We’ve all heard it before: the world is interconnected in increasingly intimate ways. Money, ideas, and people all travel across national borders—even as those borders grow increasingly embattled. What do these processes mean for sexual identities, gendered labor processes, sexual practices, and queer and feminist social movements?

This course starts from the premise that we cannot understand contemporary gender and sexuality without a transnational perspective—just as we cannot understand “globalization” without thinking about how gender and sexuality fundamentally shape it. We will approach “globalization” as neither new nor totalizing. Instead, we take a broad approach to globalization and transnational processes that includes the history of empire and colonialism as well as contemporary neoliberal globalization. We also look at how gender and sexuality become flashpoints in conflicts between “global” forces and “national” identities in a time of growing nationalism and xenophobia. Throughout, the course materials push you to challenge white North American and European experience as the implicit reference point for thinking about gender and sexuality.

The first half of the course introduces you to key interdisciplinary theoretical texts from women’s, gender, and sexuality studies to build a foundation for thinking through gender and sexuality in global perspective, closely reading original texts about intersectionality, postcolonialism, homonormativity, homonationalism, and transnational feminism. In the second half of the course, we read mostly sociological texts that put these ideas to work to make sense of the social world, focusing on case studies including migrant labor, sex work, transgender identity, and #MeToo. By the end of course, you will get used to seeing politics, society, and geography through the lens of gender and sexuality, and to thinking globally, even about issues that seem “local.”

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Explain key concepts like gender, sexuality, globalization, intersectionality, postcolonialism, homonormativity, and homonationalism with depth and nuance
- Apply a gendered lens to the social world that integrates gender, race, class, and sexuality
- Read, write, and speak comfortably about theoretical writings
- Conduct research on gender and sexuality and write about it accessibly
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance and Participation (20%)
   Your final attendance and participation grade is an average of your in-class participation throughout the semester, graded with a letter grade and then adjusted for your attendance. **Class attendance is mandatory!** This class depends on building a sustained conversation with your peers as you tackle difficult topics. You owe it to yourself and your classmates to show up. You are allowed **2 unexcused absences during the semester**. For each additional absence, I will deduct 10% of your attendance and participation grade. Absences due to travel, extracurricular activities, illness, etc. can only be excused if you make up the missed work. It is **your** responsibility to be in touch with me to find out what missed work is required and a reasonable time frame for completing it. Keep in mind that if you arrive late, you may be marked absent.

   Participating means engaging actively with ideas from readings, lectures, and your peers. It is our collective responsibility to ensure the learning environment is safe, inclusive, vibrant, and challenging. I work hard to make sure the burden of working through difficult topics and concepts should not fall disproportionately on a few students—so you must arrive in class prepared to participate. You might participate in a number of ways—sharing your own ideas, working collaboratively in small groups, asking thoughtful questions, bringing in relevant articles, or attending office hours. At the beginning of each class, we will take time to hear reactions and questions from each of you to the readings for the day. If you feel uncomfortable speaking in a classroom environment, I encourage you to see me about it early on. If you have read this far, please email me with your favorite TV show. You will receive feedback on your participation and attendance midway through the semester.

2. Weekly Assignments (10%)
   **Every week,** you will complete a short assignment in relation to the readings and theoretical concepts for the day. Weekly assignments are due by **noon on the day of class on Latte.** You may skip the weekly assignment **three** times during the semester. Weekly assignments typically involve a 250-300-word response to a prompt about the reading, but will often require you to go beyond the reading, so be careful not to wait till the last minute. The weekly assignments will help you pull together your thoughts, questions, and immediate reactions to the material for the class. What provoked, inspired, angered, puzzled, or resonated with you? They will also drive our discussions in class. Your weekly assignments will be graded on a **check-plus/check/check-minus scale.** If you prefer not to submit your work on Latte, you are welcome to email it to me directly. You will receive an update on your progress on weekly assignments midway through the semester.

3. In-Class Presentation (15%)
   **Once** during the semester, you will give a 20-minute presentation at the beginning of class on the topic of the readings for the day. Presentations will be held during the second part of the course, starting on **October 16th.** Your presentation must summarize and pose questions about the readings for the day’s class to guide discussion. In addition, feel free to draw on outside material—film, music, TV, group activities, guest speakers, and your own life are all fair game, as long as they are relevant to the day’s topic in a reasonably obvious way. You may work in groups or on your own. I will pass around a sign-up sheet for presentations in the third week of class. You will receive a letter grade for your presentation.
4. Short Papers (30%)

This course includes two short (4-5 page) papers, due on Thursday, October 11th and Tuesday, November 13th. You will receive each assignment two weeks before the paper is due. Papers receive a letter grade.

5. Final Project (25%)

The final project is a piece of research on a topic of your choice, due on Tuesday, December 18th in hard copy and on Latte. You should be thinking about possible topics throughout the semester, and I will be happy to discuss them further with you in person. Your topic should be relevant to the ideas of the course, broadly interpreted—it must include a “transnational” perspective, but this does not necessarily mean it must focus on a context outside the United States. You will submit a short description of your chosen topic along with your second short paper on Tuesday, November 13th. The format for presenting your project is open: you may write an 8-10-page paper, produce a 15-20-minute podcast or video, or choose some other format that makes sense for you. Regardless of your format, your project must have a clear argument and analysis that draws on theoretical frameworks and questions from the course. On the last week of class, you will present your work informally to your classmates. Remember: This is not a project to complete at the last minute! Papers receive a letter grade. No extensions will be granted except in cases of documented disability or health emergency. If you have read this far, email me the name of your favorite book.

