Course Description

Sex and money—intimacy and economy—are often imagined to occupy distinct and separate spheres. Sex and intimacy are located in the private or domestic realm, in spaces of leisure, feelings, care, and personal connections. Money and economy, on the other hand, are purportedly public, located in the market and tied to labor, rationality, and impersonal (non)-relations. This course brings these spheres together, focusing on the links, exchanges, and circuits between the intimate and the economic in diverse cultural contexts across the Americas.

Drawing on anthropological, feminist, Marxist, queer, and critical race theory, we will build working definitions of key concepts: intimacy, division of labor, domestic labor, sexual labor, exchange, commodity, value, neoliberalism, consumer culture and more. We’ll test, apply, critique, and expand these concepts as we work through ethnographic case studies on contemporary sex work and tourism, marketing and pornography, reproduction and domestic labor, marriage, class and sexual lifestyle, labor and carework, and sex stores and commodities. We will connect economic, cultural, and political formations with race, ethnicity, nation, sexuality, class, and gender, scaling up to consider global and transnational exchanges and down to consider how these circuits impact families and communities. Throughout we will ask: Whose labor is valued and recognized, and why? How do bodies accrue value, and in what kinds of marketplaces? When are intimacies—sexual and social—commoditized? How is race, gender, and sexuality central to these exchanges? How do new transnational circuits constrain and/or empower people? And finally, who benefits from these relations, and who does not?

This is an Anthropology course that also satisfies the “Hemispheric Americas” requirement in American Studies. It is cross-listed in FGSS, and is part of both the Queer Studies Course Cluster and the Social, Cultural, and Critical Theory Certificate.

Course Texts


All books are available RJ Julia’s Bookstore and are also on reserve at Olin Library (some are also e-books via Olin). You are welcome to buy the books elsewhere, as long as you get the right edition. All articles are on Moodle and also available as a course pack through your portfolio.

**Course Assignments**
- Participation ----- 10% (includes Tumblr posts)
- Collective Glossary ---- 10%
- Reading Memos ----- 15%
- In-class Presentation/Memo ----- 15%
- Four Tiny Papers ----- 25%
- Final Paper/Project – 25%

**Participation**
This is an intensive, reading-heavy course designed for an active learner. You will get out of it what you put in to it—your active participation and enthusiasm is crucial to its success. Come to class prepared to contribute to our discussion in a relevant, present, and respectful way. We will be reading challenging theoretical essays alongside a wide range of experiential, ethnographic material. Thus, participation in this course means coming to class ready to ask questions, to think about what is at stake in these debates, and to begin to forge your own analysis. When you have read the recommended reading and/or films, volunteer to share that material with your classmates. Remember, participation does not just mean talking, it means contributing to our collective learning—asking questions and building off of others’ insights often matters more than making declarations. Posting on our class Tumblr is a good way to participate if you are shy or have material to share.

**Collective Glossary**
Together, we will create a Glossary of the key terms we explore in this class: intimacy, economy, division of labor, and so on. You’ll want to contribute at least 3 times to the Glossary. A contribution might take the form of: adding a new definition (based on our readings, independent research, or recommended readings), adding examples and explanations of key terms (ethnographic examples, explanations in your own words), adding summary text (comparing and contrasting different definitions and/or uses of key terms, providing some historical background on the use of terms), linking to other resources (media, examples, online or scanned readings, webpages), or editing and refining any of this. Because this is a collective project, your grade for this portion of the class is based on the quality of your contributions throughout the semester.

**In-class Reading Memos**
For each ethnography, you will bring to class a ~1-page Reading Memo. Each Memo should contain 2 passages you wish to discuss in class (type them out: a passage can be anywhere from 1 sentence to 1 paragraph) and your notes, comments, or questions about each of the passages. Pick passages you feel best encapsulate an important moment, revelation, problem, issue, or point of view—the passages should be “meaty” enough to sustain class discussion. Your notes and questions on that passage should give us a starting place to dig in, and to connect the passage(s) to one of our
theoretical readings or other course material. You will turn in these memos after our class (keep them with you during class so that you can refer to them), but they will not be graded (credit/no credit for satisfactory completion). The Memo is a good starting place for the Tiny Papers.

In-class Presentation
You are responsible for one presentation during the semester. The presentation will take one of two forms: 1) a small group panel of 3-5 students or 2) a solo presentation on one of the ethnographies, based on your Memo. You can pick which of these you prefer. You are encouraged to meet with me to discuss both presentations.

- **Panel**: There are four panels, on domestic worker organizing, on critiques of marriage, on sex trafficking, and on shopping for sexual empowerment. Working in a small group and with my recommendations, you will read and research these topics, and then present the issues, histories, and controversies to the class in a panel presentation. Your task is to present this material in a clear, comprehensible way. You’ll have the entirety of the class session for the panel, so, working together, you should plan something that is interactive—an exercise, a handout, short clips/media, excerpts from the reading, etc.—so that students can engage with the material. Be sure to leave plenty of time for questions and discussion.

