

American University
School of International Service
International Development Program

WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT
(648. 001)
Fall 2008

Instructor: Professor Vidyamali Samarasinghe

Office Hours: Monday 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.
 Tuesday 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

And by Appointment: sign up sheet for appointments is in the ID office.

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Class Meetings: Monday 5.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

Required Texts

1. Ester Boserup. *Women's Role in Economic Development*. London: Earthscan. 1970. Reprinted 1989. *** May not be available in the bookstore
2. Gita Sen and Caren Grown. *Development, Crises, and Alternative Visions: Third World Women's Perspectives*. New York: Monthly Review Press. 1987
3. Jane S, Jacqueline and Gale Summerfield (Eds). *Women and Gender Equity in Development Theory and Practice*. Durham and London: Duke University Press. 2006
4. Andrea Cornwall, Elizabeth Harrison and Ann Whitehead (Eds). *Feminisms in Development: Contradictions, Contestations and Challenges*. London, Zed Books. 2007

Blackboard Reading Packet

Course Description

“The four critical elements of the human development concept --productivity, equity, sustainability and empowerment --demand that gender issues be addressed as development issues and as human rights concerns. The compelling reason: development, if not engendered, is endangered”

Human Development Report, UNDP, 1995.

The focus of this course is on the Global South. However, as Seager and Olson remarked, “In the world of women there are few ‘developed’ nations.” Hence, our scholarly exploration will not be strictly confined to the South. We will discuss commonalities as well as differences among women around the world, with, of course, a special emphasis on women living in the South. This course is designed, **firstly**, to provide the students with a critical evaluation of some of the

theoretical structures of feminism as they are applied to an analysis of the multiple facets of women's lives in the South. **Secondly**, it will explore the diverse socio-economic, political and cultural factors that affect women's lives in different areas of the Global South. We will examine the global manifestations of the differential gendered impact of globalization. Is "feminization" of poverty, work and migration anything new? **Thirdly**, we will evaluate and discuss different strategies that would lead to the empowerment of women in the Global South, paying particular attention to new initiatives of 'mainstreaming' and "empowerment" adopted by leading donor agencies, international and local NGOs and governments of the South.

Course Expectations, Assignments and Grading

Participation

As a graduate level course you are expected to share the responsibility for contributing to the learning experience within the classroom. You are required to attend all classes, do all the readings and participate actively in class discussions. The class will be conducted in a seminar style, incorporating a flexible combination of lecture and discussion. Hence, it is very important that you come to class fully prepared to raise and respond to questions based on required readings. The heart of a good seminar is an active, honest, and open discussion of the reading material and the issues raised therein. Periodically, you will be assigned to lead class discussions based on specific readings. Participation in classroom activity will account for 5% of your final grade.

Academic Integrity Code

All students are governed by American University's academic integrity code. By registering, you have acknowledged your awareness of the academic integrity code, and you are obliged to become familiar with your rights and responsibilities as defined by the code. All of your work (whether oral or written) in this class is governed by the provisions of the academic integrity code.

Assignments and Grading

First Paper - due September 29

Critical analysis of gender and development approaches based on first five weeks of readings. A question will be given

- 7-8 pages in length.
- **25% of the final grade**

Second Paper- due November 3

- A critical review of a selected book (autobiography, biography, novel) concerning women's lives in the South. The book should be selected in consultation with the instructor.
- 8-10 pages in length.
- **30% of the final grade**

Third Paper- Due December 5

- Final paper. I have identified five areas (topics). Select one topic.
1. "Feminization" of migration or work or poverty.

2. “Female Sex Trafficking”. Select any one region from the list above
3. “Micro Finance/credit and empowerment of women”. Select two countries of your choice for a comparative analysis
4. Women and Politics. Comparative analysis of two regions
5. Issues related to female empowerment

Each topic would require well-rounded research. The paper should have a sound theoretical basis and it should contain up to date data, including case studies. This is not a mere report. Thus, the paper should contain a focused analytic component.

