"The course will examine how ideas about normative or non-normative sexualities, gender/sexual identities and related social movements travel across geographical, political and cultural boundaries. We will consider the potentials and limits of using conceptual frameworks such as ‘sexuality’, ‘gender’, ‘LGBT’ and ‘queer’ across the ‘west’ and the global south. Using academic texts and other media from various locations across the world, we will interrogate Anglo-American frameworks of sexual identity and rights as the default model for progress elsewhere, while examining how constructions of gender/sexuality become connected across the global south and north through globalization, colonialism and imperialism. Rather than isolating ‘sexuality’, we will examine how it always intersects with race, class, nationhood, and transnational systems of power. Specific themes will include cultural variations in constructions of gender/sexuality, transnational capitalism and sexual labor, globalization and sexuality, transnational LGBT movements, queer imperialism and homonationalism. Throughout, we will examine the power structures that shape gender/sexuality through a transnational approach connecting inequalities within the US with those across the world.” (Course Description from Professor Dutta)
Course Project

Students will have the opportunity to choose and prepare audio-visual presentations on particular topics such as:

- The transnational spread of gay marriage.

- The role of feminized labor in transnational capitalism.

- LGBT involvement in imperialism and colonialism.

U.S. to Aid Gay Rights Abroad, GENEVA — The Obama administration announced Tuesday that the United States would use all the tools of American foreign policy, including the potent enticement of foreign aid, to push for gay rights around the world.

- Sex work and trafficking in the new global economy.
Globalization: "Globalization is a process of interaction and integration among the people, companies and governments of different nations, a process driven by international trade and investment and aided by information technology. Globalization is deeply controversial - Proponents of globalization argue that it allows poor countries and their citizens to develop economically and raise their standards of living, while opponents of globalization claim that the creation of an unfettered international free market has benefited multinational corporations in the Western world at the expense of local enterprises, local cultures, and common people."

Global Queering: 'Global queering' denotes the transnational expansion of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) identities and movements through processes such as globalization and capitalism. There are debates on whether global queering reflects western cultural and economic dominance and replicates the supposed advances in LGBT rights made in western countries, or whether it represents culturally independent developments that draw from transnational exchanges but are not necessarily dominated by the west.

Feminization of Labor: Globalization and transnational capitalism over the recent decades has evidenced an increasing reliance on female or feminized labor, as corporations expand into non-western economies to gain access to cheaper labor, thus increasingly drawing women into underpaid and exploitative jobs. Simultaneously, work in general takes on features that have historically characterized female labor, e.g. low wage, long hours, unpaid overtime work, lack of workers' benefits and protections, etc.

Homonationalism: Homonationalism describes the involvement of previously-marginalized LGBT people as nationalists and imperialists who implicitly or explicitly support the dominance of their country over weaker nations, societies and economies. It is particularly used to describe the involvement of western LGBT people and particularly gay men in military and economic dominance over non-western countries, and also the parallel rise of western LGBT people as dominant consumers within transnational capitalism.
Homonationalism and Pinkwashing