- **Memo**: If you choose the Memo presentation, you will use your Reading Memo to lead ~10 minutes of class discussion—this is your chance to guide our discussion of one of the assigned ethnographies. You’ll want to draw the class’s attention to particular passage(s) or concept(s), and guide discussion using on discussion questions you’ve prepared in advance.

Tiny Papers/Briefs
You will turn in four 2-3-page double-spaced papers on the days listed on the syllabus. There are five papers listed: you may skip one of them. These papers give you a chance to connect and synthesize the analytical material/concepts and the ethnography, working toward your own critical reflection of the unit’s overarching themes and concepts. While you are doing the reading for each class session and reflecting on the unit as a whole, ask yourself: *How do the analytical readings and concepts help us understand and analyze the ethnography? What (if anything) is missing from the analytical framework that is revealed in the ethnographic case studies? What are the (multiple) intersections between economy and intimacy in the readings? What are the relationships between these intersections and power—privilege, oppression, empowerment, etc.?* These are big questions, and you’ll want to approach them anthropologically—that is, with reference to concrete and specific examples, and a focused framework. Avoid generalizations, pontificating, and summary. Instead, use these papers to explore a particular issue, tension, theme, or idea that arose in the unit with as much detail as possible—you’ll want to provide specific examples from the readings (the more specific, the better: use quotes from people interviewed, particular stories that illustrate your point, etc.). Part of this assignment is to learn how to make a concise argument, so do not waste your words with extensive introductions, conclusions, or repetition—just jump right in!

Final Paper
Your final assignment is a paper/project of 8-10 double-spaced pages. It can be based on course readings, it can be an expansion of one of your Tiny Papers, or it can entail research on a new topic. Broadly, the paper must be relevant for the course: it must explore an intersection of sex/intimacy and money/economy. Beyond this, the focus of your paper is up to you. Be on the lookout for something you want to examine throughout the semester (and check out my recommendations after each unit, under “want more?”).
Extra Credit
For extra credit, you may write the additional Tiny Paper and/or do an additional presentation. Extra credit boosts your final grade for the course.

Course Policies

Policy on Absences: You may miss 2 classes without explanation or penalty: think of these as sick (or health) days, and take them as you see fit. There is no need to email me unless you are dealing with something more serious, in which case we should have a more detailed conversation that will probably include your Class Dean. If you miss more than 2 classes, I may ask you to withdraw. Missing more than 5 classes is grounds to fail the course.

Policy on extensions and late papers: I do not grant extensions. You cannot turn in Reading Memos late. I will accept the Tiny Papers late with a grade penalty of 3 points (1/3 a letter grade) each day. You cannot turn in the Final Research Paper late, as it is due the last day of Finals Week; if you have valid reasons for needing more time, you will need to request an Incomplete for the course.

Policy on computers in the classroom:

Office Hours: I am on campus and happy to meet with you on Mondays and Wednesdays, and some Tuesdays and Thursdays too. Please come and talk to me about course material, or any ideas or concerns you might have. You can schedule an appointment using my online calendar: http://calendly.com/margot-weiss. My office is located in the Center for the Americas, 255 High Street, on the second floor (room 201). If you need to phone, my office number is 685-5754. If you cannot make any of my available times, email me and we will work out an alternative time to meet.

Disability Resources
Wesleyan University is committed to ensuring that all qualified students with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from its programs and services. To receive accommodations, a student must have a documented disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and provide documentation of the disability. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact Disability Resources as soon as possible.

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Dean Patey in Disability Resources, located in North College, Room 021, or call 860-685-5581 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations.

Honor Code
All work must be done in compliance with the Honor Code. If you need help with proper citations or you have questions on how to avoid plagiarism, let me know or contact the Writing Workshop: http://www.wesleyan.edu/writing/workshop/
Course Schedule
(all readings are due and will be discussed on the day they are listed)

0. COURSE INTRODUCTION
Key Terms: intimacy, economy, labor, intercourse, exchange

Mon, Sept. 4: Course introduction

Wed, Sept. 6: Intimacy and Economy

1. INTIMACY AND EXCHANGE, PART I – CARE/WORK
Key Terms: production, reproduction, private property, division of labor, domestic labor, carework

Mon, Sept. 11: Private Property, Re-production, and the Division of Labor

Wed, Sept. 13: Globalized Domestic Labor
  memo

Mon, Sept. 18: Globalized Domestic Labor
in class film: The Second Mother

Wed, Sept. 20: Globalized Domestic Labor
- Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, 2007. Doméstica (finish)
  memo

Mon, Sept. 25
Panel 1: Domestic Workers Organize
Tiny Paper 1 due

---------------------------Want More?
2. INTIMACY AND EXCHANGE, PART II – LOVE & MARRIAGE

Key Terms: sex/gender system, exchange of women, patriarchy, marriage, romance

Wed, Sept. 27: Sex/Gender/Race and Patriarchy
- Heidi I. Hartmann, 1979. “Patriarchy,” from "The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism Towards a More Progressive Union"
- Gloria Joseph, 1981. “The Incompatible Ménage à Trois: Marxism, Feminism and Racism” in *Women and Revolution*

Rec: Sylvia Walby, 1990. “Introduction” to *Theorizing Patriarchy*
Henrietta L. Moore, 1988. excerpt from *Feminism and Anthropology*

