

Women, Culture, and Development¹
Sociology 389S / Women's Studies 385S

Spring 2001

Meeting time: Tues/Thurs 11:30-12:45 pm

Meeting place: Callaway S103

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Office hours Wednesdays 1:00-3:00 and by appointment

“Although women represent half of the world's population and one-third of the official labor force, they receive only one percent of the world income and own less than one percent of the world's property”

UN conference, Copenhagen, 1980 (in Dankelman & Davidson, 1988: 5)

Description:

In this course I will use an interdisciplinary approach and interactive pedagogical style to introduce you to a survey of themes relevant to women, culture, and development, or women in the “Third World.” We will look at general gendered theories of development, the public/private spheres, the family, paid labor, sexuality and the body, population, globalization, the environment, feminism, revolution, colonialism, post-colonialism, and feminist strategies towards development. We will read theoretical and empirical pieces, fiction, and print media. We will also view films and use the case method of learning to enhance our own knowledge of this vast subject.

Statement of purpose:

The purpose of this course is to facilitate a critical understanding of the multiple and often conflicting positions women occupy in the Third World in this age of globalization. Despite its importance to the every day lives of those of us in the United States, the Third World, and especially the women who reside there, remains largely misunderstood. Through this course we will look at the historical and sociological background of women in the Third World so that we may better understand this complex region and its peoples. You will be expected to do all of the readings, attend and participate in class, and turn in all of the assignments in a timely manner.

¹ I would like to thank Amy Lind and the graduate students from *Women and Development* Fall 2000 for their insightful suggestions on this syllabus.

If you have any special needs due to learning disabilities please contact me in the beginning of the semester and I will make the necessary arrangements

Further, I hope that by the end of the semester you will be equipped with the critical skills that will help to better understand the headlines in the newspapers, where women fit into them, how women may change them, and the nature of our relationship as residents of the First World to women in the Third World. We will explore many complicated and interesting topics, create new questions, and by the end of the semester, collectively come to new understandings of women, culture, and development. This course is designed to strengthen the following necessary academic skills:

- Clear, critical, and analytical writing
- Presentation skills
- Critical reading / note taking

Required Texts:

- Bose, Christine E, and Edna Acosta-Belén (Eds.). 1995. *Women in the Latin American Development Process*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. (WLADP)
- Dangarembga, Tsitsi. 1988. *Nervous Conditions*. Seattle: Seal Press.
- Dankelman, Irene, and Joan Davidson. 1988. *Women and Environment in the Third World: Alliance for the Future*. London: Earthscan Publications Ltd.
- Hartmann, Betsy. 1995. *Reproductive Rights and Wrongs*. Boston: South End Press.
- Seager, J. (1997). *The State of Women in the World Atlas: Women's Status Around the Globe: Work, Health, Education and Personal Freedom*. London: Penguin Books.
- Sen, Gita, and Caren Grown. 1987. *Development, Crises, and Alternative Visions: Third World Women's Perspectives*. New York: Monthly Review Press.
- Course reader available on-line through the library reserve desk <http://www.library.emory.edu/>

Recommended Texts:²

- * Alexander, Jacqui M., and Chandra Talpade Mohanty (Eds.). 1997. *Feminist Genealogies, Colonial Legacies, Democratic Futures*. New York and London: Routledge.
 - * Enloe, Cynthia. 1989. *Bananas, Beaches, and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
 - * Escobar, Arturo. 1995. *Encountering Development The Making and Unmaking Of The Third World*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Marshall, Paule. 1992. *The Chosen Place, The Timeless People*. New York: Vintage Contemporaries. (This is a novel.)
- * Mohanty, Chandra Talpade, Ann Russo, and Lourdes Torres (Eds.). 1991. *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press.
 - * Sparr, Pamela. 1994. *Mortgaging Women's Lives: Feminist Critiques of Structural Adjustment*. London: Zed Press.

² None of these books are required but rather are suggested if you so desire to pursue this topic more fully. Those books marked with an asterisk indicate that you will read at least one chapter during this course. Also, please note that none of these have been ordered by the bookstore.

* Stephen, Lynn. 1997. *Women and Social Movements in Latin America: Power From Below*. Austin: University of Texas Press.

