Course Description
Sex and money -- intimacy and economy -- are often imagined to occupy distinct and separate realms. Sex and intimacy are sited in the private or domestic, a space of leisure, feelings, care, and personal connections. Money and economy, on the other hand, are sited in the public or the market, a space of labor, rationality, and impersonal (non)-relations. This course brings these realms together, focusing on the links, exchanges, and circuits between the intimate and the economic in various cultural contexts.

Our course is organized around five units: 1) Sex and the Family: Domestic Labor; 2) Sex and the Family: Marriage; 3) Sex and/as Exchange; 4) Sex and the Market; and 5) Sex and Social Justice. In each unit, we will read Marxist, feminist, queer, and anthropological theory for the key terms and concepts that will guide our analysis: reproduction and the division of labor, the sex/gender system and the exchange of women, gift and commodity exchange, consumption and production, neoliberalism and late capitalism, and rights and equality. We will then apply these concepts to a series of ethnographic case studies: Central and South American domestic workers in Los Angeles, “mail-order brides” from China and the Philippines, sex tourism in the Dominican Republic and Cuba, a state-run legal brothel in Mexico, and LGBT activist organizations in Los Angeles.

Our course is centrally concerned with the relationships between economic, cultural, and political arrangements, and with the difference intersections of race, ethnicity, nation, class, gender, and sexuality make. Together, we will think through the risks, benefits, perils, and possibilities of new (and sometimes quite old) intimate economies and economies of intimacy. And we will ask: How do practices and bodies accrue value? When are intimacies -- sexual and social -- commoditized? How have transnational flows complicated relationships between sex and money? How do these intersections constrain and/or empower people? And finally, who benefits from such arrangements, and who does not?

Course Texts

All books are available at the Bookstore and are also on reserve at Olin library. Articles are on Moodle.
Course Assignments
Attendace and Participation ----- 15%
Four Tiny Papers ------- 40% (total)
Key Terms Wiki ----- 10%
Final Paper ------- 35%

Attendance and Participation
Your daily preparation and in-class participation is 15% of your grade. You are expected to come to class on time and to contribute to class discussion in a positive, relevant, and respectful way. If you like to take notes on your laptop, you may bring it to class; however, any use of your computer for non-class purposes will result in suspension of this privilege.

I expect you to be active in discussion and to shape the course with your own interests. When you have done the recommended reading and/or watched the film, I will invite you to share that material with your classmates – this counts toward your participation. You may also be asked to come to class with a question on the reading during the semester.

You may miss two classes without explanation or penalty. Unexcused absences after two will negatively impact your final grade. If you think you have a valid reason for missing class (emergency, health problem, etc), please contact your class dean/other relevant Wesleyan official and have that person contact me. Excused absences are only granted when a Wesleyan official contacts me on your behalf (not when you send me an email).

Tiny Papers
You will turn in four 2-3 page double-spaced papers during the semester on the days listed on the syllabus. There are five papers listed – you may skip one of them. These papers give you a chance to write out your own critical reflection of the unit’s overarching themes and concepts, connecting and synthesizing the analytical material and the ethnography. Do not summarize. Instead, while you are doing the reading for each class session and reflecting on the unit as a whole, ask yourself:

(How) does the analytical reading help us think about the ethnography? What (if anything) is missing from the analytical framework that is revealed in the ethnographic case studies? What are the (multiple) intersections between economy and intimacy in the readings? What are the relationships between these intersections and power -- agency, privilege, oppression, empowerment, etc.?

When writing your paper, avoid big generalizations and pontificating; instead, focus on one issue or theme in the unit, and explore that with as much detail as possible. Illuminate this argument with specific examples from the readings. Part of this assignment is to learn how to make an argument in a limited space, so do not waste your space with extensive introductions or conclusions – just jump right in! Each paper is 10% of your grade.

Key Terms Wiki
On our Moodle site there is a Wiki called “Key Terms.” Throughout the semester, we will build a glossary of the key terms we explore in this class: intimacy, economy, division of labor, and so on. 10% of your grade is your individual contribution to this collective project, which might take the form of: adding a new definition (based on our readings, independent research, or recommended readings), adding examples and explanations of key terms (ethnographic examples, explanations in your own words), adding summary text (comparing and contrasting different definitions and/or uses of key terms, providing some historical background on the use of terms), linking to other resources (online or scanned readings, webpages), or editing and refining any of this. Because this
is a collective project, your grade for this portion of the class is based on the quality of your contributions throughout the semester.

Final Paper
Your final assignment is a final paper of 8-10 double-spaced pages. The paper can be based on course readings, it can be an expansion of one of your tiny papers, or it can reflect research on a new topic. Broadly, the paper must be relevant for the course: it must explore an intersection of sex/intimacy and money/economy. Beyond this, the focus of your paper is up to you. Be on the lookout throughout the semester for something you want to examine; you will also find a list of recommended ethnographies on Moodle. You will meet with me (at least) once to discuss your topic and make sure you are on track.

Extra Credit
For extra credit, you may write the additional tiny paper. You may also write a 2-3-page paper on any of the recommended films or readings, linking it to our main course material (as you do for the tiny papers). Extra credit boosts your final grade for the course.

Course Policies
All papers are due the day listed in the syllabus. I do not accept late papers, nor give extensions.

Please come see me in office hours if you need guidance on my expectations for papers or any other aspect of this course.

Students with Disabilities:
It is the policy of Wesleyan University to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students, however, are responsible for registering with Disabilities Services, in addition to making requests known to me in a timely manner. If you require accommodations in this class, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made. The procedures for registering with Disabilities Services can be found at: http://www.wesleyan.edu/deans/disability-students.html.

Honor Code:
All work must be done in compliance with the Honor Code, which prohibits:
- The attempt to give or obtain assistance in a formal academic exercise without due acknowledgement. This includes, but is not limited to: cheating during an exam; helping another student to cheat or to plagiarize; completing a project for someone and/or asking someone to complete a project for you.
- Plagiarism - the presentation of another person's words, ideas, images, data or research as one's own. Plagiarism is more than lifting a text word-for-word, even from sources in the public domain. Paraphrasing or using any content or terms coined by others without proper acknowledgement also constitutes plagiarism.
- The submission of the same work for academic credit more than once without permission.
- Willful falsification of data, information, or citations in any formal exercise.
- Deception concerning adherence to the conditions set by the instructor for a formal academic exercise.

For papers, please write and sign the following pledge:
In accordance with the Honor Code, I affirm that this work is my own and all content taken from other sources has been properly acknowledged.

If you need help with proper citations or you have questions on how to avoid plagiarism, let me know or contact the Writing Workshop: http://www.wesleyan.edu/writing/workshop/
Course Schedule
(all readings are due and will be discussed on the day they are listed)

Course Introduction
Key Terms: Intimacy and Economy

Thurs, Jan 20: Course introduction

Tues, Jan 25: Intimacy and Economy
Rhetac Parrenas and Eileen Boris (2010). “Introduction” to Intimate Labor

I: Sex and the Family, Part I
Key Terms: Production and Reproduction, Division of Labor, Domestic Labor

Thurs, Jan 27: Private Property and Re/production
Reader (focus up to p. 751)

Tues, Feb 1: Division of Labor and Social Reproduction
Heidi I. Hartmann (1981). “The Family as the Locus of Gender, Class, and Political Struggle: The
Example of Housework” in Signs
of Ideology” in American Families
Roberta (n.d.). “The Hand that Rocks the Cradle Should Be Paid” link

Thurs, Feb 3: Globalized Domestic Labor
Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo (2007). Doméstica (Preface - Chapter 3)
Recommended Film: Paper Dolls

Tues, Feb 8: Globalized Domestic Labor
Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo (2007). Doméstica (Chapter 4 - Chapter 8)
Recommended: Special issue of The Scholar and the Feminist: “Valuing Domestic Work” link
Paper 1 due

II: Sex and the Family, Part II
Key Terms: Marriage, Sex/Gender System, Exchange of Women

Thurs, Feb 10: Sex/Gender System
157-183 and 198-210)
Liberation” in Homo Economics

Fri, Feb 11: Activism and Academia Symposium

Tues, Feb 15: Globalization of Marriage: “Mail-Order Bride”
Nicole Constable (2003). Romance on a Global Stage (Introduction – Chapter 4)
Recommended film: In the Name of Love

Thurs, Feb 17: Globalization of Marriage: “Mail-Order Bride”
Nicole Constable (2003). Romance on a Global Stage (Chapter 5 – Conclusion)

Tues, Feb 22: Marxist/Feminist/Queer Critique of Marriage
Gay Liberation Platform (1970); “What We Want, What We Believe” (1972)
Paper 2 due

III: Sex and/as Exchange
Key Terms: Exchange, Gift, Commodity, Value, Commodity Fetishism

Thurs, Feb 24: Gift Exchange
Marcel Mauss (1924). Excerpt of The Gift

Tues, March 1: Commodity Exchange
Diane Tober (2001). “Semen as Gift, Semen as Goods” in Commodified Bodies
Arjun Appadurai (1986). “Introduction” to The Social Life of Things

Thurs, March 3: Sex Tourism

SPRING BREAK

Tues, March 22: Sex Tourism
Amalia Cabezas (2009). Economies of Desire (Chapter 3 – Epilogue)
Recommended Film: Heading South

Thurs, March 24: Commodified Bodies, Global Desires
Paper 3 due

IV: Sex and the Market
Key Terms: Neoliberalism, Late-Capitalism, Regulation, Labor, Consumption
Tues, March 29: Late-Capitalist Logics
Elizabeth Bernstein (2001). “The Meaning of the Purchase: Desire, Demand and the Commerce of Sex” in Ethnography

Thurs, March 31: Neoliberalism
David Harvey (2005). “Introduction” and “The Neoliberal State” in A Brief History of Neoliberalism
Patty Kelly (2008). Lydia’s Open Door (Introduction and Chapter 1)

Tues, April 5: Sex as Work
Patty Kelly (2008). Lydia’s Open Door (Chapter 3 – Epilogue)
Recommended film: Live, Nude Girls UNITE!

Thurs, April 7: Sex and Consumerism
Donald Lowe (1995). “Sexual Lifestyle and Late Capitalist Consumption” in The Body in Late-Capitalist USA
Jeff Maskovsky (2002). “Do We All ‘Reek of the Commodity’?” in Out in Theory

Tues, April 12: TBA

Thurs, April 14: TBA
Paper 4 due

V. Sex and Social Justice
Key Terms: Liberation, Liberal/Neoliberal, Diversity, Rights, Equality

Tues, April 19: Neoliberalism and Social Justice

Thurs, April 21: LGBT/Queer Activism

Tues, April 26: LGBT/Queer Activism
Jane Ward (2008). Respectably Queer (Chapter 4 – Chapter 6)

Thurs, April 28: Sexual Activism: New Directions
TBA
Paper 5 due

Tues, May 3: Course Wrap-up

Final paper due: Thursday, May 12 by 4pm (in CAMS)