Topics in Sex and Gender: The Political Economy of Gender

Prof. Jennifer Bair University of Colorado

Office: Ketchum 214 Department of Sociology

Office Phone: 735-2389 Fall 2009

Office Hours: Thurs. 11:00-12:30 Fri. 1:00-3:50 PM

[jennnifer.bair@colorado.edu](mailto:jennnifer.bair@colorado.edu) Location: Ketchum 33

**Course Description**

The field of political economy generally refers to the relationship between political and economic power, or between the market and the state. In this course, we will examine how these spheres and the relationship between them is structured by and through gender—that is, the social practices and meanings attached to sexual difference. Although much of the material we will be reading is by sociologists, political economy is an interdisciplinary endeavor, and its interdisciplinary character is reflected in the course syllabus, which includes works by anthropologists, political scientists, economists, historians, and philosophers. Within political economy, the substantive scope of the course is broad, but it is decisively global and comparative in perspective, and there is somewhat of an emphasis on the political economy of globalization and development, which reflects my own research interests.

**Course Format**

As a graduate course, the overall format of this class will be a discussion-intensive seminar. Most weeks I will begin class with remarks (sometimes 15 minutes, sometimes 45 minutes) that are intended to put a particular reading in the context of broader disciplinary debates, provide background information that supplements the reading, or flag a particularly challenging part of the day’s assigned text(s) for later discussion. Each week, a student (or students, depending on final course enrollment) will be preparing and sharing with the class a short, critical summary of the assigned texts to kick off our discussion (more on this below). Following this presentation, we will have a general discussion in which all questions and contributions are welcome. ***Please be advised that careful completion of the assigned texts, and a willingness to discuss them in a classroom setting, is absolutely essential for success in this course.*** All readings except for the following books, which I recommend you purchase, will be available on D2L:

1. Parreñas, Rhacel Salazar (2001) *Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration and Domestic Work*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
2. Bernstein, Elizabeth (2007) *Temporarily Yours: Intimacy, Authenticity and the Commerce of Sex*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
3. Salzinger, Leslie (2003 ) *Genders in Production: Making Workers in Mexico’s Global Factories*.

Berkeley: University of California Press.

Here are the components of the course on which you will be graded:

*Attendance and Participation (15%)*

Students are expected to actively participate in class discussion. This may include asking questions, so please be aware that understanding everything you have read is not a pre-requisite for successful participation. If you miss a class at which a reading response is due, you may send me an electronic copy of your essay by 9 AM the following Monday.

*Response Papers (10% each for a total 30%)*

Four times during the course of the semester you will turn in reading responses of no more than two pages. Sometimes I will give you specific prompts or questions to answer in these essays, but basically reading responses should offer a critical summary of the text or texts assigned for the week. Typically this means you should identify the main theoretical and/or empirical research question orienting the work, provide a brief description of the main argument, and offer an assessment of the text, noting both its strengths and weaknesses. Strong responses will do more than summarize and evaluate a specific reading: You should also try to think about how the week’s readings relate to other texts we’ve read in the course. Do the assigned texts extend or contradict earlier findings? Do they take the literature in a new theoretical or methodological direction? How do the week’s readings speak to your own interests, if at all? So the goal of these response papers is to demonstrate that you are engaging the assigned texts, both in terms of their own merits and in terms of how they fit into broader debates. There will be five due dates for these papers throughout the course of the semester; you can choose the four that are the most convenient for you. I will drop the lowest grade of the four papers you turn in.

*Weekly discussion leader (30% of final course grade)*

Beginning September 14, the discussion portion of each class meeting will be led by a student who will also prepare a 5-6 page paper on the assigned readings. These papers can be thought of as expanded versions of the reading responses described above, but they will also pose a series of questions that will open our discussion of the material. These papers will be read aloud in class, with a written copy turned into me.

*Paper (25%)*

The final paper for this course will be due Monday, December 17th. I will meet with each of you to discuss your paper topics, and all topics should be approved by November 1st. The goal of this assignment is for you to produce either a conference paper (the ASA deadline is in January, so this would be a handy way to get an ASA submission ready) or a manuscript that would eventually be suitable for submission to a journal. These papers may be empirical or theoretical, and should be approximately 20 pages in length.

**Syllabus**

Aug. 31: Introduction to course and discussion of open weeks

Rubin, Gayle (1997) “The Traffic in Women: Notes of the Political Economy of Sex” in L. Nicholson, ed. *The Second Wave: A Reader*. New York: Routledge.

Waylen, Georgina (1997) “Gender, feminism and political economy.” *New Political Economy* 2(2): 205-220.

Sept. 7: What is the political economy of gender?

