I. Course Description
In recent years, the rapid dissemination of visual images has become an important form of mass communication with widespread political implications for governments and NGOs. Gendered and racialized representations, often invoking highly charged religious and/or nationalist symbols, guide political debates and struggles over cultural and economic globalization. This course takes an interdisciplinary approach to examining issues of religion, gender, representation, and globalization with special attention to the ways in which the practices of religion in women's daily lives impact and are impacted by globalization and the ways in which those effects and interventions are represented in visual culture.

II. Course Requirements
A. Readings: This class is designed to address interdisciplinary research in the scholarship of the visual cultures of religion, gender and globalization. A key requirement for this course is the students’ critical engagement with assigned readings. Every student in the class is responsible for completing each week’s reading assignment before the class meeting. Individual students will lead discussion of texts; all class participants will contribute to analysis and discussion each week.

B. Discussion Leadership and Reader Responses: Students assigned to leadership roles for each week’s readings will come to class prepared to facilitate discussion. It may be useful to think of this task as, in part, a critical review of the reading in question. In addition to summarizing and critiquing key aspects of the author’s argument, discussion leaders will be expected to engage the class in conversation on closely related subjects. Students in leadership roles will arrange to make available in class, and when relevant, reproductions of major images
or objects under discussion.

For any given class session, each student not assigned a discussion leadership role for that session is expected to post reading responses on the class server, to come to class having read the week’s set of responses by other class participants, and to prepare for class a question for discussion, based on these readings and responses.

C. Semester Presentation and Paper: Each student will conduct research on a topic directly related to the seminar’s constellation of subjects. In the second half of the semester students will present their research in class and, at semester’s end, turn in a final research paper.

III. Course Grades
Grades will be earned for performance in three areas:
Discussion leadership, reader responses, and overall class participation (30%)
Presentation of research in class 30%)
Final paper (40%)

IV. Books to be purchased (Available at Labyrinth Books)


All other readings (book chapters and articles) will be available online through the class website.

V. Course Calendar and Readings

Th 15 Jan. Introduction to the Course
Defining Terms I

Readings:
-Shu-Mei Shih, Visuality and Identity: Sinophone Articulations Across the Pacific (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007), 1-23.
Highly Recommended:

Th 22 Jan.  Defining Terms II

Readings:

Highly Recommended:

Th 29 Jan.  Museums: Power, Friction, Representation

Readings:
- Vijaya Nagajaran, "Hosting the Divine: The Kolam in Tamilnadu," in *Mud, Mirror, and Thread:
Highly Recommended:

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**Th 5 Feb.  Veiling, Representation, and Contemporary Art**

Readings:

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**Th 12 Feb.  Erika Doss: The Emotional Life of Public Memorials**

Readings:

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Readings:
- Kathryn Lofton, “Missionary Accessory: Leadership Academies and Big Give,” Chapter from Oprah: The Gospel of an Icon (Chapter to be provided by author).
- Inderpal Grewal, Transnational America: Feminisms, Diasporas, Neoliberalisms (Durham, NC:

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**Th 26 Feb.**  
**Noura Saleh Alturki and Andrea K. Blanch: Gender and Representation**

Readings: Guest lecturers will assign readings.

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**Th 5 Mar.**  
**Student presentations**

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**Th 12 Mar.**  
SPRING BREAK; No Class Session.

**Th 19 Mar.**  
SPRING BREAK; No Class Session.

**Th 26 Mar.**  
**Neloufer de Mel: Popular Culture, Memory and Narrative**

Readings:  

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**Th 2 Apr.**  
**Student presentations**

4:00-6:30pm: Robert Crusz, Sri Lankan Film Series (Attendance strongly encouraged).

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**Th 9 Apr.**  
**Student presentations**

4:00-6:30pm: Robert Crusz, Sri Lankan Film Series (Attendance strongly encouraged).

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**Th 16 Apr.**  
**Film Screening and Q&A by Helen Whitney**

Readings:  
- Sharon Lamb, “Women, Abuse, and Forgiveness: A Special Case,” In *Before Forgiving:*


Dinner at Laura Wexler’s house with director Helen Whitney

Th 23 Apr.  Student presentations