

Keio University Syllabus and Timetable

COMMODIFYING WOMEN IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

Lecturer(s)	CHANDRA, ELIZABETH
Credit(s)	2
Academic Year/Semester	2024 Fall
Day/Period	Fri.5
Campus	Mita
Classroom	451
Class Format	Face-to-face classes (conducted mainly in-person)
Registration Number	16573
Faculty/Graduate School	INTERNATIONAL CENTER
Year Level	2, 3, 4
Grade Type	S, A, B, C, D
Course Description	A course to aim to examine the use and circulation of women in the context of globalization.
K-Number	CIN-CO-00223-212-08

[▼ Detail](#)
Course Contents/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, money, 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 low-income countries as gestational surrogates.

In the early part of the course we will read anthropological studies on the formation of the patriarchal family system, the history of women's subordination in society, and archaic forms of exchange using women. Then we will look at how capitalism and globalization have transformed gender relations, in particular women's position in connection to domesticity, work, mobility, and migration. We will look especially at the ways in which society, the state, and corporate culture contribute to gender regimes that (dis)advantage women.

This course explores various aspects in the commodification of women in general and occasionally draws examples from southeast Asia, which as a region is a leading supplier of women's bodies and labor that circulate on the global market as domestic workers, sex workers, and gestational mothers.

Active Learning Methods [Description](#)

Discussions, Debates

Preparatory Study

6 hours of reading and 8 hours of writing per week

Lesson 1

Introduction

Lesson 2

Women and the Family

Lesson 3

Society and Exchange

Lesson 4

Women as Object of Exchange

Lesson 5

Women in the Capitalist System

Lesson 6

Emotional Labor

Lesson 7

Producing for Global Market

Lesson 8

Globalization

Lesson 9

Global Cities

Lesson 10

Global Women

Lesson 11

Cosmopolitan Sex Workers

Lesson 12

Sex as Work

Lesson 13

Rent-a-womb

Lesson 14

Neoliberal Feminism

Other

Method of Evaluation

Weekly papers (40%)
Attendance (40%)
Class discussion (20%)

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* (University of California Press, 2003)
Ngai Pun, *Made in China: Women Factory Workers in a Global Workplace* (Duke University Press, 2005)
Barbara Ehrenreich & Arlie Russell Hochschild (eds.), *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy* (Holt, 2002)
Christine B. N. Chin, *Cosmopolitan Sex Workers: Women and Migration in a Global City* (Oxford University Press, 2013)
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 University Press, 2018)

Lecturer's Comments to Students

This course will be conducted in seminar style, so a small class size is preferable. A maximum of 18 students will be admitted and selection will be done using an automatic drawing system. As the number of spots for this class is limited, we ask that students register for the course **ONLY IF THEY INTEND TO TAKE IT** and are **AWARE OF THE HEAVY WORKLOAD** (mandatory weekly readings & papers).

It is mandatory to attend the first class session, where technical requirements and the weekly breakdown of the course will be given in detail and will not be repeated.

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 made available on Canvas.

Question/Comments

Attendance to the first class session is mandatory. Those unable to attend must contact the instructor (elizabeth.chandra@gmail.com) in advance.