

Women and Development (Soc 32 – H1)

Fall 2005
Rm: Barnard 201
1:55 -2:50 pm
Ph. no: 463-5641

Instructor: Dr. Margaret Abraham
Off. Hrs. MF12:45-1:45 pm, W: 3:00-4:00 pm
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This Honors course examines the historical transformation of the roles of third world women in relation to the different modes of socio-economic organization within their respective societies and in the global context. The goal of this course is to provide students the opportunity to examine the socio-historical organization and transformation within "third world" countries (with a primary focus on Asia). Students will use concepts, theories, and methods from sociology and interdisciplinary fields to critically assess globalization and its impact on women from third world countries. The course will also challenge students to critically assess the impact of social, religious, economic, and political systems on women and the complex issues that evolve in the process of globalization. It will encourage them to look at global interdependence and large-scale global inequity. This semester we will devote a portion of the course to the migration of third world women as domestic workers as well as the impact of business outsourcing in the new global, economic and political order.

Grade Requirements:

Students will be graded on the following criteria:

- 1) Class participation (5%): Although the format of the course is primarily through lectures, student participation is considered important due to the nature of the topics covered in this course.
- 2) Mid-Term examination (20%): A combination of short answers and essay questions will be used in which students will demonstrate their knowledge of the material covered in the course.
- 3) Three term papers (each worth 20% of the total grade): Students will write three term papers.
 1. *Paper 1: Theory Paper*: (20% of the total grade) The First paper will focus on a critical analysis of the theoretical frameworks for the study of women and development. The first individual paper addresses the theoretical perspectives on Women and Development. The goal of this paper is to provide the students with theoretical and historical perspectives to understand the social complexities of women in relation to the development process. This gives a good grounding for the second paper, which has more of an empirical focus.
 2. *Cooperative (Group Project) Paper*: (20% of the total grade) The second paper will be a "cooperative" paper, which focuses on the impact of globalization on specific countries. Cooperatives will focus on a specific area in the field of

women and development for these countries. The composition of the students for the cooperatives and the countries to be researched will be determined by the instructor. Here the cooperative means a project done by a group of 5 students working together, where the individual grade will be the same as the grade assigned to the group. Individual input of each student will also be tracked and taken into consideration for the 5% allocated for participation. All the members of each cooperative will present the project in a 25 minute class presentation. Having examined cooperatives in developing societies from a textual perspective, the cooperative assignment provides an important practical tool for students to understand the rewards and costs of working as a group vis-à-vis an individual. This assignment builds leadership, teamwork and presentation skills.

3. *Case Study/Monograph Paper*: (20% of the total grade) The third paper is a reaction paper to a selected monograph. The selected book will allow each student to critically examine both the theoretical and empirical issues as put forth by the author (for this semester it will be on globalization of domestic workers) Students will be expected to draw upon multiple sources to do this assignment.

4) *Journal* (10% of total grade). All students have to keep notes on their reading material. Your notes journal will be checked periodically.

5) *Written review of three public speakers that speak at our Campus*: These speakers should be related to women and development issues. (5% of total grade)

Important: This class requires students to be regular with their reading.

Course Material

- 1) Nalini Visvanathan, Lynn Duggan, Lauri Nisonoff and Nan Wiegersma (ed.) The Women, Gender and Development Reader Zed Books 1997. **(WG&DR)**
- 2) Maria Mies Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale Zed 1998 **(MM)**
- 3) Rhacel Salazar Parrenas Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration, and Domestic Work Stanford University Press, 2001 **(RSP)**
- 4) Mills, Mary Beth. Thai Women in the Global Labor Force: Consuming Desires, Contested Selves **(MMB)**
- 5) Selected Articles: Electronic Reserve under W&D Soc 32 (honors) under Prof. Abraham

Additional Recommended Readings from:

- Ehrenreich, Barbara and Hochschild Arlie Russel (ed) Global Women: Nannies, Maids and Sex Workers in the New Economy Owl Books 2002.
- Purkayastha, Bandana and M. Subramaniam The Power of Informal Networks: Lessons in Social Change from South Asia and West Africa, published by Lexington Books, an imprint of Rowman and Littlefield, 2004.

- Women in the Third World: an Encyclopedia of Contemporary Issues. New York: Garland Pub. 1998.
- World Survey on the Role of Women in Development. New York: United Nations, 1999.
- Hondagneu-Sotelo, Peirrette *Domestica: Immigrant Workers Cleaning and Caring in the Shadows of Affluence* University of California Press. 2001
- Eileen Boris and Elizabeth Prugl (ed.). Homeworkers in a Global Perspective. Routledge, 1996.

COURSE OUTLINE

Unit 1:A Framework for the Study of Women and Development

This section focuses on conceptualizing development. Starting with a historical overview of the notion of development, we begin by examining value systems, ethical issues, and gender biases that have had an impact on this concept, and briefly contrast western development to that of the colonial and contemporary experiences of the third world countries (also called developing countries or the Southern Countries/ the South). Various debates over theories of underdevelopment/development and the different perspectives that have contributed to the field of women, gender, and development are also discussed.

