

**ASIAN MIGRATIONS AND DIASPORAS  
EAST388  
FALL 2024**

Course schedule: Monday, 8:35 am to 11:25 am

Course delivery: In-person, LEA 110

Professor: Maria Cecilia Hwang, Assistant Professor

Department of East Asian Studies/Institute for Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies

E-mail: [maria.hwang@mcgill.ca](mailto:maria.hwang@mcgill.ca). Please allow up to 48 hours, excluding weekends and public holidays, to receive a response. I do not respond to nor track emails about non-medical-related absences.

Office hours: Tuesdays, 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm, Room 303, 3487 Peel Street. Students must reserve their spot through [this link](#) prior to meeting with the professor.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The dominant literature in migration studies argues that international migration is a liberating experience of gender and sexuality. This assumption is based primarily on the experiences of migrants in the United States, particularly on studies of migrants from Mexico and the Dominican Republic. This class will explore the applicability of this dominant assumption on Asian migrations, which constitute a significant volume of contemporary international migration. We will ask: How do gender and sexuality shape processes of migration? We will examine the constitution of gender and sexuality in Asian migrations, analyze the ways that society disciplines migrants through the control of their gender and sexuality, and identify the ways migrants utilize gender and sexuality to navigate the various structural inequalities they confront in the process of migration.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will gain a deeper understanding of the complex socioeconomic and geopolitical contexts of contemporary Asian migrations.

The assigned texts will introduce students to key concepts and interdisciplinary approaches in the study of gender, sexuality, and migration.

The assignments for the class will enable students to (1) enhance their critical reading and writing skills, (2) develop communication skills through class discussions, and (3) develop analytical skills.

### ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance in this class is mandatory as it is fundamental to succeeding in this class. Students are expected to read the required texts before class and contribute to in-class discussions and activities. Debates are encouraged, but discriminatory language will not be tolerated.

Attendance will be taken beginning Week 3. More than TWO absences, excluding documented medical-related absence, will result in a 1% reduction from the final grade for every missed

course meeting. As noted above, please do not email the professor about non-medical-related absences as they will not be tracked.

## ASSESSMENT

**Reading Responses (30%):** Students must write TWO critical reading responses to the assigned texts. They can be on any two weeks during the semester, but you must submit at least one by week 7. A critical reading essay should be between 700-1000 words. It must be an analytical response to the assigned materials. If you have selected a week with an assigned film, you must include the film in your discussion.

Your reading response must:

- Summarize, in your own words, the main arguments advanced by each of the required texts;

- Discuss how the texts relate to each other. For example, you may discuss overlapping themes and compare/contrast their research methods and arguments.

- Link the assigned texts to related historical and



under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures” (see [McGill’s guide to academic honesty for more information](#)). (Approved by Senate on 29 January 2003)

L’université McGill attache une haute importance à l’honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l’on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l’étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le [guide pour l’honnêteté académique de McGill](#)).

*Copyright material:* Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow-up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

*Artificial intelligence tools:* While the use of artificial intelligence tools is strongly discouraged, students may use them as learning aids. For example, students may use generative IA tools to overcome writer’s block and as spell and grammar checker. Students are ultimately accountable for the work they submit. Those who choose to use generative AI tools in completing assignments must document their use in an appendix for each assignment. The appendix should identify the AI tools, how they were used, and how the results from the AI tools were incorporated into the submitted work. Contents produced by artificial intelligence tools must be cited according to the [citation guidelines](#) provided by McGill Library.

*Reread and reassessment:* Requests for reread and reassessment of written assignments and exams must be made within 10 days after the return of graded materials and submitted according to the [Reread Policy of the Department of East Asian Studies](#).

*Extraordinary circumstances:* In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of McGill University, assessment tasks in a course are subject to change, provided students are sent adequate and timely communications regarding the change.

## COURSE SCHEDULE (Tentative)

Week 1 –  
August 29

**Course Introduction** – No Readings

Week 2 –  
September 5

**Theoretical Approaches and Frameworks**

Parreñas, Rhacel Salazar and Maria Cecilia Hwang. 2024.

“Transnational Feminism and the Sociology of Gender.”

*American Journal of Sociology* 129(3): 939-947.

Sassen, Saskia. 2003. “Global Cities and Survival Circuits.” In *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy*, 1st ed, pp 254–74. New York: Metropolitan Books.





Liao, Karen Anne S. 2020. "Operation 'Bring Them Home': Learning from the Large-Scale Repatriation of Overseas Filipino Workers in Times of Crisis." *Asian Population Studies* 16(3):310–30.  
Parreñas, *Servants of Globalization*, [Chapter 7](#).

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