Acker, Joan (1988) “Class, Gender and the Relations of Distribution.” *Signs* 13(3): 473-497.

Fraser, Nancy. (1995) “From Redistribution to Recognition?” *New Left Review* 212: 68-93.

Young, Iris Marion. (1997) “Unruly Categories.” *New Left Review* 222: 147-160.

Sept. 14: Gender, states and markets

Sainsbury, Diane (1993) *Gender, Equality and Welfare States*. New York: Cambridge University Press, chapters 1 and 2.

Orloff, Ann (1993) “Gender and the Social Rights of Citizenship: The Comparative Analysis of Gender Relations and Welfare States.” [*American Sociological Review*](http://search.proquest.com/pubidlinkhandler/sng/pubtitle/American+Sociological+Review/$N?accountid=14503)[[http://search.proquest.com/assets/r9.0.2-2/core/spacer.gif](http://search.proquest.com/indexingvolumeissuelinkhandler/23497/American+Sociological+Review/01993Y06Y01$23Jun+1993$3b++Vol.+58+$283$29/58/3?accountid=14503)58(3): 303-328.*[http://search.proquest.com/assets/r9.0.2-2/core/spacer.gif](http://search.proquest.com/indexingvolumeissuelinkhandler/23497/American+Sociological+Review/01993Y06Y01$23Jun+1993$3b++Vol.+58+$283$29/58/3?accountid=14503)*](http://search.proquest.com/indexingvolumeissuelinkhandler/23497/American+Sociological+Review/01993Y06Y01$23Jun+1993$3b++Vol.+58+$283$29/58/3?accountid=14503)

Skocpol, Theda (with Gretchen Ritter) (1995) “Gender and the Origins of Modern Social Policy in the United States and Great Britain.” In *Social Policy in the United States*, Theda Skocpol, ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press, chapter 3.

*Recommended*: Orloff, Ann (1996) “Gender in the Welfare State.” *Annual Review of Sociology* 22: 51-78.

Sept. 21: Gender and labor market participation

Iversen, Torben and Frances Rosenbluth (2006) “The Political Economy of Gender: Explaining Cross-National Variation in the Gender Division of Labor and the Gender Voting Gap.” *American Journal of Political Science* 50(1): 1-19.

Goldin, Claudia (1990) *Understanding the Gender Gap*. New York: Oxford University Press, chapter 7.

England, Paula. 2010. “The gender revolution: Uneven and stalled.” *Gender & Society* 24 (2): 149-66.

*Recommended*: Replies to England in the February 2011 (vol. 25, no. 1) issue of *Gender and Society*.

***Response Paper#1***

Sept. 28: Women’s political participation and mobilization

Molyneux, Maxine (1985) “Mobilization without Emancipation? Women's Interests, the State, and Revolution in Nicaragua.” *Feminist Studies* 11(2): 227-254.

[Viterna, Jocelyn](http://search.proquest.com/indexinglinkhandler/sng/author/Viterna,+Jocelyn/$N?accountid=14503) and Kathleen [Fallon (2008) “](http://search.proquest.com/indexinglinkhandler/sng/author/Fallon,+Kathleen+M/$N?accountid=14503)Democratization, Women's Movements, and Gender-Equitable States: A Framework for Comparison.” [*American Sociological Review*](http://search.proquest.com/pubidlinkhandler/sng/pubtitle/American+Sociological+Review/$N/41945?accountid=14503) 73(4): 668-689.

Waylen , Georgina (2007) “Women's mobilization and gender outcomes in transitions to democracy: The case of South Africa Author.” *Comparative Political Studies* 40(5): 521-546.

Oct. 5: Gender in/and transition

Gal, Susan and Gail Kligman (2000) *The Politics of Gender after Socialism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, chapters 1, 3 and 4.

Glass, Christy and Eva Fodor (2007) “From Public to Private Maternalism? Gender and Welfare in Poland and Hungary after 1989.” *Social Policy* (fall): 323-350.

Hanser, Amy (2005) “The Gendered Rice Bowl: The Sexual Politics of Service Work in Urban China.” *Gender and Society* 19: 581-600.

Oct. 12: The political economy of reproduction and care work

Folbre, Nancy. (2001) *The Invisible Heart*. New York: The Free Press, introduction and chapter 3.

Parreñas, Rhacel Salazar (2001) *Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration and Domestic Work*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

***Response Paper #2***

Oct. 19: The political economy of sex work, part I

Bernstein, Elizabeth (2007) *Temporarily Yours: Intimacy, Authenticity and the Commerce of Sex*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Oct. 26: The political economy of sex work, part II

Wonders, Nancy and Raymond Michalowski (2001) “Bodies, Borders, and Sex Tourism in a Globalized World: A Tale of Two Cities-Amsterdam and Havana.” *Social Problems* 48(4): 545-571.

