

**Department:** Women Studies

**Course No:** 1124 [124]

**Credits:** 3

**Title:** Gender in a Global Perspective

**Contact:** Marita McComiskey

**Content Area:** CA2-Social Sciences and CA4 Diversity and Multiculturalism- International

**Diversity:** CA4 International

**Catalog Copy:** Exploration of the construction and reproduction of gender inequality and the gendered nature of global structures and processes. Key topics include women's rights as human rights; women's work; gender, development, and the global economy; migration; religious fundamentalism; reproduction, health, and HIV/AIDS; education; violence against women; and gender, war, and peace advocacy.

**Course Information:** a. The course explores the construction and reproduction of gender inequality in global perspective as well as the diverse ways women resist these processes in science, medicine, labor, the welfare state, law, and politics. Throughout the course, we will maintain a sensitivity to the diversity of experiences across class, racial-ethnic groups, sexualities, cultures and regions.

b. 3 quizzes; course books and selected other readings, 20-30 pages per class period; 5 reaction papers of at least 3 pages in length with students' reactions to assigned readings.

c. women's movements, women's studies, and feminism in historical perspective; multi-cultural feminisms; international perspectives on feminism and women's movements; gender, science and environmental activism; political economy of gender; gender immigration and international politics; gender, war, and militarism; state repression and women's resistance.

**Meets Goals of Gen Ed:** 1. Become articulate: enrich the students' knowledge of women's cultures, customs, laws and histories that may be foreign to their own, and provide them with skills that will enable them to be conversant not only on these topics, but instill in them a lifelong ability to listen, learn and exchange ideas

2. By exposing students to cultures other than their own, we hope to expand their understanding of the politics, cultures, religions and people from around the world, thus enabling them to acquire a larger, more flexible view of the world

3. This course will challenge students to think about "accepted" practices, and to formulate their own opinions and decisions based on the expanded viewpoint this course can offer them

4. This course will expose students to foreign cultures and value systems, with the hope that students will learn and understand that there is never one "right" belief system.

5. By exploring other cultures, students will be exposed to ideas other than the ones they have grown up with. Students may not be aware of the politics, society and culture outside the US - this class concentrates on the international status of women in juxtaposition to the status of women in the US.

6. This course will challenge students to think critically about diverse sociological and multicultural issues from around the world

7. Acquire a working understanding of the processes by which they can continue to acquire and use knowledge gained in the course for negotiating the changing world around them.

**CA2 Criteria:** a.. Our goal in this course is to render visible the historical, sociological, economic, and political processes that shape women's lives in different parts of the world. These processes serve to reinforce gender inequality. The course will introduce students to social scientific theories and concepts as they relate to constructions of gender. These include the analysis of the role of gender at the level of individual, community, nation-state, and international relations.

b. Assignments include opportunities to gain knowledge of and some experience in the variety of introductory research methods on gender and everyday life. For each assignment there will be a discussion of the ethical dilemmas involved in conducting different types of research such as how to ensure confidentiality and anonymity and other responsibilities towards research subjects.

c. The course introduces students to the analysis of historical, political and economic processes that differentially shape women's and men's lives in different parts of the world. The course discusses a variety of topics that involve the way in which international processes are shaped by the interaction of individuals, groups, institutions, and nation-states as well as explore how contemporary processes of globalization shapes local experiences. These include the study of immigration, transnational movements, labor, and consumer practices.

d. In addition to developing research methods skills, students will also be trained in other forms of analysis such as those required for the REACTION PAPERS which require students to write critical assessments of five different themes of the course chosen from the following: 1. Women's Movements, Women's Studies, and Feminism in Historical Perspective; 2. Multicultural Feminisms; 3. International Perspectives on Feminism and Women's Movements; 4. Gender, Science, and Environmental Activism; 5. Political Economy of Gender; 6. Gender, Immigration, and International Politics; 7. Gender, War, and Militarism; and 8. State Repression and Women's Resistance. Feminist methodology provides students with analytical tools to engage in critical assessment of the major debates related to gender in global perspective with particular attention to the relationship between the local experiences of gender and global processes.

**CA4 Criteria:** a. This course explores construction and reproduction of gender inequality in global perspective and the diverse ways women resist these processes. The course maintains a sensitivity to the diversity of experiences across class, racial-ethnic groups, sexualities, cultures, and regions.

b. The pedagogical strategies developed to train students in the understanding the processes by which social structures and interpretive systems are cultural creations include analyses of constructions of science, racial categories, and national borders.

**Role of Grad Students:** Many of these sections can be taught by advanced graduate assistants who are candidates for a graduate certificates in Women's Studies. All grad assistants teaching this course will

have taken a graduate course in feminist pedagogy and/or attend the monthly Feminist Pedagogy discussion groups for faculty and teaching assistants.

When large sections of this course are taught by faculty, teaching assistants facilitate discussion sections under the direct supervision of faculty. Weekly meetings are held to discuss the curriculum and major themes that should be emphasized in the discussion groups as well as to discuss the best pedagogical strategies. The faculty member will also observe each graduate TA at least two times during the semester to provide feedback to them as well as to ensure the consistency of implementation of the curriculum. Grading of exams and other assignments are also discussed in advance during the weekly sessions and criteria is provided upon which each of the assignments should be graded.

**Supplemental Information:** Previously titled Changing Roles of Women and Men in a Global Perspective, WS 124, Gender in a Global Perspective has filled the Group 5B general education requirement for many years. One of the most popular gen ed courses, students have benefited greatly from the global perspective. We have attempted to meet the increased demand by adding additional sections.