Selected Topics in the Sociology of Gender: Human Trafficking

Human trafficking reflects a dark side of globalization, incorporating forced labor and the illicit trade in people and their parts within and across borders. This course will review and critically assess a diverse literature on the international traffic in persons with an emphasis on the structural significance of gender, political and economic transition, militarization and organized crime. While we will primarily focus on sex trafficking and the blurred lines between the commercial sex trade, prostitution and trafficking, we will also address other forms of forced labor and the commodification of the body, exploring the more hidden dimensions of domestic service, mail order brides, and organ transplants. We will draw from a variety of sources, including academic scholarship and international, governmental and NGO reports.

Requirements: Seminar requirements include regular attendance and active participation in seminar discussions, as well as weekly preparation and circulation of 1-2 pg. “issues papers” on the readings and select films. In addition, all students are expected to prepare class presentations of their final 15-20 page papers. Final papers are due on June 12 no later than 4 p.m. in 264 Haines Hall. Late papers will be penalized, so plan accordingly.

1) Weekly readings: All seminar participants are expected to do the readings each week and prepare issues papers (see 2) based on them. While the reading list may seem demanding in quantity, please note that many of the assigned readings are reports which “read” differently than analytic studies. Several texts are available in the ASUCLA bookstore for those who want them; they are not required. The YRL has a listing of all readings. Also see the website for details on further access to them. Films will be on reserve in the Powell Media Library and/or linked to the website (TBA in seminar).

2) Weekly issues papers: These one-two page issues papers should compare and critique the readings, raising key issues and questions that emerge from them. In part, issues papers are meant to stimulate seminar discussions; they are not meant to be book or article summaries. These assignments are mandatory. All papers must be pre-circulated (posted to the discussion board) no later than noon every Tuesday so that there is time for everyone to read them before class the next day. While issues papers are not graded, late postings will be noted as such.

3) Final paper topics must be pre-approved by May 3. Please submit a one page summary of the topic (key question), the kinds of sources you will use, etc. Final papers may be in the form of a literature review on a specific topic, a paper based on the seminar readings and films, or a research paper.
Office Hours: M 2-4, and by appointment. My office is 231 Haines Hall, tel: 206-7277, email: Kligman@soc.ucla.edu.

Week 1: Introduction

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime:

Week 2: Conceptual and Methodological Issues

Required:

Recommended:
Week 3: Historic Trends and Responses to Trafficking

Required:


Recommended:

Film: Human Trafficking (2005)

Week 4: Contemporary Reports

Required:


Recommended:

Week 5: Political Economy of Trafficking
Required:


Recommended:


Week 6: Prostitution, Sex Tourism, Global Sex Trade, Mail Order Brides

Required:


**Recommended:**


**Week 7: Smuggling, Trafficking, Domestic and Nonsexual Forced Labor**

**Required:**


**Recommended:**


**Week 8: Traffic in Organs and Child Trafficking**

**Required:**


ILO Child Trafficking Campaign:


Speaker: Ken Cheung

**Week 9**

Student Presentations

**Week 10**

Student Presentations