CAUSES BEYOND BORDERS

ELEC-GG 2730_ Spring 2013
Prof. Vasuki Nesiah
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Class Room & Class Hours: 1 Washington Place; Room 401 on Wednesdays 3:30-6:10
Office Room & Office Hours: 1 Washington Place; Room 530
Tuesday: 11:00-12:30 AM; Thursdays: 11:00-12:30 AM and 2:30-5:30 PM (By appointment)

One of the most distinctive dimensions of contemporary globalization has been the flourishing of transnational activism. Causes, organizations and activist networks have crossed borders alongside capital, goods and labor to reshape the terrain of political engagement. This class examines the enabling conditions and (intended and unintended) consequences of this turn to transnational activism in relation to other dimensions of contemporary global governance. The course will focus on human rights initiatives, including international non-governmental organizations such as Amnesty International and transnational campaigns such as ‘Save Darfur’. Reading important critical interventions of the last decade, the class will collectively analyze how different approaches mobilize and challenge different actors, causes and alternative imaginings of ‘the global’.
Required Books:

1. Margret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink (1998), *Activists Beyond Borders*
3. Clifford Bob (2005), *The Marketing of Rebellion: Insurgents, Media and International Activism*
5. Stephen Hopgood (2006), *Keepers of the Flame*
7. Wendy Hesford and Wendy Kozol (2005), *Just Advocacy? Women’s Human Rights, Transnational Feminism and the Politics of Representation*
8. Susan Sontag (2004), *Regarding The Pain of Others*

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:  Participation: 40%;  Reading Response: 20%;  Final paper: 40%

1. CLASS PARTICIPATION

Punctual attendance and active participation is key to your success in this course. Come to class prepared; this means you would have read and thought about the readings and will come to class ready to contribute to a collective exploration of the issues they raise.

2. RESPONSE PAPERS

*Requirement:* 8 Papers on each of the books assigned before the relevant class discussion takes place. Reading responses can be from 2-5 pages in times font, double spaced with one inch margins. Please send email these to be me as word documents and or pdf documents. There will be no mid-term.

3. FINAL PAPER

*The final paper should be an analytical paper based on a case study of any international human rights organization or campaign of interest to you.* The paper should be approximately 20-25 pages long, in times font, double-spaced with one inch margins. The final paper will be due on Friday, May 17th.

*Academic Integrity Policy* (including plagiarism, illicit collaboration, doubling/recycling coursework & cheating): Consult [www.gallatin.nyu.edu/academics/policies/policy/integrity.html](http://www.gallatin.nyu.edu/academics/policies/policy/integrity.html)
Class Plan

1. January 30th _Introduction.
   
   Keck and Sikkink (1998), *Activists Beyond Borders* Ch. 1
   

2. February 6th _The Pain of Others
   
   Keck and Sikkink (1998), *Activists Beyond Borders* Ch. 2
   
   Susan Sontag (2004), *Regarding The Pain of Others*

3. February 13th _Networks of Political Solidarity
   
   Keck and Sikkink (1998), *Activists Beyond Borders* Ch. 3
   

4. February 14th _Field Visit I: United Nations _ Thursday, 9.30 am _ (Details to be confirmed)

5. February 21st _Thematic Focus: Indigenous Rights _ Thursday, 6.30 pm. Furman Hall 216, NYU Law*
   

6. February 27th _Thematic Focus: Women’s Rights
   
   Wendy Hesford and Wendy Kozol (2005), *Just Advocacy?*

7. March 6th _Thematic Focus: Democracy Promotion
   
   Nicolas Guilhot (2005), *The Democracy Makers*

8. March 13th _Thematic Focus: Humanitarianism
Michael Barnett and Thomas Weiss (2008), *Humanitarianism in Question*

9. March 27th _ Thematic Focus: Pluralism


10. April 3rd _ No Class

11. April 10th _ Institutional Case Study I: Amnesty International.

   Stephen Hopgood (2006), *Keepers of the Flame*

12. April 10th _ Field Visit II: Human Rights Watch (Details to be confirmed)

13. April 17th _ Institutional Case Study II: The International Criminal Court.

   Marlies Glasius (2007), *The International Criminal Court*

14. April 24th _ Field Visit III: International Center for Transitional Justice (Details to be confirmed)

15. May 1st _ Institutional Case Study III: Kiva


   David Roodman (2012) Kiva as Microfinance Consumer Sentiment Barometer

16. May 8th _ Third World Activists:

   Clifford Bob (2005), *The Marketing of Rebellion*

Schedule note: There will be no class on Feb. 20th and April 3rd; Instead please attend the public lecture on February 21st and the UN field trip on February 14th.