Sept. 7	W	Introduction and brief course overview
Sept. 9	F	Mapping session – Map assignment
Sept. 12	M	WG&DR Introduction and Article # 1
Sept. 14	W	WG&DR Introduction to part 1 Articles # 1 & 2
Sept. 16	F	WG&DR Articles # 3
Sept. 19	M	WG&DR #5
Sept. 21	W	WG&DR Articles # 7& 8
Sept. 23	F	WG&DR Article # 9

September 30th **ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE** *Paper: History and Theories of Women and Development*

Unit 2: Colonization and the Sexual division of labor

This section examines the role of Imperialism and colonization on women’s lives.

Sept. 26	M	Mies, Maria “Colonization and Housewifization” in <i>Patriarchy & Accumulation on a World Scale</i> . Zed Press 1998. pp. 74-111
Sept. 28	W	Electronic reserve: Sangari and Vaid :Recasting Women: An introduction in <i>Recasting Women: Essays in Colonial History</i> .
Sept. 30	F	Recasting women (continued)

Unit 3 Nationalism and Women’s Liberation

This section examines the linkages between Nationalist movements and women’s liberation. It briefly examines the position of women in the post nationalist period.

Oct. 3	M	Jayawardena, Kumari Feminism and Nationalism in the Third World : Introduction (<i>Electronic reserve</i>)
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Oct.	7	F	Jayawardena, Kumari Feminism and Nationalism in the Third World : Emancipation and Subordination in Sri Lanka (Electronic reserve)
Oct.	10	M	Mies, Maria “National Liberation and Women’s Liberation” in <i>Patriarchy & Accumulation on a World Scale</i> . Zed Press 1998. pp. 175-204.
Oct.	14	F	Mies, National Liberation and Women’s Liberation (Continued)

Unit 4: Households and Families

This section examines the dynamics in families and the relationship among women and between women and men within the household in the context of development. This section will also address violence against women in households and families.

Oct.	19	W	WG&DR	Articles # 11
Oct.	21	F	WG&DR	Article # 12
Oct.	24	M	WG&DR	Article # 13

Oct. 17 M MIDTERM EXAM

Unit 5: The International Division of Labor

This section addresses some of the ways that the international Capital rediscovered third world women with a special focus on the role of Thai women in the global labor force.

Oct.	26	W	Mies, Maria “Housewifization International: Women and the new International Division of Labor” in <i>Patriarchy & Accumulation on a World Scale</i> . Zed Press 1998 pp.112-144.
Oct.	28	F	Mills, Mary Beth. <u>Thai Women in the Global Labor Force: Consuming Desires, Contested Selves</u> Chs. 1-3
Oct.	31	M	Mills, Mary Beth. <u>Thai Women in the Global Labor Force: Consuming Desires, Contested Selves</u> Chs. 4-6
Nov.	2	W	Mills, Mary Beth. <u>Thai Women in the Global Labor Force: Consuming Desires, Contested Selves</u> Chs. 7-9
Nov.	4	F	Class discussion and Film

Unit 5: Linking Theory and Practice Students will present their cooperative project on an assigned country or industry. Each presentation will be followed by a question answer session. Cooperatives will focus on a specific area in the field of women and development for these countries. The composition of the students for the cooperatives and the countries to be researched will be determined by the instructor.

Nov.	7	M	Groups 1& 2
Nov.	9	W	Groups 3& 4
Nov.	11	F	Groups 5& 6

November 7th ASSIGNMENT II DUE *Cooperative Project: Full paper, Outline for distribution in class and Student project tracking sheet*

Unit 6: Special Topic: Women, Migration and Domestic Work This section will focus on domestic immigrant workers in the new economy. We examine the migration of

third world women as domestic workers to meet the demands of countries such as the United States. We will also address the ways domestic workers forge transnational ties and the complexity of identity, family and community in the new global, economic and political order. Issues of class and the divide between women and men and rich and poor women will also be addressed in the ongoing process of globalization.

Nov. 14	M	Rhacel Salazar Parrenas, <u>Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration, and Domestic Work Ch. 1</u> Hondagneu-Sotelo, Peirrette <i>Domestica</i> Part 1
Nov. 16	W	Rhacel Salazar Parrenas, <u>Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration, and Domestic Work Ch. 2</u>
Nov. 18	F	Rhacel Salazar Parrenas, <u>Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration, and Domestic Work Ch. 3</u> Hondagneu-Sotelo, Peirrette <i>Domestica</i> Part 1
Nov. 21	M	Rhacel Salazar Parrenas, <u>Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration, and Domestic Work Ch. 4</u>
Nov. 28	M	Class discussion on Paper Three Rhacel Salazar Parrenas, <u>Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration, and Domestic Work Ch. 5</u>
Nov. 30	W	Class discussion on Paper Three Rhacel Salazar Parrenas, <u>Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration, and Domestic Work Ch. 6</u>

Unit 7: Women Organizing for Change This section examines how women have organized themselves for social change and capacity building.

Dec. 2	F	<u>Building Women Capacities</u> Articles 1 & 3 (Electronic Reserve)
Dec. 5	M	WG&DR Article # 33 34
Dec. 7	W	WG&DR Article # 34
Dec. 9	F	Open Forum: Where do we go from here?
Dec. 12	M	Open Forum: The role of Students in organization for change: Global and Local

Dec. 12 Reading day **ASSIGNMENT III DUE** *Reaction Paper on Servants of globalization*