The final paper project has four cumulative stages. Three of the four stages, two among them will be counted towards the final numerical grade for the class.

Stage 1-Due October 6: Submitting a topic for research. Your topic must be accompanied by a couple of paragraphs, which should briefly describe your intended research. This part of the assignment is not graded

Stage 2- October 20: Identifying research question/s, building a set of hypothesis, describing the methodology. This requires a preliminary research to identify the main areas you intend to explore. This assignment, no more than 2 pages should also contain a more focused outline of your research project. It must have a short introduction, research question/s, hypothesis and the methodology/ies you plan to use in gathering your research data. **(5 % of the grade)**

Stage 3- Due November 10: Literature review/bibliography. At this stage you would have identified and researched your data sources and methods of analysis. The literature survey/ bibliography should categorize the different sections you expect to include in your final paper. The literature review/bibliography need not be lengthy, but it should be clearly focused and exhaustive. Each section of the bibliography should be accompanied by a short review of the material. Complete citations should be given, including relevant websites, and page numbers book chapters and journal articles. **(5% of the grade)**

Stage 4 Final paper- Due December 5: Length of the paper: Maximum of 25 pages (including the bibliography and excluding appendices, if any).

Final Research Paper Project- 40% of the final course grade (includes 5% for stage 2 assignment and 5% for stage 3 assignment)

Participation in Classroom discussions/activity - 5% of the final grade.

*** All written assignments should be word-processed and double-spaced and include a list of references/ bibliography. The following criteria will be used to grade your written assignments: 1. quality of analysis, explanations, and interpretations; 2, clarity of writing and organization of ideas; 3. ability to support interpretations with references and evidence; 4. originality and creativity.

** Please note that late papers will be graded down one point from the deserved numerical grade for every day late (for example, from 84% to 83%), unless you have a reasonably valid excuse, which has been conveyed to and accepted by the instructor. Please make an extra copy of a written assignment before you hand it in.

** All written assignments should be handed to me in class or deposited in my mailbox in the ID office/SIS. No electronic transmissions will be accepted.

Class Schedule

Session 1 – August 25 Introduction to the course

Readings

Uma Narayan- “Contesting Cultures: ‘Westernization,’ Respect for Cultures, and Third World Feminism.” In Linda Nicholson (Ed) *The Second Wave: A Reader in Feminist Theory*. Routledge. 1997. (Black board).

Wu Qing. “What I know About Gender and Development” in Marilyn Porter and Ellen Judd (Eds). *Feminists Doing Development: A Practical Critique*. (Black board)

****Start Reading Ester Boserup and Gita Sen/Caren Grown**. You should complete the readings by the beginning of class on September 15.**

No class September 1- Labor Day

Session 2 and 3 – September 8 and 15 WID, WAD, GAD, and Empowerment

Readings

Richard Peet with Elaine Hartwick – “Feminist Theories of Development”, in *Theories of Development*. Guilford Press. 1999. (Black board)

Vandana Shiva - “Development, Ecology and Women” in *Staying Alive*. ZED books. 1989. (Course packet)

Chandra Talpade Mohanty- “Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses”, in (Eds) Chandra Mohanty Talpade, Ann Russo and Lourdes Torres, *Third*

World Women and the Politics of Feminism. Indian University Press. 1991. (Black Board)

bell hooks. "When I was a Young Soldier for the Revolution: Coming to Voice" and "Feminism: Transformational Politics." In *Talking Back: Thinking Feminist, Thinking Black*. Boston: Southend Press. 1989. (Blackboard)

Jane Jacquette and Kathleen Staudt. "Women, Gender and Development" Chapter 1. *Women and Gender Equity in Development Theory and Practice*. Durham and London: Duke University Press. 2006

Andrea Cornwall, Elizabeth Harrison and Ann Whitehead. "Gender Myths and Feminist Fables: The Struggle for Interpretive Power in Gender and Development" Chapter 1: "Introduction" in Cornwall, Harrison and Whitehead. *Feminisms in Development*. (Required Text)

Session 4 – September 22

Is female "empowerment" the antidote to Patriarchy?

