Gender and Migration (2 credit course)

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Course Description:
Increased migration is one of the most discussed aspects of present-day globalization. Whereas women have always migrated, nowadays they comprise the majority of migrants. Yet the reports about migration – both in the media and within academia – are still often gender-blind. In this course, the impact of gender on migration - for instance in the possibilities and reasons men and women have/had to migrate - will be explored. Vice versa, we will look at the impact of migration on gender systems and relations. In addition, we will explore how age, ethnicity and class interact with gender in shaping the meanings of migration for different groups of women. An analysis of the migration of Black women to Italy, for instance, highlights the way in which white middle and upper-class women’s “emancipation” is made possible by the domestic services performed by Black women migrants. Also, attention will be paid to the strengths and resourcefulness shown by immigrant women, individually and collectively, in coping with personal and cultural change.

The course will start with a critical survey of mainstream migration studies – critical with respect to their gender-blindness. We will then read examples from the new scholarship about women, gender and migration (historical and sociological), including the migration histories of a number of groups (in particular Jews from Eastern Europe to the USA and Israel) and recent literature about globalization and gender. The last two sessions will be dedicated to examples of what is called “forced migration,” including the traffic in women from Eastern Europe and elsewhere to Western countries.

Course Requirements:
* An important requirement is your active and informed participation in class. This depends on a good preparation by reading the literature and thinking about it. In addition, you must always bring at least one question about the required reading with you to class.

* In order to help you prepare your thoughts for class and develop your writing skills, you must write five short weekly reaction papers (about which more during the first class). Make sure always to add your name, the date, the title of the course, and the literature the reaction paper is about.
* Preparation of at least one class discussion (to be explained further).

* A term paper of about 10 double spaced pages. You are required to hand in the title of your paper and a short abstract (100-200 words) by the sixth class. The abstract describes the topic, the central question of the paper and the resources (literature, websites) that will be used. Your paper is due by the last class.

**Course Grading:**
1) active participation in class, and five reaction papers 30 %
2) preparation of class discussion(s) 20 %
3) term paper 50 %

**Terminology:**
- **Required reading:** must be read by everyone.
- **Additional reading:** serves as basis for the oral presentation.

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**Part 1: The Meaning of Migration and its Treatment in Mainstream Scholarship**

**WEEK 1: Introduction to the Course**

**Required reading:**

**WEEK 2**

**Required reading:**

**Additional reading:**
Part II: Women, Gender and Migration: Theory and Method

WEEK 3

Required reading:

Additional reading:

WEEK 4

Required reading:

Additional reading:

WEEK 5: Various Methods Used in Gender and Migration Research

Required reading:

Additional reading:
Part III: Specific Themes and Groups

WEEK 6: Gender and Jewish Migration from Russia around 1900

Required reading:

additional reading:

ALSO: You hand in the TITLE of your TERM PAPER and a one-page ABSTRACT

WEEK 7 Russian Women Migrants in Israel

Required reading:

+ FILM: Ramleh (58 minutes) about the lives of three women in Ramleh, Israel, in 1999-2001, among them a recent immigrant from Russia, Svetlana, and her two daughters.

WEEK 8: Gender, Migration, and Globalization Processes

Required reading:


Additional reading:
WEEK 9 Europe’s Domestic Workers

Required reading:


Additional reading:


WEEK 10: Aspects of Gender and Migration in Present-Day Europe

Required reading:


Additional reading:

WEEK 11: Forced Migration (1): The Traffic in Women

Required reading:


**Additional reading:**

**WEEK 12: Forced Migration (2): Gender and Refugees**

**Required reading:**


**Also at the last session:**
- You hand in your **TERM PAPER**
- We draw general conclusions about ‘Gender and Migration’
- Evaluation of the Course

* All the titles marked with * were reprinted in, and taken from, Katie Willis and Brenda Yeoh (ed.), *Gender and Migration* (Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, MA, USA 2000).