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.

Our course is organized around three main themes: 1) intimacy and exchange (domestic labor and care work, marriage and the exchange of women, and sex work); 2) commodity circuits (international sex tourism, pornography and the commodified body, sexual lifestyles and consumerism); and 3) sex and social justice (capitalism and queer liberation, new forms of activism). In each theme, we will read Marxist, feminist, queer, and anthropological theory to build working definitions of the key terms and concepts that guide our analysis (for example, reproduction and the division of labor, gift and commodity exchange, neoliberalism and late capitalism). We will apply these concepts to a series of ethnographic case studies: Central and South American domestic workers in Los Angeles, “mail-order brides” from China and the Philippines, sex tourism and race in Brazil, “passenger women” (women who accept money for sex) in Papua New Guinea, BDSM practitioners in San Francisco, and LGBT activist organizations in Los Angeles.

We will be centrally concerned with the relationship between economic, cultural, and political formations, and with the differences race, ethnicity, nation, class, gender, and sexuality make. Together, we will think through the perils and possibilities of new (and sometimes quite old) intimate economies and economies of intimacy. We will ask: How do practices and bodies accrue value? When are intimacies—sexual and social—commoditized? How have transnational flows complicated relationships between sex and money? How do these intersections constrain and/or empower people? And finally, who benefits from such arrangements, and who does not?

Course Texts


All books are available at the Bookstore and are also on reserve at Olin library. Articles are on Moodle and also available as a course pack at Cardinal Printing.

**Course Assignments**

1. Participation ----- 15% (→ includes Tumblr posts)
2. In-class Presentation/Memo ----- 10%
3. FOUR Tiny Papers ----- 35%
4. Glossary posts ----- 10%
5. Final paper proposal ----- 5%
6. Final Paper or Project – 25%

1. **Participation**

Your daily preparation and in-class participation is 15% of your grade. You are expected to come to class on time and to contribute to class discussion in a relevant and respectful way. I expect you to be active in discussion and to shape the course with your own interests. When you have read the recommended reading and/or films, volunteer to share that material with your classmates. Your participation should be grounded in the reading—pointing us to relevant sections of an article or to a particular page is most productive. Remember, participation does not just mean talking; it means contributing to our collective learning. Posting on Tumblr is a good way to add to your participation grade if you are particularly shy.

2. **In-class Presentation or Memo**

You will be responsible for one presentation during the semester, for 10% of your course grade. The presentation will take one of two forms: 1) a small group presentation (of 2-3 students) on one of the “class projects,” or 2) a solo presentation on one of the ethnographies.

- 1) **Class project**: The projects give the class supplementary information; they are debates or problematics that complement or expand the readings for that day. The projects entail reading additional essays and/or watching a film. Your task is to present this material in a clear, comprehensible way that will enhance the class’s understanding and add to our discussion. Plan to spend 5 minutes explaining the main point of the material and how it connects to the main readings for that day. Follow the summary with something interactive—an exercise, a handout, short clips/media, excerpts from the reading, etc.—so that students can engage with the material. And be sure to leave 5 minutes for questions and discussion.

- 2) **Memo**: The memo is your chance to guide our discussion of one of the 6 assigned ethnographies. An ideal presentation will draw our attention to one or two particular passages that you find worthy of sustained discussion, and connect the passage(s) to one of our theoretical readings and/or other material from the course. You goal is to lead 5-10 minutes of class discussion through a combination of presentation and discussion questions. You will also turn in a one-page memo that contains your notes and marked passage(s). Your grade will be based primarily on the substance of your presentation/discussion question(s).

You are encouraged to meet with me in office hours to discuss the projects and memos.
3. Four Tiny Papers
You will turn in four 2-3-page double-spaced papers during the semester on the days listed on the syllabus. The total for all four is 35% of your grade. There are five papers listed: you may skip one of them. These papers give you a chance to write out your own critical reflection of the unit’s overarching themes and concepts, connecting and synthesizing the analytical material and the ethnography. Do not summarize. Instead, while you are doing the reading for each class session and reflecting on the unit as a whole, ask yourself:

*How does the analytical reading help us think about 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 -- agency, privilege, oppression, empowerment, etc.?*

When writing your paper, avoid generalizations and pontificating; instead, focus on one issue or theme in the unit, and explore that with as much detail as possible. Illuminate this argument with 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 or conclusions—just jump right in and get down to business!

4. Collective Glossary
On our Moodle site there is a Glossary called “Key Terms.” Throughout the semester, we will build a glossary of the key terms we explore in this class: intimacy, economy, division of labor, and so on. 10% of your grade is your individual contribution to this collective project, which 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 (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.

5. Final Paper Proposal
You will turn in a proposal for your final paper (see below) that outlines your research question / starting point in 300-500 words, and includes an annotated bibliography of at least three sources (one paragraph per source) that you have consulted. Ask me if you have any questions on appropriate sources. Your proposal should be as detailed as possible; the point is for you to do some preliminary research on your paper topic so that you understand the scholarly conversation around it, and get a jump-start on the final paper. After you turn in your proposal, we will meet to discuss it so that I can give you additional recommendations and assistance.

6. 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 (and check out the books and essays 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

1. **Policy on Absences**: You may miss two classes without explanation or penalty: think of these as your sick (or health) days, and take them as you see fit. Otherwise, I will expect you in class. If you miss more than 5 classes, you will fail the course.

2. **Policy on extensions and late papers**: I do not grant extensions. I will accept late papers with a grade penalty of one whole letter grade (=10 points) per day. For example, the paper is due at 5pm on Tuesday, and, had it been on time, you would have received an A (95). If you turn it in by 5pm on Wednesday, you will receive a B (85). Half days are ½ a letter grade.

3. **Policy on computers in the classroom**: 

Resources
Please come see me in office hours if there is any course material you do not understand, if you want to talk through the course material or dynamics, or if you need guidance on my expectations for papers, presentations, group projects, or any other aspect of this course. Use my online calendar—http://calendly.com/margot-weiss—to make an appointment. If you cannot make any of my available times, email me and I will work out an alternative time to meet with you.

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 and Economy

Tues, Sept. 2: Course introduction

Thurs, Sept. 4: Intimacy and Economy
• Viviana Zelizer, 2007. “Encounters of Intimacy and Economy,” in The Purchase of Intimacy
• Rhacel Parrenas and Eileen Boris, 2010. “Introduction” to Intimate Labor

1. INTIMACY AND EXCHANGE, PART I – CARE/WORK
Key Terms: Production and Reproduction, Division of Labor, Domestic Labor

Tues, Sept. 9: Private Property and Re/production
• Friedrich Engels, 1884. “Origins of the Family, Private Property and The State” in Marx-Engels Reader (focus up to p. 751)
• Karen Sacks, 1975. “Engels Revisited” in Toward an Anthropology of Women

Thurs, Sept. 11: Globalized Domestic Labor
• Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, 2007. Doméstica (first part)
memo: Doméstica
class project: queering the chain of care
➢ Film: Paper Dolls

Sat, Sept. 13: Feminism for What? Equality in the Workplace after Lean In (conference at John Jay College, NYC)

Tues, Sept. 16: Globalized Domestic Labor
• Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, 2007. Doméstica (finish)
memo: Doméstica
class project: domestic workers organize!
➢ Special issue of The Scholar & Feminist: “Valuing Domestic Work”

Thurs, Sept. 18: Wages for Housework?
• Heidi I. Hartmann, 1981. “The Family as the Locus of Gender, Class, and Political Struggle: The Example of Housework” in Signs
• Silvia Federici, 1975. “Wages Against Housework”
Rec: Roberta, “The Hand that Rocks the Cradle Should Be Paid” link

Friday, Sept. 19: Tiny Paper 1 due by 5pm

…………………………..Want More?
❖ Miliann Kang, 2010. The Managed Hand: Race, Gender, and the Body in Beauty Service Work
❖ France Winddance Twine, 2011, Outsourcing the Womb: Race, Class and Gestational Surrogacy in a Global Market
❖ Nicole Constable, 1997. Maid to Order in Hong Kong: Stories of Filipina Workers.
❖ Toby Alice Volkman, 2005. Cultures of Transnational Adoption
❖ Film: Made in India: A Film About Surrogacy

2. INTIMACY AND EXCHANGE, PART II – LOVE & MARRIAGE
Key Terms: Sex/Gender System, Exchange of Women, Patriarchy, Marriage

Tues, Sept. 23: Sex/Gender System
• Heidi I. Hartmann, 1979. “Patriarchy,” from "The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism Towards a More Progressive Union"

Thurs, Sept. 25: Globalization of Marriage: “Mail-Order Bride”
• Nicole Constable, 2003. Romance on a Global Stage (first part [skip Ch. 2])
memo: Romance on a Global Stage, part I
class project: the Russian case
Film: In the Name of Love

