
COMMODIFYING WOMEN IN SOUTH EAST ASIA 2 credits
(Fall)

東・東南アジアにおける女性の商品化 2単位(秋学期)

CHANDRA, ELIZABETH
チャンドラ, エリザベス

Course Description/Objectives/Teaching Method/Intended Learning Outcome:

This course examines the use and circulation of women in the context of globalization. In addition to stimulating the flow of people, goods, images, and ideas in unprecedented scale and speed, globalization has encouraged the spread of the capitalist market and mode of consumption in which women are not only targeted as consumers, but also used as tools for economic growth and objects of exchange. This practice is most visible in the mobilization of women for factory labor and their transnational migration for service, care, and other reproductive labor that is encouraged by many governments in Asia as a strategy to accumulate foreign currency. All these changes have had profound effects in the way women's bodies and labor are being utilized, appropriated, and exchanged – the most controversial of which is perhaps the use of women in the Global South as gestational surrogates.

In the early part of the course we will read anthropological studies on the formation of patriarchal family system and the history of women's subordination in society. We will proceed to look at how capitalism and globalization have transformed gender relations, in particular women's position in connection to domesticity, work, mobility, and migration both in the home as well as the host countries of migrating women. We will look especially at the ways in which society, the state, and corporate culture contribute to gender regimes that disadvantage women. This course explores aspects in the commodification of women in general, but we will draw examples from south east Asia, which as a region is a leading supplier of women's bodies and labor that circulate on the global market as foreign domestic workers, sex workers, and gestational mothers.

Course Plan:

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Women and the Family
- 3 Society and Exchange
- 4 Women as Object of Exchange
- 5 Women in the Capitalist System
- 6 Emotional Labor
- 7 Globalization and Dislocation
- 8 Producing for Global Market
- 9 Feminization of Migration
- 10 Rent-a-womb
- 11 Neoliberal Feminism
- 12 Tourism and the Sex Industry
- 13 Sex as Work

Other Course Summary

Method of Evaluation:

Weekly papers (50%)
Attendance (40%)
In-class discussion (10%)

Reference Books:

Friedrich Engels, *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State* (Resistance Books, 2004; originally published in 1884)
Claude Levi-Strauss, *The Elementary Structures of Kinship* (Beacon Press, 1969)
Alison Bailey & Chris Cuomo (eds.), *The Feminist Philosophy Reader* (McGraw Hill, 2008)
Arlie Russell Hochschild, *The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human Feeling* (Univ. of California Press, 2003)
Ngai Pun, *Made in China: Women Factory Workers in a Global Workplace* (Duke UP, 2005)
Barbara Ehrenreich & Arlie Russell Hochschild (eds.), *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy* (Holt, 2002)
France Winddance Twine, *Outsourcing the Womb: Race, Class and Gestational Surrogacy in a Global Market* (Routledge, 2011)
Catherine Rottenberg, *The Rise of Neoliberal Feminism* (Oxford, 2018)

Lecturer's Comments to Students:

This course will be conducted in seminar style, so a small class size is preferable. A maximum of 15 students will be admitted and selection will be done using an automatic drawing system.

All class sessions will be conducted via live-stream. It is mandatory to attend the first session, where technical requirements and the weekly breakdown of the course will be given in detail.

Throughout the semester students will be required to write a short (one-page) commentary on an assigned reading of approximately 30-50 pages every week, and participate in class discussion. The weekly readings will be distributed by email in PDF form.