Gerda Lerner - "The Creation of Patriarchy", in *The Creation of Patriarchy*. Oxford University Press. 1986. (Black board)

Kate Millett. "Theory of Sexual Politics" in *Sexual Politics*. New York, Doubleday. 1979

Gayle Rubin. "The Traffic in Women: Notes on the Political Economy of Sex" in Linda Nicholson (Eds). *The Second Wave: A Reader in Feminist Theory*. London, New York: Routledge. 1997

Srilatha Batliwala. "The Meaning of Women's Empowerment: New Concepts in Action." in Gita Sen, Adrienne Germain and Lincoln C. Chen (Eds). *Population Policies Reconsidered: Health Empowerment and Rights*. Boston: Harvard University Press. 1994. (Black board)

Jo Rowland. "A Word of the Times, But What Does it Mean? Empowerment in the Discourse and Practice of Development" in Haleh Afshar (Ed) *Women and Empowerment: Illustrations from the Third World*. New York: St. Martins Press. 1998 (Black board)

Dzodzi Tsikat. "Announcing a New Dawn Prematurely? Human Rights and Rights-based Approaches to Development" Cornwall, Harrison and Whitehaed. (Required Text)

Session 5 - September 27

Women, Social justice and Citizenship: Off-center in Decision Making

Readings

Pnina Werbner. "Political Motherhood and the Feminization of Citizenship: Women's Activism and the Transformation of the Public Sphere", in Nira Yuval-Davis and Pnina Werbner (Eds) *Women, Citizenship and Difference*. Zed Books. 1998. (Black board)

Deniz Kandiyotti. "Bargaining with Patriarchy" in Nalini Visvanathan (Coordinator) *The Women, Gender and Development Reader*. London: Zed. 1997. (Black board)

Maxine Molyneux. "Mobilization Without Emancipation? Women's Interests, The State and Revolution in Nicaragua." (Black board)

Vidyamali Samarasinghe. "Subverting Patriarchy? Leadership and Participation of Women in Politics in South Asia. *Ethnic Studies Report*. Volume XV111, No. 2, July 2000. (Black board)

Session 6- October 6

Is poverty “feminized”?

Readings

- Gale Summerfield. “Gender Equity and Rural Land Reform in China” in Jane S. Jacquette and Gale Summerfield (Eds) *Women and Gender Equity in Development Theory and Practice*. (Required Text)
- Diane Lee-Smith and Catalina Hinchey Trujillo. “Unequal Rights: Women and Property” in Jane Jacquette and Gale Summerfield (Eds) (Required Text)
- Sylvia Chant. “Dangerous Equations? How Female-headed Households Became the poorest of the Poor: Causes and Consequences and Cautions”. In Cornwall, Harrison and Whitehead (Eds). *Feminisms in Development*. (Required Text)
- Sylvia Chant. “Contributions of a Gender Perspective to the Analysis of Poverty”. In Jane Jacquette and Gale Summerfield (Eds). (Required text).
- Bina Agarwal. “Whose land? Who Commands? The Gap Between Ownership and Control”. Chapter 7 in Bina Agarwal, *A Field of One’s Own: Gender and Land rights in South Asia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1998
- Ester Boserup. “In Town” in *Women’s Role in Economic Development*. pp. 85-151. (Required Text)