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Office Hours.** Sign-ups for my office hours are online at https://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/oxztj. If you are unable to attend my regular office hours, feel free to email to set up an appointment and I’ll do my best to accommodate you. Please come and see me at least once during the semester.

**Email.** I will respond to emails within 48 hours. If I can’t answer your question in a sentence, office hours are best.

**Grading.** If you’d like me to reconsider a grade, you must submit a detailed written explanation. A request for a grade change can result in a higher or lower grade.

**Gadgets.** Cell phones and laptops are not allowed in class. Please see me if you have any particular learning needs that require laptop use. If you have read this far, email me your favorite late-night study snack.

**Writing.** For support with writing, one place to start is the Writing Center (http://www.brandeis.edu/writingprogram/writingcenter/index.html). Feel free to talk with me about it if you have specific concerns or goals related to your writing.

**Academic Integrity.** Plagiarism does not help you learn. If you feel overwhelmed by the material or by an assignment, come and see me instead. The University’s policy on academic integrity can be found in the Rights and Responsibilities Handbook at http://www.brandeis.edu/studentaffairs/sdc/rr/. Plagiarism can carry severe consequences, including failing the course and/or suspension.

**Classroom Environment.** We will discuss difficult topics in this class, and it will take all of our trust, sensitivity, and maturity to create an inclusive and safe environment for conversation. Remember that your classmates have a range of experiences and be thoughtful when you speak and listen. If you have concerns about your ability to participate in class, because of personal experience, trauma, or something else, please do not hesitate to talk with me about it—the earlier, the better.
**Expectations.** Success in this four-credit course is based on the expectation that you will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class.

**Accommodations.** If you have been issued a letter of academic accommodation from Disabilities Services and Support, please see me in the first two weeks of the semester to work out the necessary arrangements. If you need an accommodation and have not yet obtained one, please set up an appointment with Beth Rodgers-Kay (brodgers@brandeis.edu), in the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Office (x63470, access@brandeis.edu).

**Readings.** The readings for the course are collected in a course reader, available at the Brandeis Bookstore. Additional readings may be posted on Latte. We may adjust readings as we go along.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

(*indicates a day when a weekly assignment is due)

**Week 1. Introductions**

**Thursday 8/30 Introductions**

**Week 2. Theorizing Gender**

**Tuesday 9/4 Sex, Gender, Feminism***


**Thursday 9/6 NO CLASS (Brandeis Monday)**

**Week 3. Theorizing Intersectionality**

**Tuesday 9/11 NO CLASS (Rosh Hashanah)**

**Thursday 9/13 Intersectionality and Black Feminist Thought***

Read at least one of the following two articles:


AND at least one of the following two articles:


Further reading (optional)

Week 4: Theorizing Sexuality

**Tuesday 9/18 Sexuality***


**Thursday 9/20 Homonormativity***


Week 5. Theorizing Globalization

**Tuesday 9/25 NO CLASS (Brandeis Monday)**

**Thursday 9/27 Globalization and Neoliberalism***


Week 6. Postcolonialism and Queer Theory

**Tuesday 10/2 Postcolonialism and Feminism***

**Thursday 10/4 Global Queer Studies**


**OR**


**Week 7. Gender, Sexuality, and Space**

**Tuesday 10/9 Gender, Sexuality and Space***


**Thursday 10/11 Technological Space**

**PAPER 1 DUE!**

Department of Sociology Colloquium: Kim Scott, Arizona State University

**Week 8. Transgender Identity**

**Tuesday 10/16 Imagining Transgender***


**Thursday 10/18 Global Transgenders**


**OR**


**Week 9: Sexual Violence**

**Tuesday 10/23 Violence Against Women as an International Cause***


**Thursday 10/25 #MeToo and its Others**

TBD
Week 10: Gender, Sexuality, and Labor

**Tuesday 10/30 Reproductive Labor***


**Thursday 11/1 Queer Labor***


Week 11: The Politics of Sex Work

**Tuesday 11/6 Sex Work and Trafficking Debates***


**AND**


**OR**


**Thursday 11/8 Sex Work Practices***


**OR**


Week 12: Masculinities

**Tuesday 11/13 Theorizing Masculinity***

**PAPER 1 DUE!**

*In-Class Film*

**Thursday 11/15 Situating American Masculinities***


**OR**
Week 13: Beauty and Embodiment

Tuesday 11/20 Race, Nation, and Beauty*


THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 13: Border Crossings

Tuesday 11/27 Sexuality and Migration


Thursday 11/29 Transnational Solidarities*


Week 14: Social Change

Tuesday 12/4 The Nonprofit Industrial Complex*


Thursday 12/6 Global Queer Movements


OR


Week 15: Wrapping Up

Tuesday 12/11 Discussion of Final Projects

FINAL PAPER DUE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH