Discussion 12: International Economics and Politics

- What does globalization mean?
- How do we define the theory? How does it work?
- What are the different methods of analysis we have encountered so far in the course?

Refer to the handout distributed, “Global Feminism – Theories and Methods,” and Cynthia Enloe’s book, The Curious Feminist:
- Does Enloe use political jargon?
- Why would women in a lesser-developed nation be suspicious of those in a developed nation? Can the women be said to be in competition with one another?
- Do women control dialogue?
- How, according to Enloe, are Korean girls molded into “dutiful daughters”? How is this model similar to/how does it differ from other nations?
- How do you mobilize women?
- How do women “not know” what is going on in governments, militaries around the world?
- What are the different “obstacles of accountability” (234)? How do they apply?
- What are the varieties of women’s roles within the obstacles?

Refer to Amartya Sen’s article, “More than 100 Million Women are Missing”:
- What is he trying to do in discussing “missing” women?
- What is his main thesis?
- What are the things that will allow women to be more autonomous and less likely to “disappear” in a society?
- Will the daughters of working mothers be considered more valuable in society?
- If a daughter is married, living outside the home, is she “useless” to her parents?
- If a woman “gets out” of the house, does she have more leverage? If so, why?
- Does this article assume that by moving women into the workforce, a nation is more like the west as opposed to the east?
- Is demography a neutral subject? Or is it gender specific?
- Why is gender demography so staggering when one considers biological norms and real life statistics?

Refer to Leela Gandhi’s article, “Post colonialism and Feminism”:
- What did you take away from this article?
- Who makes up the quartet of actors that affect relationships in colonized regions?
- What different types of relationships are formed? How are femininity and masculinity at stake?
How are notions of colonial masculinity internalized?
How is the masculinity of native men affected by different relationships?
Why did the US seek to liberate women in Afghanistan? What were they “liberated” from? Are Afghani women currently liberated?
How do colonial men try to compensate for differences between them and the male colonizers?

Refer to Ann Stoler’s article, “Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power”:
Is sexuality a main factor affecting the colonizer and the colonized?
Do you feel confident looking at a problem, dissecting it and discovering how it is and is not gender neutral?

Film viewed in class, “Global Assembly Line”:
What do you think of the film?
How was this film made? How did the directors manage to get the footage, the interviews?
Were the interview questions neutral? How so?
How did the filming/editing techniques affect the film as a whole?
Did the directors know what they wanted to argue?
How does this film illustrate how companies that outsource and naturalize their practices?
How do American managers justify sub-contracting?
Do you agree with the naturalization argument: women are more dexterous and docile, therefore better suited for assembly line work?
Does this film depict Young’s five types of oppression? How?
Do you think that the sub-contractors US counterparts know of the human rights violations occurring in factories?
Do the young women hired learn skills? Do these skills contribute to their daily lives outside the factory? If so, how?
How are family dynamics affected by a mother/sister/daughter’s work in the factories?
Does this film focus on the male role in the factories? If not, why?
Are the men unemployed?
What are the health implications for workers suffering from toxin inhalation and “scoping”?
Can these young women “take the abuse,” as one manager claims? Is this fair?
How does the idea of intersectionality come into play when one considers a woman’s life inside and outside of the factory?
Do the American companies deceive themselves in order to feel better about the various human rights abuses suffered by women in sub-contractor factories?
What do the managers compare the factory conditions and military interventions to? Situations in other lesser-developed nations, or global human rights standards?
How do companies disassociate themselves from military action during strikes? Does this divert responsibility? If so, how?
How do businesses compartmentalize issues?
How can we create global standards to which all nations must comply? Is this possible?
Is there worker accountability?
Is there worker solidarity?
Do the factories trivialize the women’s physical needs? Why?
• Are these women better off with a factory job or without one? What are the alternatives for these women?
• Do these women have more or less power with a factory job?
• Do these jobs give rural women more mobility and independence?
• What kind of worker consciousness evolves in the factories?
• How does nationalism affect sub-contractors?
• Do factory jobs stabilize political unrest and the economy in lesser-developed nations?
• How does everybody comply with American outsourcing?
• What is the most effective way to protest? Is one most effective as a consumer of the product, or as a worker making the product?