Session 7 – October 13

Measuring Women’s Work

Readings

- Caroline Moser. “Gender Roles, the Family and the Household.” (Black board).
- Vidyamali Samarasinghe. “Counting Women’s Work: Intersection of Time and Place.” in (Eds) John Paul Jones 111, Heidi. M. Nasty and Susan M. Roberts, *Thresholds in Feminist Geography: Differences, Methodology and Representation*. Rowman and Littlefield. 1997. (Black board)
- Maria Sagrio Floro. “Work Intensity and Time Use: What Do Women Do When There Aren’t Enough Time in a Day.” in (Eds) Gay Young and Bette Dickerson, *Color, Class and Country: Experiences of Gender*. Zed books.1994. (Black board).
- Marilyn Waring. “A Woman’s Reckoning”, and “A Calling to Account” in *Counting for Nothing: What Men Value and What Women are Worth*. University of Toronto Press. Second Edition. 1999. (Black board))
- Lourdes Beneria. “Paid and Unpaid Labor: Meanings and Debates”. Chapter 5 in *Gender, Development and Globalization* (Black board)

Session 8-October 20

Globalization, Women's Productivity Issues: "Feminization" of Work and Migration

Readings

Marianne Marchand and Anne Sisson Runyon. "Feminist Sightings of Global Restructuring: Conceptualization and Reconceptualization." Introduction in Marianne Marchand and Anne Sisson Runyon (Eds) in *Gender and Global Restructuring* London: Routledge. 2000. (Black board)

J Anne Tickner. "The Gendered Frontiers of Globalization". *Globalization*. Volume 1, No. 1 September 2004. (Black board)

Guy Standing. "Global Feminization through Flexible Labor: A Theme Revisited" (Black board).

Vidyamali Samarasinghe. "The Feminization of Foreign Currency Earnings: Women's Labor in Sri Lanka." (Black board).

Shahra Rasavi. "Export Oriented Employment. Poverty and Gender: Contested Accounts" in Shahara Rasavi (Ed) *Gendered Poverty and Well-being*. London: Blackwell. 2000. (Black board)

Session 9- October 27

The Darker Side of Globalization?

Readings

Saskia Sassen. "Women's Burden: Counter-Geographies of Globalization and the Feminization of Survival. *Journal of International Affairs*. Volume 53, No. 2. Spring 2000. (Black board)

Nana Oishi. "The Road from Home: Women's Autonomy, Migration and the Trapping Mechanism." in Nana Oishi. *Women in Motion: Globalization, State Policies and Labor Migration in Asia*. Ca: Stanford University Press, 2005. (Black board)

Lin Lean Lim. "The Economic and Social Bases of Prostitution in Southeast Asia" in Lin Lean Lim (Ed) *The Sex Sector*. Geneva: ILO. 1998 (Black board).

Vidyamali Samarasinghe. "Evolving Discourse and Expanding Global Reach of sex Trafficking" and "Feminization of Global Human Exchange" in Vidyamali Samarasinghe. *Female Sex Trafficking in Asia: Resilience of Patriarchy in a Changing World*. New York: Routledge, 2008

Session 10 and 11 – November 03 and November 10

Problems and Prospects of Female Empowerment. The Critical Role of NGOs

Readings

Kalima Rose. "SEWA: Women in Movement." in *Where Women are Leaders: The SEWA Movement in India*. Zed Books. 1992. (Black board).

Amartya Sen. "Women's Agency and Social Change." Chapter 8. *Development as Freedom*.

Alfred Knopf. 1999. (Black board).
Cornwall, Harrison and Whitehead (Eds) Chapters 14, 15, and 16 (Required Text)
Jane Jacquette and Gale Summerfield. Section 111. (Required Text)
Guest lecture

Sessions 12 and 13- November 17 and November 24
Gender Main-Streaming and Strategies of Empowerment

Readings.

Caroline Moser. "Gender Planning in the Third World: Meeting Practical and Strategic Needs."
(Black board).

David Hirschman. "From Home Economics to Microfinance: Gender Rhetoric and Bureaucratic
Resistance" in Jane Jacquette and Gale Summerfield (Eds) (Required Text)

Cornwall, Harrison and Whitehead. Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 and 18
Guest Lecture

Session 14- December 1 Class presentations.
Drawing the threads together: Bridging Theory and Practice in Women and Development