Cabezas, Amalia L. (2004) “Between Love and Money: Sex, Tourism, and Citizenship in Cuba and the Dominican Republic.” *Signs* 29(4): 987-101.

Zheng, Tiantian (2009) *Red Lights: The Lives of Sex Workers in Post-socialist China*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, introduction and chapter 7.

***Response Paper #3***

Nov. 2: Gender and development

Rai, Shirin (2002) *Gender and the Political Economy of Development*. Cambridge: Blackwell, chapter 2.

Elson, Diane (1995) “Male bias in macroeconomics: The case of structural adjustment.” In *Male Bias in the Development Process*, D. Elson, ed. Manchester: Manchester University Press.

[Razavi, Shahra](http://search.proquest.com/socabs/indexinglinkhandler/sng/author/Razavi,+Shahra/$N?accountid=14503) (2009) “Engendering the political economy of agrarian change.” [*The Journal of Peasant Studies*](http://search.proquest.com/socabs/pubidlinkhandler/sng/pubtitle/The+Journal+of+Peasant+Studies/$N?accountid=14503)[*[http://search.proquest.com/assets/r9.0.2-2/core/spacer.gif](http://search.proquest.com/socabs/indexingvolumeissuelinkhandler/23497/The+Journal+of+Peasant+Studies/02009Y01Y01$23Jan+2009$3b++Vol.+36+$281$29/36/1?accountid=14503)36(1[http://search.proquest.com/assets/r9.0.2-2/core/spacer.gif](http://search.proquest.com/socabs/indexingvolumeissuelinkhandler/23497/The+Journal+of+Peasant+Studies/02009Y01Y01$23Jan+2009$3b++Vol.+36+$281$29/36/1?accountid=14503)*](http://search.proquest.com/socabs/indexingvolumeissuelinkhandler/23497/The+Journal+of+Peasant+Studies/02009Y01Y01$23Jan+2009$3b++Vol.+36+$281$29/36/1?accountid=14503)): 197-226.

Dolan, Catherine (2002) “Gender and Witchcraft in Agrarian Transition: The Case of Kenyan Horticulture.” *Development and Change* 33(4): 659-81. http://csaweb105v.csa.com/1x1.gif

Nov. 9: Gender and the new international division of labor

Elson, Diane and Ruth Pearson (1981) “Nimble Fingers Make Cheap Workers: An Analysis of Women’s Employment in Third World Export Manufacturing.” *Feminist Review* 7: 87-107.

Carraway, Terri (2007) *Assembling Women: The Feminization of Global Manufacturing*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, chapters 1, 3 and 6.

Mills, Mary Beth (2003) “Gender and Inequality in the Global Labor Fprce.” *Annual Review of Anthropology* 32: 41-62.

Nov. 16: Gender on global assembly line, part 1

Salzinger, Leslie (2003 ) *Genders in Production: Making Workers in Mexico’s Global Factories*.

Berkeley: University of California Press, chapters 2-6 and 9.

Nov. 30: Gender on the global assembly line, part 2

Film, “Señorita Extraviada”

Nathan, Debbie (1999) “Work, Sex and Danger in Ciudad Juárez.” *NACLA Report on the Americas* 33(3): 24-30.

Wright, Melissa (2006) *Disposable Women and Other Myths of Global Capitalism*. New York: Routledge, chapter 4.

***Response paper #4***

Dec. 7: Gender, nation and state in comparative perspective

Scott, Joan (2007) *The Politics of the Veil*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, chapters 1 and 4.

Killian, Caitlin (2003) “The Other Side of the Veil: North African Women in France Respond to the Headscarf Affair.” *Gender and Society* 17(4): 567-590.

Benhabib, Seyla (2009) “Turkey’s Constitutional Zigzags.” *Dissent* 56(1): 25-28.

Dec. 14: Rethinking political economy

Weeks, Kathi (2011) *The Problem with Work: Feminism, Marxism, antiwork politics, and postwork imaginaries*. Durham: Duke University Press, introduction and chapter 3.

Butler, Judith (1990) *Gender Trouble*. New York: Routledge, pp. 1-34.

Butler, Judith (1998) “Merely Cultural.” *New Left Review* 227: 33-44.

Gibson-Graham, J.K. (1996) *The End of Capitalism (as we knew it): A feminist critique of political economy*. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, chapters 1-3, and 8.

***Response Paper #5 due***

**Final Papers due Monday, December 17th at 5 PM in my office.**