

Sex, Work, and International Capital (SA)

Sociology and Anthropology 429

Section: E100

Term: 2010 Spring

Instructor: Dr. Yildiz Atasoy

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Office Hours: Wednesday 4:20-5:20 pm and 9:30-10:00 pm

Meeting Times: Wednesday 5:30-9:20 pm

Discussion Topics: This course will be held in the evening at the Vancouver Harbour Centre Campus.

This course offers a theoretical and thematic exploration of gender inequality, work, and the labour process in the context of current global transformations. We will examine the connections between global processes of economic, political, and cultural change on the one hand, and women's actions and experiences on the other. We will focus on the following themes:

- 1-\x09The meaning of development: What is it? Where should it be going?
- 2-\x09The importance of understanding the global dimension of development issues.
- 3-\x09The transnational restructuring of capital and classes (as aspects of capital accumulation and class formation);
- 4-\x09The reorganization of states and political alliances (conceptualizing states in relation to each other as well as in relation to civil society);
- 5-\x09The dynamics of inequality, including those relating to capital, gender, race/ethnicity, and culture.

The course attempts to provide new insights into these themes from a historical comparative and global perspective on North-South relations. First, we look at the origins and diversity of the Third World. We then turn to a more specific examination of the relations between changes in First World countries and changes in the Third World. We consider the experiences of women in the Third World in relation to the global economy and the reorganization of states and national cultures. Assessing the balance of structural constraints and opportunities will be central to our discussion throughout the course. We ask how gendered inequalities affect the dynamics of long-term changes and the ways in which variation in these dynamics affects the well-being of women, men, and children.

Through a program of focussed readings, and film materials, we examine a number of case studies. These studies show the diverse ways in which global economic crisis and state policies of restructuring are premised on unpaid and underpaid work done by women. The question of what happens to women as workers, mothers, and family members during this process of structural adjustment to a market economy is the main focus of this course. Specific issues include structural adjustment to a market economy; the current economic crisis and global accumulation; industrial restructuring and subcontracting (including the informal economy and homework); and households and the politics of sexuality.

Grading: 1- Written summaries\x09\x09\x09\x09\x0930%

2- Class presentations\x09\x09\x09\x09\x0930%

3- Critical journals\x09\x09\x09\x09\x0925%

4- Presenting the international news of the week\x095%

5- Participation (details will be discussed in class)\x0910%

All the assignments in this course must be completed for a final grade to be assigned. The Department of Sociology and Anthropology follows SFU policy in relation to grading practices, grade appeals (Policy T 20.01) and academic dishonesty and misconduct procedures (Policy T 10.03). It is the responsibility of students to inform themselves of the content of these policies (available on the SFU website under Administration, SFU Policies & Procedures).

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Required Texts: 1- Philip McMichael (2004) Development and Social Change: A Global Perspective (3rd edition), Thousand Oaks, California: Pine Forge
2- A required Custom Courseware Package will be available for sale in the Vancouver Harbour Centre Campus Bookstore.

Recommended Texts: Yildiz Atasoy (2009) Islams Marriage with Neoliberalism. London & New York: Palgrave.

Materials/Supplies: None

Prerequisite/Corequisite: minimum of 72 units including SA 101 or 150 or 201. Students who took SA 463 in 2003-1, SA 460 in 2003-3 and SA 360 in 2004-3 may not take this course for further credit.

Notes: All students are expected to read and understand SFUs policies with regard to academic dishonesty (T 10.02 and T 10.03). These policies are available at the following web addresses: <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-02.htm> and <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-03.htm>

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