Ward, Kathryn (Ed.). 1990. *Women Workers and Global Restructuring*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Course requirements:

1. **Reading and active participation.** Everyone is expected to do all of the reading. As this is a seminar, active participation is fundamental to its success. I expect you to come to class prepared to thoughtfully discuss the readings. **(5 % of your grade.)**
2. **Bi-Weekly write-ups.** On **seven Thursdays** (of your choosing) you will be expected to turn in a one-to-two page response to the readings. Analytically, you should address the main themes, questions, and/or problematics presented in the readings so that you will be prepared to actively participate in discussion. **Late write-ups will not be accepted. (20 % of your grade.)**
3. **Media reports.** Every Tuesday one student will bring in an article from the print-media and share it with the class. The article should directly or indirectly help us understand women in the Third World. **(5% of your grade.)**
4. **Book review.** Everyone will be expected to write a five page book review on Tsitsi Dangarembga's novel *Nervous Conditions*. On **Tues April 10** we will have a panel discussion addressing various issues of the book. (Guidelines will be handed out.) **(15 % of your grade.)**
5. **Case write-ups.** During the semester we will have three case study discussions in class. (See below.) On one of these occasions you will be expected to do a three-to-five page critical write-up of a theme related to the case and more broadly, women, culture, and development. For the discussions, you will read a fictionalized account of real events related to women and development. As a group we will work through the central dilemma presented in the case and you will then be asked to do a write-up on one of the discussions. These are due the following week in class. **(Tues Feb 20, Tues Mar 20, or Thurs April 5.)** The case study write-up will be a short assignment in which you are expected to discuss the in class discussion with attention to the issues of that week. (See reader for details about the Case Method of Learning.) **(5 % of your grade.)**
6. **Research term paper.** For this assignment you will write a fifteen-to-twenty-page paper on a topic chosen in consultation with me. A double-spaced, typed proposal of two-to- three pages, plus an annotated bibliography with a minimum of ten sources are due in class on **Tues Feb 6**. You should be sure to come see me no later than **Thurs Jan 25** to get started on this project. You will be expected to turn in the three-to-four page introduction (literature review) and a detailed outline on **Thurs Mar 8**. The final research papers are due **Thurs May 4**. On the last two days of class (**April 24 and 26**) students will be expected to share their research with the rest of the class through short presentations. **(50 % of your grade.)**

Week one: Course overview**Thurs Jan 18: Introductions – Why study the Third World? Why women? Why development? Why culture?****Week two: Definitions, Concepts, and Theories****Tues Jan 23***Readings:*

Dankelman, Irene, and Joan Davidson. 1988. *Women and Environment in the Third World: Alliance for the Future*. (Intro and Chapter one).

Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. 1997. "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses." Pp. 51-80 in *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism*. (Reader)

Escobar, Arturo. 1995. "Introduction: Development and the Anthropology of Modernity." Pp. 3-20 in *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*. (Reader)

Enloe, Cynthia. 1989. "Conclusion: The Personal Is International." Pp. 195-201 in *Bananas, Beaches & Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics*. (Reader)

Thurs Jan 25*Readings:*

Foster-Carter, Aidan. 1986. Pp. 12-25 in *The Sociology of Development*. (**To be handed out in class.**)

So, Alvin Y. 1990. Pp.169-199 in *Social Change and Development*. (Reader)

Week three: Definitions, Concepts, and Theories cont.**Tues Jan 30***Readings:*

Jaquette, Jane S. 1982. "Women and Modernization Theory: A Decade of Feminist Criticism." *World Politics* 34(2): 267-284. (Reader)

Rathgeber, Eva M. 1990. "WID, WAD, GAD: Trends in Research and Practice." *The Journal of Developing Areas* 24:489-502. (Reader)

Acosta-Belén, E. and C. E. Bose (1995). "Colonialism, Structural Subordination, and Empowerment: Women in the Development Process in Latin America and the Caribbean." Pp. 15-36. (WLADP).

Thurs Feb 1: Gender, the Public, and the Private – Debates and Questions*Readings:*

Cubitt, Tessa, and Greenslade Helen. 1997. "Public And Private Spheres: The End of Dichotomy." Pp.52-64 in *Gender Politics in Latin America*. (Reader)

Lamphere, Louise. 1997. "The Domestic Sphere of Women and the Public World of Men: The Strengths and Limitations of an Anthropological Dichotomy." Pp. 82-91 in *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspectives*. (Reader)

Benería, Lourdes. 1992. "Accounting for Women's Work: The Progress of Two Decades" in *World Development* 20:1547-1560. (Reader)

Nelson, Cynthia. 1997. "Public and Private Politics: Women in the Middle Eastern World." Pp. 111-123 in *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective*. (Reader)

