SOCW 515: Transnational Social Work

THIS IS A SAMPLE OUTLINE. ACTUAL COURSE OUTLINE MAY VARY IN STRUCTURE, REQUIRED READINGS, TEXTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Course Description:
Transnational feminist theorists argue that transnationalism links contemporary notions of nationality, gender, race and class to earlier histories of colonization and present day imperialism. This course examines the practices of the securitized, neo-liberal Canadian welfare state towards transnational communities by: (a) understanding transnational feminist theories, (b) analyzing nation-making and global inequality, (c) reviewing practices of transnational feminist social justice activism, and (d) critiquing international social work in view of all of the above.

Course Objectives and Outcomes:

Goals:
1. Developing a critical feminist analysis of globalization and the welfare state
2. Understand geographies of care
3. Develop model of transnational social work practice based on transnational feminist activism

Key Understandings Desired:

Goal 1:
1. Understanding the gendered, racialized and intersectional nature of the impact of globalization in producing economic, political and social inequality using post-colonial feminist analysis
2. Understanding the changing role of ‘western’ welfare states, like Canada, in a globalizing world through an analysis of its practices in relation to immigrants, refugees, the elderly and children’s care.

Goal 2:
3. Critically applying global feminist ethic of care as a theoretical framework to an analysis of geographies of care based on welfare practices in a globalised world.

Goal 3:
6. Understand transnational social work practice through transnational feminist activism.
**Weekly Topics and Readings:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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</table>
| 1     | Sept 9 | **Readings:**  
Course Outline.  
**Video:**  
The Four Horseman:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fbvquHSPJU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fbvquHSPJU)  
**Question of the week:** What is globalization? |
| 2     | Sept 16 | **Readings:**  
**Videos:**  
Dam/Age: Arundhati Roy.  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=qlyZofTmUO4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qlyZofTmUO4)  
Justice for Lubicon Cree:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PreZqOCRHK8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PreZqOCRHK8)  
**Question of the Week:** What is a transnational feminist’s perspective on globalization? |
| 3     | Sept 23 | **Readings:**  

**Audio:**

**Question of the Week:** How does transnational feminism contribute to a critical race, gendered and intersectional understanding of globalization and its injustices?

**Week 4**  Sept. 30

**Readings:**


**Audio/Visual:**

[https://www.nfb.ca/film/emperors_new_clothes](https://www.nfb.ca/film/emperors_new_clothes)

Listen to Chris Hedges in ‘The Current’
[http://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/pastepisodes](http://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/pastepisodes) (optional)

**Question of the Week:** What is the role of welfare states like Canada in a globalized world?

**Week 5**  Oct. 7

**Readings:**

Bhuyan, R. (2014). Report by Migrant Mothers Project,

**Video:**
Cross roads: Asylum seekers to Canada, are attitudes hardening or softening? - Crossroads Jan 05 2014
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idZDHUk8XC4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idZDHUk8XC4)
**Question of the Week: What are Canadian Welfare State Practices in relation to immigrants and refugees?**

**Week 6 Oct. 14**

**Readings:**

**Video:**
On canada’s live in caregiver program
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_kqqV3ZGT9A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_kqqV3ZGT9A)

**Question of the Week: What are the contributions of feminist ethics of care to a critique of Canadian Welfare State Practices in relation to child/elderly care within a global context?**

**Week 7 Oct. 21**

**Readings:**

**Question of the week: What do Canadian Welfare state Practices tell us about the geography of care?**

**Week 8 Oct. 28**

**Readings:**


**Video:**
Breaking The Silence: Truth and Lies in the War On Terror
http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/breaking-the-silence/

**Question of the Week:** What are the assumptions that neo-liberal globalized welfare state’s making about spaces of care?

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**Week 9**

**Nov. 4**

**Readings:**


**Question of the Week:** How does International Social Work as the dominant model of social work understand globalization and the role of social workers within it?

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**Week 10**

**Nov. 11**

**Reading Break**

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**Week 11**

**Nov. 18**

**Reading**


**Video:**
One organisation that has seriously taken on the project of understanding feminist activism is the Global Feminist project http://umich.edu/~glblfem/en/usa.html based at the University of Michigan. Watch the following video to understand the themes that interviews of U.S. feminist activists yield about insights into their work. if you are interested you can do the same of feminist based in China, Poland, etc. http://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/handle/2027.42/57279

**Question of the Week:** What is transnational feminist activism?

**Week 12**  Nov. 25

**Question of the week:** Talking back: How can transnational feminist activism contribute to an alternative model of transnational (international) social work practice?

**Week 13**  Dec. 2

**Question of the week:** Talking back: How can transnational feminist activism contribute to an alternative model of transnational (international) social work practice?

**Wrap up and course evaluations**

**Assignments & Due Dates:**

**Assignment 1:**
Class participation:
All students will be asked to participate in group discussions for seven out of the ten weeks (not counting reading break and the last two classes). All students will participate in the first week of introductions (mandatory). Class participation will be assessed in the following way:

Participation in forum discussions (7 @ 2% each plus 1% for week one introduction of self to class = 15%)
Total mark for participation = 15%

**Description of assignment:** Assignment 1: Participation in forum discussions:
You will each be assigned to a group of five to six people. As a group you will decide what other seven weeks (units) of forum discussion you would like to participate in between week two and week eleven (minus reading break) and let me know of your intention on the week that you are not going to be participating in the forum, I don’t need advanced notice. Participation in the forum will entail taking the question of the week and discussing it with regards to the readings (written and audio-visual) of that particular week. Each person in the group will take turns in initiating this activity by being the first to post on day one, Wednesday of a particular unit. The rest of the members will both respond to one of the postings and include their own reflections on the readings as they pertain to the question of the week. All posts must be in by Sunday, day six of a particular unit, in order to allow me to respond to your discussion on day six and seven (Monday and Tuesday) of that unit.

