, 'Critical cartography, theories, and praxis of transnational feminisms: locating transnational feminism' in Baksh and Harcourt edited The Oxford Handbook of TRANSNATIONAL FEMINIST MOVEMENTS, Oxford University Press, 2015. |
| 29 th January | Theme: Identities. Suddahbrata Sengupta, 'I/Me/Mine—Intersectional Identities as Negotiated Minefields'; Spivak, 'Disaporas Old and New: Women in the Transnational World'. |
| 5 th February | Theme: Transnational Feminist Movements. Valentine M. Moghadam, 'Transnational Feminist Activism and Movement Building', Linda E. Carty and Chandra T. Mohanty, 'Mapping Transnational Feminist Engagements: Neoliberalism and the Politics of |

Solidarity' in Baksh and Harcourt edited The Oxford Handbook of TRANSNATIONAL FEMINIST MOVEMENTS, Oxford University Press, 2015.

12 the February Assignment 1: Class Presentations.

READING WEEK

26th February Theme: War and Feminism. Maryam Khalid, 'Feminist Perspectives on Militarism and War: Critiques, Contradictions and Collusions', and Linda Etchart, 'Demilitarizing the Global: Women's Peace Movements and Transnational Networks', in Baksh and Harcourt edited The Oxford Handbook of TRANSNATIONAL FEMINIST MOVEMENTS, Oxford University Press, 2015. Butalia, *Legacies of Departure: Decolonization, Nation-making, and Gender* in Philippa Levine edited *Gender and Empire*, 2007.

5th March Mid Term

12th March Body Politics, sexuality and Women's Rights. Harcourt, 'What is body politics?', in Harcourt, *Body Politics in Development*, 2009. Alexandra Garita, 'Moving Toward Sexual and Reproductive Justice: A Transnational and Multigenerational Feminist Remix' in Baksh and Harcourt edited The Oxford Handbook of TRANSNATIONAL FEMINIST MOVEMENTS, Oxford University Press, 2015. 'India's Daughter', BBC documentary, by Leslee Udwin. <http://watchdocumentaries.com/indias-daughter/>

19th March Theme: Feminism and Human Rights: Guest lecturer Hana Shams Ahmed

26th March: Theme: Gender, Citizenship Rights and Feminism. Nira Yuval-Davis, 'Women, Citizenship and Difference', *Feminist Review*, September 1997, Volume 57, [Issue 1](#), pp 4-27.

Virginia Vargas, 'Feminism and Democratic Struggles in Latin America'; and Amrita Chhachhi and Sunila Abeysekera, 'Forging a New Political Imaginary: Transnational Southasian Feminisms', in Baksh and Harcourt edited The Oxford Handbook of TRANSNATIONAL FEMINIST MOVEMENTS, Oxford University Press, 2015.

2nd April Assignment 2: Class presentations (Term Paper Proposal).

9th April Theme: Cyber feminism. Gillian Youngs, 'Digital Transformations of Transnational Feminism in Theory and Practice'; Emma A. Jane (2016) Online misogyny and feminist digilantism, *Continuum*, 30:3, 284-297; Julia Schuster, 'Invisible feminists? Social media and young women's political participation', *Political Science* 65(1) 8-24.

Review of the course.

The complete reading list and course materials will be made available on the first day of the class.

Reading list:

Maria Lugones and Elizabeth Spelman, 'Have We Got a Theory for You?' in *Women's Studies International Forum*, Volume 6, Issue 6, 1983, Pages 573-581.

Chandra Mohanty, 'Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses' in *Feminist Review*, No.30 (Autumn 1988), pp. 61-88.

Sarah J. Mahler and Patricia R. Pessar, 'Gendered Geographies of Power: Analyzing Gender Across Transnational Spaces', in *Global Studies in Culture and Power*, Volume 7(4), 2001, pp. 441-459.

Manisha Desai, 'Critical cartography, theories, and praxis of transnational feminisms: locating transnational feminism' in Baksh and Harcourt edited *The Oxford Handbook of TRANSNATIONAL FEMINIST MOVEMENTS*, 2015, Oxford University Press, pp. 116-132.

Suddahbrata Sengupta, 'I/Me/Mine—Intersectional Identities as Negotiated Minefields' in *New Feminist Theories of Visual Culture*, Vol. 31, No. 3, 2006 (Spring), pp. 629-639

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, 'Disaporas Old and New: Women in the Transnational World' in *Textual Practice*, Volume 10, 1996 – Issue 2, pp. 245-269.

Valentine M. Moghadam, 'Transnational Feminist Activism and Movement Building', in Baksh and Harcourt edited *The Oxford Handbook of TRANSNATIONAL FEMINIST MOVEMENTS*, 2015, Oxford University Press, pp.53-82.

Linda E. Carty and Chandra T. Mohanty, 'Mapping Transnational Feminist Engagements: Neoliberalism and the Politics of Solidarity' in Baksh and Harcourt edited *The Oxford Handbook of TRANSNATIONAL FEMINIST MOVEMENTS*, Oxford University Press, 2015, pp. 83-115

Maryam Khalid, 'Feminist Perspectives on Militarism and War: Critiques, Contradictions and Collusions', and Linda Etchart, 'Demilitarizing the Global: Women's Peace Movements and Transnational Networks', in Baksh and Harcourt edited *The Oxford Handbook of TRANSNATIONAL FEMINIST MOVEMENTS*, Oxford University Press, 2015, pp. 632-650.

Butalia, *Legacies of Departure: Decolonization, Nation-making, and Gender* in Philippa Levine edited *Gender and Empire*, Oxford Scholarship, 2007.

Wendy Harcourt, 'What is body politics?' in Wendy Harcourt *Body Politics in Development: Critical Debates in Gender and Development*, London: Zed Books, 2009.

Alexandra Garita, 'Moving Toward Sexual and Reproductive Justice: A Transnational and Multigenerational Feminist Remix' in Baksh and Harcourt edited *The Oxford Handbook of TRANSNATIONAL FEMINIST MOVEMENTS*, Oxford University Press, 2015, pp. 271-294.

'India's Daughter', BBC documentary, by Leslee Udwin. <http://watchdocumentaries.com/indias-daughter/>

Nira Yuval-Davis, 'Women, Citizenship and Difference', in *Feminist Review*, September 1997, Volume 57, [Issue 1](#), pp 4–27.

Virginia Vargas, 'Feminism and Democratic Struggles in Latin America' in in Baksh and Harcourt edited *The Oxford Handbook of TRANSNATIONAL FEMINIST MOVEMENTS*, Oxford University Press, 2015, pp. 534-552.

Amrita Chhachhi and Sunila Abeysekera, 'Forging a New Political Imaginary: Transnational Southasian Feminisms', in Baksh and Harcourt edited *The Oxford Handbook of TRANSNATIONAL FEMINIST MOVEMENTS*, Oxford University Press, 2015, pp. 553-577.

Gillian Youngs, 'Digital Transformations of Transnational Feminism in Theory and Practice'; Emma A. Jane (2016) Online misogyny and feminist digilantism, *Continuum*, 30:3, pp. 284-297.

Julia Schuster, 'Invisible feminists? Social media and young women's political participation', in *Political Science* 65(1), pp. 8–24.

Suggested Readings:

1. *The Oxford Handbook of TRANSNATIONAL FEMINIST MOVEMENTS*, Rawwinda Baksh and Wendy Harcourt edited, Oxford University Press, 2015.
2. *Feminism without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity*, Chandra Talpade Mohanty (Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2003).
3. *Dislocating Cultures: Identities, Traditions and Third World Feminisms*, Uma Narayan (New York: Routledge, 1997).