Comparative Gender Politics 350.001
(Spring 2013)

Course Description
What counts as female? What counts as male? Where did our ideas about femininity and masculinity come from? Do we all answer these questions in the same way? How do we make connections among women, and across place and time? Answering such questions requires us to look at how societies are organized, and at the ways in which we, individually and collectively, accept, participate in and challenge gendered definitions of our lives. To do this, we will take an approach that can best be summarized by the phrase: Thinking backwards and thinking outwards. This means that issues are looked at historically, and are also situated in a global context. The aim of this is three-fold: To encourage us to develop critical questions about aspects of our daily realities that we take for granted; to enable us to make connections between and think about differences across the experiences of women in diverse countries and locations; and to allow us to explore how society works, in order to think about and evaluate strategies for making social change. We will situate this discussion against the backdrop of some key issues facing us in the world today: Women’s Political Participation, militarization; ethnic cleansing; poverty alleviation and structural adjustment; women and the global assembly line; tourism and the sex trade; trafficking; human rights; anti-globalization movements; popular culture; migration and refugee issues.

Learning Outcomes:
1. Demonstrate Knowledge of various ideas of gender cross-nationally
2. Illustrate connections between and think about differences across the experiences of women and men in diverse countries and location

Required Text: Available at the College Bookstore
Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie Russell Hochschlid (ed) Global Woman: Nannies, Maids and Sex Workers in the New Economy. 2002

All other reading materials and handouts are available on OAKS. Reading material on OAKS will be designated by an *. You can access OAKS from MyCharleston.

Course Requirements
1. Class Participation counts for 10% of your final grade.
The course will employ both lecture and discussion. However, for the most part it will be conducted like a seminar. Each student is required to turn in two discussion questions, based on your readings, to me via OAKS by 8 am the day of class - discussion questions will not be accepted anytime after 8 am. Please also note that failing to show up to class despite the fact that you have turned in questions to me via OAKS will not count as having turned in discussion questions. Failure to turn in and show
up to class will significantly lower your participation grade (which is 15% of your final grade).
Active student participation in class discussion is imperative. Students, therefore, are required to come to
class having read the assigned readings critically. (Note that you cannot participate if you are not present!) The readings require careful attention as they raise many complex questions for us to consider.

Handout #1 (Discussion Questions)

II. Critical Reflections of 8 Chapters from “Global Woman...” will count for 10% of your final grade.
Each student will turn into me a 2-3 page critical reflection of 8 selected chapters. Two chapters will be
due on or before Friday January 25th, two chapters on or before Friday February 8th, two chapters on or
before Sunday February 17th by 4PM via OAKS, and the last two chapters on Tuesday March 12th in
class. All papers must be uploaded to the respective Critical Reflections folder in the dropbox section of
OAKS, except for the last two critical reflections which will be turned in hard copy format on Tuesday
March 12th. Further details on what is expected for each reflection can be found on OAKS under the
heading Handout #2 Critical Reflection guide.

III. Concept / Media presentations and discussion – To connect course material with the world beyond
the classroom, another component of the course is finding and discussing news or other real-world items
that illustrate concepts, ideas, or issues from the assigned readings. Each class session, two students, as a
team, will be asked to define a concept from the readings find a media source that illustrates that concept,
and explain the concept to the class and how the media piece illustrates it. You are required to submit a
short, one paragraph definition of the concept and one paragraph explanation for how the media source
illustrates the concept. This should be submitted to me via email (send to franceh@cofc.edu) by noon
the day before your presentation. You are also required to generate two to three discussion questions
based both on your media source and concept, but also on the other content assigned for that day. Include
these discussion questions on page 2 of your emailed document. We will address your questions in class.

The concept / media presentations count towards 15% of your grade. See Handout “Evaluating
Concept and Media Presentations” for the specific guidelines that I will use to evaluate your work on
OAKS

SPECIAL NOTE: Failure to conduct your presentation on the date scheduled will result in a zero for that
presentation. No make-ups will be issued.

IV. Mid-Term Exam counts for 20% of your final grade.
The mid-term exam will consist of approximately seven (7) to ten (10) terms for which students will be
required to write brief descriptions. Additionally, students will be required to choose one (1) essay
question from among a list of three (3) questions to answer. The entire exam will draw on all class
discussions, presentations, and readings done prior to Feb. 28th. The scheduled date for the mid-term is
Feb. 28th.

V. Course Paper and presentation counts for 30% of your final grade- 15% each.
The course paper assignment is to analyze the life and times of an individual or group fighting for gender
equality. You are to do a biographical sketch of this individual or group. A hand out will be distributed
describing what is to be addressed in this paper. The paper should be ten (10) to twelve (12) pages in
length typed, double spaced. Students are expected to present a synopsis of their paper during the last two
weeks of class. The course paper is due Friday April 26th. (Note: under no circumstances will late papers
be accepted! Handout No.3 (paper expectations) and Handout No.4 (oral presentation expectations)

VI. Final Exam (take-home counts for 1% of your grade.)
The final is a take home exam which will consist of two essays. Exams are due Tuesday April 30th by 11am Via OAKS under the tag Final Exam.

Summary of Final Grade Calculation of Grade

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Questions</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Reflections</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concept Media Presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Research Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Research Presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (take home)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


** Note: If you have a disability of any kind- learning, physical, psychological- which requires accommodation, please let me know early so that your learning needs can be appropriately met.

**Note: Please ensure that all Laptops, Cell phones and other electronic devices are turned off before entering the class room. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in you being reported to the Honor’s Board and the possibility of suspension from the College.

**Note: Extra Credit; This semester there maybe a number of events on campus. Extra credit will be offered for attending a maximum of 2 (two) events. For each event you are required to (1) summarize briefly what happened or what you did, what you heard or saw or experienced; (2) relate the ideas discussed or portrayed at the event to a class discussion and or articles read in class; (3) finally you are expected to react to the event by relating what your overall impressions, position, and or strengths and weaknesses of the ideas presented. No less than 2 pages no more than 3 pages typed double spaced (with 1 inch margins) will be accepted. For each extra credit assignment you can receive a maximum of 6 points (providing of course you meet all of the requirements). Hence you stand the chance of receiving 6 extra points which will be added on to your final grade at the end of the semester. You may submit extra credit assignments through-out the semester at anytime. However, all extra credit submissions must be made by the last day of class. (Events, times and locations will be announced later)

Course Outline (The instructor reserves the right to make changes)

January 10: Introduction (course overview)

January 15: How to do successful Critical Reflection


Have Done: Typed up in bullet format for “Love and Gold” pp 15-30, and “The Care Crisis” pp 39-54 : (1) the author’s thesis (what is it she or he is trying to prove/ main point of the chapter/ purpose etc.) – select what you think is the thesis and place it in quotation marks; (2) proceed to then list the countries/country, time period(s), and which group(s) are being studied in the article?; (3) list 2-3 central points the author makes that are intended to support his or her thesis, list 2-3 pieces of evidence used to support each point -interviews, participant observation,
statistics, etc, (4) list any opposing position, to the author’s, that are mentioned - list one way in which the author refutes the opposing view. (5). List 2 strengths and two weakness of the article Note: you are to prepare the above for each chapter: “Love and Gold” and “The Care Crisis. I will collect these after class.

January 17: Why study Gender and Politics Globally
Have Read: Global Gender Issues (chapter 1)
An Introduction to Women’s Studies, pp xx - xxvi

Have Done: Sent discussion questions via OAKS by 8 am the morning of class

Concept Media Presentation 1.------------------------, 2------------------------

January 22: Gender as a framework for analysis– Women’s bodies in Science and Culture
Have Read: Global Gender Issues (chapter 2)

Have Done: Sent discussion questions via OAKS by 8 am the morning of class

Concept Media Presentation 1.------------------------, 2------------------------

January 24: Gender as a framework for analysis– Women’s bodies in Science and Culture
Cont’d
Have Read: An Introduction to Women’s Studies, pp 33 -51

Have Done: Sent discussion questions via OAKS by 8 am the morning of class

Concept Media Presentation 1.------------------------, 2------------------------

(Critical Reflection of two chapters from Global Woman Due this Friday January 25th by 4 PM via OAKS)

January 29: Gender as a framework for analysis – Man’s bodies in Science and Culture
Have Read: * R.W. Connell “The Science of Masculinity”

Have Done: Sent discussion questions via OAKS by 8 am the morning of class

Concept Media Presentation 1.------------------------, 2------------------------

January 31: Gendered Political Participation : Female Elites
Have Read: Global Gender Issues Chapter 3
* “A 21st Century Model of diplomacy. .”

