GWST 570
New Diasporas, Gender, and Transnationalism
Fall 2007

Class Schedule: Thursday 4:00 -6:25 p.m.
Place: Old Falaki Bld. Room 402
Instructor: Mulki Al-Sharmani
Office Hours: Tuesday 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Social Research Center, 106 Kasr El Aini Street, New Cairo Bld. 11th Floor, Office # 27. Appointments for other days of the week may be made by phone.
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Course Description
This course will provide a forum for students and instructor to study, discuss, and reflect on the experiences and activities of women in new diasporic communities. We will examine some of the movements of populations from Africa, Middle East, South East Asia, and Europe in the last five decades. The multiple movements of these populations have often resulted in diasporic experiences that took place in different nation-states. The initial and subsequent movements have been motivated by complex and intertwined factors that include armed conflict, persecution, discrimination, and marginalization.

Gender is taken here as a mode of thought that shapes roles of women and men, their relations, and experiences. The aims of the course are twofold: (1) to examine how gender impacts and is impacted by diasporic life; (2) to examine different aspects of women’s lives in new diasporic communities, such as their transnational strategies of care-giving and management of family affairs, their economic activities, their production and consumption of religious knowledge, and their community activism. These experiences and activities will be used as prisms through which we will seek a nuanced contextualized understanding of the gendered aspects of diasporic women’s lives and the disruptions and transformations that they create in traditional gender roles and power relations within their families, communities, and larger societies.

Course Requirements
Students are expected to attend all sessions, and three or more absences are grounds for failure. Students are also expected to prepare reading assignments before class and to participate in discussion. The following work is required:

Lead class discussions (10%).
Four reaction papers on assigned readings (40%). These 5-10 page assignments should not merely summarize the main issues raised in the readings, but include critical
commentary on the readings and/or discussion of the usefulness of the texts in relation to
the student’s research interests.

**Due:** Weeks 4, 7, 11, 14

Research proposal (10%). Students are expected to prepare a proposal on their final paper. The proposal should state and explain briefly the subject matter, the research questions that will be addressed, and the methodology that will be used. The proposal should also include a brief literature review of texts the student plans to use, and an annotated bibliography.

**Due:** Week 10

Final paper and presentation (40%): Minimum length of paper: 20 pages. Time limit for presentation: 15-20 minutes

**Due:** Week 15

**Course Materials**

**Books on Reserve at AUC Library**


**Materials at Wallace Annex, AUC Library**
Call # 2003/90

**Note:** Copies of all reading materials are available at Copy Center at 10 B Youssef El-Gendy St. Tel# 2-795-1008

**Class Schedule and Readings**
Week 1: 09/6/07
Introduction
Logistics
Discussion of expectations, requirements, and goals
Week 2: 09/13/07  Theorizing Diaspora


Wahlbeck, Östen. “The Concept of Diaspora as an Analytical Tool in the Study of Refugee Communities.” In: Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, 28, 2, 2002: 221-238


Week 3: 09/20/07 Glimpses of a Diaspora

Week 4: 09/27/07 Gendering Migration and Diaspora


Reaction Paper 1:  Due

Week 5: 10/4/07  Diasporic Experiences: Gendering Work and Economic Activities


Week 6: 10/11/07  Diasporic Experiences: Gendering Work and Economic Activities (Cont’d)

Week 7: 10/18/07  Family Lives and Gender Relations in Diaspora


**Reaction Paper 2: Due**

**Week 8: 10/25/07  Diasporic Cultures and Identities: Shifting Boundaries**


Ewing, Katherine Pratt. “Between Cinema and Social Work: Diasporic Turkish Women and the (Dis)pleasures of Hybridity.” In: *Cultural Anthropology*: 265-294


**Week 9: 11/1/07  Religious Discourses and Identities**


**Week 10: 11/8/07  The Politics of Belonging: Citizenship and Cultural Difference**


**Research Proposals: Due**

**Week 11: 11/15/07  The Politics of Belonging: Constructions of ‘Home(s)’**


Manuh, Takyiwaa. “‘Efie’ or the Meanings of ‘Home’ among Female and Male Ghanaian Migrants in Toronto, Canada and Returned Migrants to Ghana.” In: Koser, Khaled (ed.).


**Reaction Paper 3: Due**

**Week 12: 11/22/07  Thanksgiving Holiday**
No class

**Week 13: 11/29/07  Glimpses of Diasporas**

Guest Speaker: Sara Sadek, MA Candidate, University of East London

**Week 14: 12/6/07  Transnationalism, Diaspora, and Gender Revisited**


**Week 12: 11/22/07  Thanksgiving Holiday**
No class

**Week 13: 11/29/07  Glimpses of Diasporas**

Guest Speaker: Sara Sadek, MA Candidate, University of East London

**Week 14: 12/6/07  Transnationalism, Diaspora, and Gender Revisited**


Reaction Paper 4: Due

Week 15: 12/13/07 Students’ Presentations

Final Paper: Due