Thurs, Sept. 25, 4:15pm: Conversation with Silvia Federici
READINGS TBA

Tues, Sept. 30: Globalization of Marriage
- Nicole Constable, 2003. Romance on a Global Stage (finish)
  memo: Romance on a Global Stage, part II
  class project: Silvia Federici

Thurs, Oct 2: Marxist+Feminist+Queer Critique of Marriage
- Yasmin Nair, 2010. “Introduction” to Against Marriage (pp. 1-9)
  Rec: Emma Goldman, 1911. “Marriage and Love”

Friday, Oct. 3: Tiny Paper 2 due by 5pm

Want More?
- Hung C. Thai, 2008. For Better or Worse: Vietnamese International Marriages in the New Global Economy
- Jaye Cee Whitehead, 2011. The Nuptial Deal: Same-Sex Marriage and Neo-Liberal Governance

3. INTIMACY AND EXCHANGE, PART III – SEX/WORK
Key Terms: Agency, Sex Work, Trafficking
Tues, Oct 7: Sex / Work
- Silvia Federici, 1975. “Why Sexuality is Work”
- Henrietta L. Moore, 1988. excerpt from Feminism and Anthropology (focus on pp. 67-72)
Erica Williams, 2012. “Sex Work”

Thurs, Oct 9: Sex Work and Agency
Memo: Wayward Women, part I
Class project: sex as work
- film: Live, Nude Girls UNITE!

Tues, Oct 14: Sex Work and Agency
Memo: Wayward Women, part II

Thurs, Oct 16: Sex Trafficking? Power and Agency
Class project: “Kristof and the rescue industry”
- Elizabeth Bernstein, 2010. “Militarized Humanitarianism Meets Carceral Feminism” Signs
- Nicholas Kristof, 2014. “Inside the Brothels”

Friday, Oct. 17: Tiny Paper 3 due by 5pm

Want More?
- Denise Brennan, 2014. Life Interrupted: Trafficking into Forced Labor in the
United States.

- Ronald Weitzer, 2010. *Sex for Sale: Prostitution, Pornography and the Sex Industry*
- Patty Kelly, 2008. *Lydia’s Open Door: Inside Mexico’s Most Modern Brothel*
- Svati P. Shah, 2014. *Street Corner Secrets: Sex, Work, and Migration in the City of Mumbai*

FALL BREAK

4. COMMODITY CIRCUITS 1 – SEX/TOURISM

*Key Terms: Gift, Commodity, Value, Commodity Fetishism, Desire*

**Thurs, Oct 23: Commodity and Gift Exchange**
- Diane Tober, 2001. “Semen as Gift, Semen as Goods” in *Commodifying Bodies*


**Tues, Oct 28: Sex Tourism**
- Erica Lorraine Williams, 2013. *Sex Tourism In Bahia: Ambiguous Entanglements* (first part)


**Thurs, Oct 30: Sex Tourism**
- Erica Lorraine Williams, 2013. *Sex Tourism In Bahia: Ambiguous Entanglements* (finish)

*Rec: film Heading South memo: Sex Tourism In Bahia, part II*

**Fri, Oct 31: Conversation with Reina Gossett and Amber Hollibaugh**
- READINGS TBD

**Tues, Nov 4: Commodified Bodies, Global Desires**

*class project: race and (queer) sex cultures / porn*
- bell hooks, 1992. “Eating the Other” Black Looks
Do I Look?
➢ Dwight McBride, 2005. “It’s a White Man’s World” Why I hate Abercrombie and Fitch
class project: activism and academia (on Gossett and Hollibaugh)

Wednesday, Nov. 5: Tiny Paper 4 due by 5pm

Thurs, Nov 6: TBD (possible film)

-----------------------------Want More?
➢ Amalia Cabezas, 2009. Economies of Desire: Sex and Tourism in Cuba and the Dominican Republic
➢ Linda Williams, 2004. Porn Studies
➢ Ara Wilson, 2004. The Intimate Economies of Bangkok: Tomboys, Tycoons, and Avon Ladies in the Global City
➢ Jasbir Puar, 2002. “Circuits of Queer Mobility: Tourism, Travel, and Globalization” GLQ
➢ Nguyen Tan Hoang, 2014. A View from the Bottom: Asian American Masculinity and Sexual Representation
➢ Jennifer C. Nash, 2014. The Black Body in Ecstasy: Reading Race, Reading Pornography
➢ Celine Parreñas Shimizu, 2007. The Hypersexuality of Race: Performing Asian/American Women on Screen and Scene
➢ The Good Woman of Bangkok (film)
➢ Deborah Pruitt and Suzanne LaFont, 1995. “For Love And Money: Romance Tourism In Jamaica”