Week four: Reproduction, Production, and Nation

Tues Feb 6

Readings:

Afshar, Haleh. 1987. "Women, Marriage and the State in Iran." In *Women, State and Ideology: Studies from Africa and Asia*. (Reader)

Wilson-Moore, Margot. 1997. "Doing Their Homework: The Dilemma of Planning Women's Garden Programs in Bangladesh." Pp. 518-525 in *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective*. (Reader)

* *Proposal and bibliography due* *

Thurs Feb 8

Readings:

Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. 1997. "Women Workers and Capitalist Scripts: Ideologies of Domination, Common Interests, and the Politics of Solidarity." Pp. 3-29 in *Feminist Geneologies, Colonial Legacies, Democratic Futures*. (Reader)

Chant, Sylvia. 1985. "Single-parent Families: Choice or Constraint? The Formation of Female-headed Households in Mexican Shanty towns." In *Development and Change*. Vol. 16. (Reader)

Stephen, Lynn. 1997. "Women's Rights Are Human Rights: The Merging of Feminine and Feminist Interests among El Salvador's Mothers of the Disappeared (CO-MADRES)." Pp. 29-55 in *Women and Social Movements in Latin America*. (Reader)

Week five: Women's Bodies – Race, Sexuality, and Subjugation

Tues Feb 13

Readings:

The case method of learning. (Reader)

First case study:

Klouzal, Linda. 1997. "On the Threshold of Revolution: Political Crisis and Personal Struggle in Cuba in 1957." (Reader)

Thurs Feb 15:

Readings:

Sen, Gita. 1984. "Subordination and Sexual Control: A Comparative View of the Control of Women." In *Review of Radical Political Economies*. Vol. 16(1): 133-142. (Reader)

Randall, Margaret. 1995. "To Change Our Own Reality and The World: A Conversation with Lesbians in Nicaragua." Pp. 127-151 in *Our Voices Our Lives* (Reader)

Center for Women's Global Leadership. 1994. "Gender Violence and Women's Human Rights in Africa" (Reader)

Film one: *Women With Open Eyes*

Week six: Over Population – Who is the Excess?

Tues Feb 20:

Readings:

Hartmann, Betsy. 1995. Part one, "The Real Population Problem," in *Reproductive Rights and Wrongs*.

Thurs Feb 22:

Readings:

Hartmann, Betsy. 1995. Part two, in *Reproductive Rights and Wrongs*.

Film two: *Something Like a War*

Week seven: Women and Globalization part one: Political-Economy

Tues Feb 27

Readings:

Ward, Kathryn B., and Jean Larson Pyle. 1995. "Gender, Industrialization, Transnational Corporations, and Development: An Overview of Trends and Patterns." Pp. 37-64 in (WLADP).

Fernández-Kelly, María Patricia. 1984. "*Maquiladoras: The View from the Inside.*" In *My Troubles Are Going To Have Trouble With Me: Everyday Trials and Triumphs of Women Workers*. (Reader)

Lim, Linda Y.C. 1983. "Capitalism, Imperialism and Patriarchy: The Dilemma of Third World Women Workers in Multinational Factories." In *Women, Men, and the International Division of Labor*. (Reader)

Thurs Mar 1

Readings:

Fichtl, Eric. 1999. "A Beginner's Guide to Multilateral Lending in the 1990s." Pp. 16-20 in *NACLA: Report on the Americas*. (Reader)

Sparr, Pamela. 1994. "What is Structural Adjustment?" and "Feminist Critiques of Structural Adjustment" Pp. 1-39 in *Mortgaging Women's Lives*. (Reader)

Benería, Lourdes. 1992. "The Mexican Debt Crisis: Restructuring the Economy & the Household." Pp. 83-104 in *Unequal Burden*. (Reader)

Film three: *Hell to Pay*

Week eight: Political-Economy cont.