Have Done: Sent discussion questions via OAKS by 8 am the morning of class

Concept Media Presentation 1.------------------------, 2------------------------
February 5: Gendered Relationship to the State
Have Read: - Global Gender Issues Chapter 4
Introduction to Women’s Studies, pp 217-239

Have Done: Sent discussion questions via OAKS by 8 am the morning of class

Concept Media Presentation 1.------------------------, 2---------------------------

February 7: The Politics of Reproduction
Have Read: - Introduction to Women’s Studies, pp 57-68 & 99-118

Have Done: Sent discussion questions via OAKS by 8 am the morning of class

Concept Media Presentation 1.------------------------, 2---------------------------

February 12: The Politics of Reproduction
Film: Missing Women: Female –selective abortion and infanticide

Have Done: Read ahead for Tuesday

Critical Reflection of two chapters from Global Woman Due this Friday February 8th by 4 PM

February 14: The Politics of Reproduction Cont/d
Have Read: - *Elisabeth Bumiller, May You be the Mother of a Hundred Sons, Chap.5.
* Gil & Mitra-Kahn, “From Preference to Prejudice: Daughter Devaluation...

Have Done: Sent discussion questions via OAKS by 8 am the morning of class

Concept Media Presentation 1.------------------------, 2---------------------------

February 19: The Politics of Reproduction Cont/d
Have Read: - *Betsy Hartman “Vertical Reform or Lateral Solidarity?
The Politics of Privilege in the International Women’s Health Movement.”
*Ellen Goodman “Foreign policy at a dollar per person.”

Have Done: Sent discussion questions via OAKS by 8 am the morning of class

Concept Media Presentation 1.------------------------, 2---------------------------

(Critical Reflection of two chapters from Global Woman Due this Sunday February 17th by 4 PM)

February 21: Open Session — Group Project Research
February 26: Gendering Globalization
Have Read: Global Gender Issues, Chapter 5

Have Done: Sent discussion questions via OAKS by 8 am the morning of class

Concept Media Presentation 1.------------------------, 2--------------------------

February 28: Mid-Term In Class Exam

March 5& 7 Spring Break

March 12: Global Woman Discussion
Have Read: Discussion of the all 8 Chapters from Global Woman

Have Done: (Critical Reflection of last two chapters from Global Woman Today in class)

March 14: Gendering Consumption and its relationship to the Global Expansion of Capitalism: Consumer Beauty Culture: commodifying the body
Have Read: Introduction to Women’s Studies, pp 329-344

Have Done: Sent discussion questions via OAKS by 8 am the morning of class

Concept Media Presentation 1.------------------------, 2--------------------------

March 19: Gendering Consumption and its relationship to the Global Expansion of Capitalism: Consumer Beauty Culture: commodifying the body
Have Read: Introduction to Women’s Studies, pp 345-368

Have Done: Sent discussion questions via OAKS by 8 am the morning of class

Concept Media Presentation 1.------------------------, 2--------------------------

March 21 Gendering Globalization: Travel and Tourism
Have Read:- Introduction to Women’s Studies pp 388-410

Have Done: Sent discussion questions via OAKS by 8 am the morning of class

Concept Media Presentation 1.------------------------, 2--------------------------
March 26  Gendering Globalization: Sex Tourism

*Film: Cowboys in Paradise*

*Have Read:*  
* Jacqueline Sanchez Taylor: “Female sex tourism: a contradiction in terms.”  
* Paula A. Ebron “Travel Stories.”*

*Have Done:*  
Sent discussion questions via OAKS by 8 am the morning of class

March 28  Gendering Globalization: Women, Work, and Immigration

*Have Read:*  
Introduction to Women’s Studies, pp 444-462

*Have Done:*  
Sent discussion questions via OAKS by 8 am the morning of class

March 28  Gendering Globalization: The Gender Politics of Economic Globalization

*Have Read:*  
Introduction to Women’s Studies, pp 463-478

*Have Done:*  
Sent discussion questions via OAKS by 8 am the morning of class

Concept Media Presentation 1.------------------------, 2------------------------

March 28  Gendering Globalization: The Gender Politics of Economic Globalization

*Have Read:*  
Introduction to Women’s Studies, pp 463-478

*Have Done:*  
Sent discussion questions via OAKS by 8 am the morning of class

Concept Media Presentation 1.------------------------, 2------------------------

April 2  Where Do We Go From Here? Ungendering World Politics and Feminist Futures!

*Have Read:*  
Global Gender Issues, Chapter 6  
Introduction to Women’s Studies, pp 496-498

*Have Done:*  
Sent discussion questions via OAKS by 8 am the morning of class

April 4  Open Session “‘How to do a successful presentation and the Do’s and Don’t of Powerpoint.”

April 9  Student Presentations
April 11  Student Presentations
April 12  Student Presentations
April 16  Student Presentation
April 18  Student Presentation
April 23  Student Presentation

Last Day of Class/ Wrap up