5. COMMODITY CIRCUITS II – SEX AND/AT THE MARKET
Key Terms: Identity, Lifestyle, Consumption, Late Capitalism

Tues, Nov 11: Sexual Identity and Capitalism
• Donald Lowe, 1995. “Sexual Lifestyle and Late Capitalist Consumption” in The Body in Late-
Capitalist USA
• Rosemary Hennessey, 1995. Excerpts from Profit and Pleasure: Sexual Identities Under Late Capitalism

Thurs, Nov 13: Circuits of Pleasure
• Margot Weiss, 2011. Techniques of Pleasure: BDSM and the Circuits of Sexuality (first part)
memorial: Techniques of Pleasure, part I

class project: shopping for (sexual) empowerment
➢ Meika Loe, 1999. “Feminism For Sale: Case Study of a Pro-Sex Feminist Business” Gender & Society

Tues, Nov 18: Circuits of Pleasure
• Margot Weiss, 2011. Techniques of Pleasure: BDSM and the Circuits of Sexuality (finish)
memorial: Techniques of Pleasure, part II

Wed, Nov. 19: Tiny Paper 5 due by 5pm

Want More?
• Donald Lowe, 1995. The Body in Late-Capitalist USA
• Elizabeth Chin, 2001. Purchasing Power: Black Kids and American Consumer Culture
• Alexander Edmonds, 2010. Pretty Modern: Beauty, Sex, and Plastic Surgery in Brazil
• Nancy Schepers-Hughes, 2001. “Commodity Fetishism in Organs Trafficking” Body and Society
• Rene Almeling, 2011. Sex Cells: The Medical Market for Eggs and Sperm
• Gayle A. Sulik, 2011. Pink Ribbon Blues: How Breast Cancer Culture Undermines Women's Health
• Jean Comaroff and John L. Comaroff, 2000. “Millennial Capitalism: First Thoughts on a Second Coming” Public Culture
• Jennifer Cole, 2008. “Fresh Contact In Tamatave, Madagascar: Sex, Money, And Intergenerational Transformation” American Ethnologist
• Angela McRobbie, 1994. Postmodernism And Popular Culture
• Mark Liechty, 2005. “Carnal Economies: The Commodification of Food and Sex in Kathmandu,” Cultural Anthropology

6. SEX, POWER, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

11
Key Terms: Neoliberalism, Justice, Queer

Thurs, Nov 20: Neoliberalism and Social Justice
- David Harvey, 2005. “Introduction” and “Freedom’s Just Another Word” A Brief History of Neoliberalism

class project: LGBT/queer activism and the market
- Jeff Maskovsky, 2002. “Do We All ‘Reek of the Commodity’?” in Out in Theory

Fri, Nov 21: Final Paper Proposal Due by 5pm

Tues, Nov 25: Commodification of Diversity
- Jane Ward, 2008. “Introduction” and “Ch. 4: Celebrating Queer Diversity” in Respectably Queer: Diversity Culture in LGBT Activist Organizations (Chapter 2 recommended)

memo: Respectably Queer

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Tues, Dec 2: Queer Anti-Capitalism
- Martin Manalansan, 2005. “Race, Violence, and Neoliberal Spatial Politics” Social Text
- Rec: 2013. “Gender, Justice, And Neoliberal Transformations,” Scholar & Feminist
- Margot Weiss, 2008. “Gay Shame and BDSM Pride” Radical History Review

class project: new queer activisms
- bring in examples on queer activisms: Queers for Economic Justice, FIERCE!

Want More?
- Wendell Ricketts, 2014. Blue, Too: More Writing by (for or about) Working-Class Queers
- Lisa Henderson, 2013. Love and Money: Queers, Class, and Cultural Production
- Suzanna Walters, 2014. The Tolerance Trap: How God, Genes, and Good Intentions are Sabotaging Gay Equality


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

Christina B. Hanhardt, 2013. *Safe Space: Gay Neighborhood History and the Politics of Violence*


**Thurs, Dec 4: TBD**
Course Wrap-up

**Final paper due: Dec. 13 by 5pm via email**