Posts should be:
   a) No more than 250-400 words each
   b) Need not summarize the readings but must identify the ones under discussion and speak to the concepts that are most relevant to the question of the week.
   c) Need to contribute critically to the discussion. A post that merely states that you agree, or disagree with the readings or comments by others, or that you did or did not understand the readings is not counted as a post. Your posts need to be thoughtful and analytical; they don’t have to be long though.

Due Date: Week One - Week Eleven (September 9th – November 18th). The total worth of this assignment is 15%.

*Please note: Participation in group forums is mandatory to the successful completion of the course.

Assignment 2: Reflection Papers on the question: Why do I think I should care about globalization as a social worker?
Each paper is worth 10% for a total of 30% for all three reflections.

Description of Assignment 2 (Total of 30%)
Each of you will submit three reflection papers/creative projects/ audio-visual pieces that will reflect on the question: Why should I care about globalization as a social worker? You will respond to the same question each time but will do so by referring to a different set of readings/ audio-visual presentations, each time. It does not matter what pieces you choose to refer to when responding to this question so long as you explain why you chose a particular piece/s and summarize the main points so that I am sure that we are both following the same points on which you are reflecting. You may also choose to include my podcasts as well as forum discussions if you wish. As I wish this to be a reflective/creative endeavor there are not set guidelines on how to structure and present your reflections. So long as I am able to see that you have thought about some of the points from the course material in relation to yourself as a social worker and have brought a critical reflective lens to the chosen material you will do fine. If I find that you are not actually doing that I will provide you with feedback and a chance to re-write your first reflection.
Length of Paper: 1,000 -1,500 words about two to three pages long using a twelve point font, double spaced. Each reflection is worth ten percent.

Due Date: Week Four- Week Seven and Week Eleven (October 5th, - October 26th and November 23rd)

Criteria for Assignment 2:
- Ability to comprehend readings in depth
- Ability to write clearly and succinctly
- Ability to critique and reflect on the ideas offered in the readings
- Ability to relate your reflections to the question posed.

Assignment 3: Group E-Presentation (25%)
This group assignment will consist of a class presentation (e-presentation) on what an alternative, transnational feminist social work model would look like in relation to any group/issue you choose to discuss (e.g. immigrants/refugees, GLBT; people living with Disability; Indigenous peoples; etc.) within a global context. You will upload your presentation in one of the two final weeks of the course.

Due Date: Week Twelve- Week Thirteen (November 25th; December 2nd)

Criteria for assessment of Assignment 3:
- Ability to undertake comprehensive and thorough research in arriving at a recommended list of readings for your class.
- Ability to conceptualize an alternative model using relevant and comprehensive research and course material.
- Clarity of presentation as evidenced by a clear introduction, good flow of presentation.
- Critical and in-depth analysis and conceptualization as well as creativity.

Assignment 4: Research Paper (30%)
Description of Assignment: You may choose to write a research paper on a topic or a related topic from any of the units of the course. Choose a unit whose topic particularly interests you and decide if you want to write more on the same topic or interrogate a sub-category within the broad topic of the week to write about what you are particularly passionate about or want to know more about. This is a research paper and will therefore follow the guidelines of all good research papers that require you to undertake comprehensive research, show ability to critically analyze important concepts and arrive at a well-argued paper.

Assignment Length: No more than 10 pages or 5,000 words, excluding bibliography. Using a twelve point size font and double spaced.

This assignment is worth 30% of your overall mark.

Due Date: Any time before November 25th.

Criteria for Assignment 4:
- Comprehensive research
- Critical and in-depth grasp of ideas and concepts
- Relevant and clear definitions of concept used
- Grammar and spelling

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>One: September 9th</td>
<td>Defining globalization</td>
<td>Introduce yourselves in your groups</td>
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<td>Two: September 16th</td>
<td>Transnational feminist perspective on globalization</td>
<td>Assignment 1: Group forum discussions begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three: September 23rd</td>
<td>Critical race and gendered analysis of global injustice</td>
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<td>Four: September 30th</td>
<td>Role of the Canadian welfare state</td>
<td>October 5th- First reflection paper due</td>
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<td>Five: October 7th</td>
<td>Welfare state and refugees/immigrants</td>
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<td>Six: October 14th</td>
<td>Welfare state and elderly/child care</td>
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<td>Seven: October 21st</td>
<td>Geography of care</td>
<td>October 26th: Second reflection paper due</td>
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<td>Eight: October 28th</td>
<td>Spaces of care</td>
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<td>Nine: November 4th</td>
<td>International social work</td>
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<td>Ten: November 11th</td>
<td>Reading Break</td>
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<td>Eleven: November 18th</td>
<td>Transnational feminist activism</td>
<td>November 23rd Final (3rd) reflection paper due *Assignment #4 can be submitted any time until week eleven of the course. Final deadline November 25th.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twelve: November 25th</td>
<td>Alternative models of transnational social work</td>
<td>Assignment 3: E-Presentation due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thirteen: December 2nd</td>
<td>Alternative models of transnational social work</td>
<td>Assignment 3: E-Presentation due</td>
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