Tues Mar 6

Readings:

Second case study:

Vandegrift, Darcie. 1997. "What is Development? Who is the community?: Voices from a town meeting in indigenous Costa Rica." (Reader)

Thurs Mar 8 (International Women's Day)

Readings:

- Ho, L., C. Powell, et al. 2000. "(Dis)Assembling Rights of Women Workers along the Global Assembly Line: Human Rights and the Garment Industry." Pp. 377-391 in *Global Critical Race Feminism: An International Reader*. (Reader)
- Enloe, Cynthia. 1989. "On the Beach: Sexism and Tourism." Pp. 19-41 in *Bananas, Beaches & Bases*. (Reader)
- Blumberg, Rae Lesser. 1995. "Gender, Microenterprise, Performance, and Power: Case Studies from the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Swaziland." Pp. 194-226 in (WLADP)
- * *Outlines and introductions due* *

Week nine: Spring Break (March 12-16)

Week ten: Women and Globalization part two: The Environment

Tues Mar 20

Readings:

Dankelman, Irene, and Joan Davidson. 1988. *Women and Environment in the Third World: Alliance for the Future*. (Chapters 2-6)

Thurs Mar 22

Readings:

Dankelman, Irene, and Joan Davidson. 1988. *Women and Environment in the Third World* (Chapters 7-12)

Stewart, Sarah. 1996. "The price of the a perfect flower: environmental destruction and health hazards in the Colombian flower industry." Pp. 132-139 in *Green Guerrillas*. (Reader)

Film four: *Love, Women, and Flowers*

Week eleven: Women's Resistance in the Third World: Feminism and Revolution

Tues Mar 27

Readings:

Chuchryk, Patricia M. 1994. "From Dictatorship to Democracy: The Women's Movement in Chile." Pp. 65-107 in *The Women's Movement In Latin America*. (Reader)

López Vigil, María. 1998. "Cuban Women's History -- Jottings and Voices." Pp. 27-43 in *Envio*. (Reader)

Chinchilla, Norma Stoltz. 1995. "Revolutionary Popular Feminism in Nicaragua: Ideologies, Political Transitions, and the Struggle for Autonomy." Pp. 242-272 in (WLADP).

Thurs Mar 29

Readings:

Third case study:

Shayne, Julie. "Family, Feminism, and Nation: One Woman's Quest for an Answer in War-torn El Salvador." (Reader)

Week twelve: Women's Resistance cont.**Tues April 3***Readings:*

- Alvarez, Sonia E. 1998. "Latin American Feminisms "Go Global": Trends of the 1990s and Challenges for the New Millennium." Pp. 293-324 in *Cultures of Politics Politics of Cultures*. (Reader)
- Heng, Geraldine. 1997. "'A Great Way to Fly': Nationalism, the State and the Varieties of Third-World Feminism." Pp. 30-45 in *Feminist Genealogies, Colonial Legacies, Democratic Futures*. (Reader)

Thurs April 5*Readings:*

- Shayne, Julie. 2000. "*Subversive Femininity: Women and the Cuban Revolution (1952-1959)*." (Reader)
- Lobao, Linda. 1990. "Women in Revolutionary Movements: Changing Patterns of Latin American Guerrilla Struggle." Pp. 180-204 in *Women And Social Protest*. (Reader)
- Moghadam, Valentine. 1997. "Gender and Revolutions." Pp. 137-167 in *Theorizing Revolutions*. (Reader)

Film five: *Maria's Story***Week thirteen: Women, Colonialism, and Post-Colonialism****Tues April 10***Readings:*

Nervous Conditions – Panel discussion

Thurs April 12*Readings:*

- Byanyima, W. K. 1992. "Women in Political Struggle in Uganda." Pp. 129-142 in *Women Transforming Politics*. (Reader)
- Callamard, A. 1999. "Refugee Women: A Gendered and Political Analysis of the Refugee Experience." Pp. 196-214 in *Refugees: Perspectives on the Experience of Forced Migration*. (Reader)
- Matlou, P. 1999. "Upsetting the Cart: Forced Migration and Gender Issues, the African Experience." Pp. 128-145 in *Engendering Forced Migration: Theory and Practice*. (Reader)

Week fourteen: Feminist Development Strategies**Tues April 17***Readings:*

Sen, Gita, and Caren Grown. 1987. *Development, Crises, and Alternative Visions: Third World Women's Perspectives*. New York: Monthly Review Press.

Thurs April 19*Readings:*

Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. 1997. "Women Workers and Capitalist Scripts: Ideologies of Domination, Common Interests, and the Politics of Solidarity." Pp. 3-29 in *Feminist Geneologies, Colonial Legacies, Democratic Futures*. (Reader)

Rose, Kalima. 1997. "SEWA: Women in Movement." (Reader).

(We are the UN – what are our recommendations for the next century?)

Week fifteen: Research paper presentations

Tues April 24

Presentations on research papers

Thurs April 26

Presentations on research papers cont.

Research papers are dues by 5:00 pm, on Thurs May 4th in my office.