Mon, Oct 2: Globalization of Marriage: “Mail-Order Bride”
- Nicole Constable, 2003. *Romance on a Global Stage: Pen Pals, Virtual Ethnography, and "Mail Order" Marriage* (Intro, Ch. 1 and 3)

memo

Wed, Oct 4: Globalization of Marriage
- Nicole Constable, 2003. *Romance on a Global Stage* (Ch. 4-6)

memo

Mon, Oct 9
Panel 2: Marxist Feminist Queer Critique of Marriage
Rec: Yasmin Nair, 2010. “Introduction” to *Against Marriage* (pp. 1-9)

Tiny Paper 2 due

Want More?
3. INTIMACY AND EXCHANGE, PART III – SEX/WORK

Key Terms: sex work, sexual labor, exchange, trafficking, authenticity, service economy, intimacy

Wed, Oct 11: Sex / Work
- Emma Goldman, “Anarchy and the Sex Question” (1896), "The Traffic in Women" (1910), and “Marriage and Love” (1914) (all linked on Moodle)
- Silvia Federici, 1975. “Why Sexuality is Work” in Revolution at Point Zero

Mon, Oct 16: Sex Work and the Commodification of Intimacy
- Elizabeth Bernstein (2007). Temporarily Yours: Intimacy, Authenticity, and the Commerce of Sex (begin)
  memo
- Elizabeth Bernstein (2007). Temporarily Yours (finish)
  memo

>>>FALL BREAK<<<

Wed, Oct 25: Sex Worker Organizing
In-class film: Live Nude Girls, Unite!

Mon, Oct 30
Panel 3: Sex Trafficking and the Rescue Industry
Tiny Paper 3 due

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- Don Kulick, 1998. Travesti: Sex, Gender, and Culture among Brazilian Transgendered Prostitutes
4. COMMODIFICATION AND CONSUMERISM, PART I – SEX/TOURISM

Key terms: gift, commodity, value, commodity fetishism, desire, authenticity, alienation

Wed, Nov 1: Commodity and Gift Exchange

- Diane Tober, 2001. “Semen as Gift, Semen as Goods” in *Commodifying Bodies*

Mon, Nov 6: Sex Tourism


*Memo*

Wed, Nov 8: Sex Tourism


*Memo*

Mon, Nov 13: Romance Tourism

In-class film: *Heading South*


Tiny Paper 4 due

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- Erica Lorraine Williams, 2013. *Sex Tourism in Bahia: Ambiguous Entanglements*

5. COMMODIFICATION AND CONSUMERISM, PART II – SEXUAL MARKETPLACES

Key Terms: identity, lifestyle, consumption, late capitalism, neoliberalism, consumer culture

Wed, Nov 15: Sexual Identity and Capitalism
- Donald Lowe, 1995, excerpt from “Sexual Lifestyle and Late Capitalist Consumption” in The Body in Late-Capitalist USA
- Rosemary Hennessey, 1995, excerpt from Profit and Pleasure: Sexual Identities Under Late Capitalism
- David Harvey, 2005. “Introduction” to A Brief History of Neoliberalism

Mon, Nov 20: Circuits of Pleasure
- Margot Weiss, 2011. Techniques of Pleasure: BDSM and the Circuits of Sexuality (begin)
  Rec: Martin Manalansan, 2005. “Race, Violence, and Neoliberal Spatial Politics in the Global City”
  Social Text
  memo

Wed, Nov. 22: tbd

>>>THANKSGIVING<<<

Mon, Nov 27: Circuits of Pleasure
- Margot Weiss, 2011. Techniques of Pleasure (finish)
  memo

Wed, Nov 29
Panel 4: shopping for (sexual) empowerment?
  Tiny Paper 5 due

------------------------Want More?
- Christina B. Hanhardt, 2013. Safe Space: Gay Neighborhood History and the Politics of Violence
- Elizabeth Chin, 2016. My Life with Things: The Consumer Diaries
Gayle A. Sulik, 2011. *Pink Ribbon Blues: How Breast Cancer Culture Undermines Women’s Health*


Rene Almeling, 2011. *Sex Cells: The Medical Market for Eggs and Sperm*

Suzanna Walters, 2001. *All the Rage: The Story of Gay Visibility in America*

6. Conclusions and Big Questions

**Mon, Dec 4: Exploitation**

- **Against Work // Housework:** is paying for domestic labor the/a solution?
  - Silvia Federici, 1975. “Wages Against Housework” in *Revolution at Point Zero*

- **Sex Work // Surrogacy // Intimate Service Work:** is intimate labor especially exploitative?
  - readings tba

**Wed, Dec 6: Commodification**

- **Porn // Racialized Desires // Representation:** is objectification always oppressive?
  - bell hooks, 1992. “Eating the Other” *Black Looks*

- **Diversity Culture // Inclusion // Institution:** is “diversity” progressive?
  - Jane Ward, 2008, “Introduction” to *Respectably Queer: Diversity Culture in LGBT Activist Organizations*

Final paper due: Dec. 16 by 5pm