

Women, the State and Development

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Course Description

In a New Year editorial in the New York Times, noted historian Paul Kennedy wrote, "Improving the condition of women in development countries, especially their access to education, would be the single most important move to bettering mankind's social Condition." (New York Times, January 3, 1993.)

This course will examine why women have not so far been central to mainstream development policies and why they must now be. We will look at the impact of various forms of economic and political development on women's lives in poor countries, and the issues around which women are organizing politically. Through case studies of Peru, Bangladesh, Iran and China, and examination of global trends, we will explore similarities and differences among the experiences of women from various cultures, family systems, classes and sectors of the economy. Our perspective will be to see women not as victims, but as survivors, shapers, and often resisters.

In the second half of the course we will examine several current development issues around which women are organizing internationally. Despite these initiatives, however, many problems persist. There is a growing recognition that the incorporation of women into development programs has increased women's burdens. Thus the women's movement is increasingly critical of the very notion of "development", and is arguing for an alternative.

Course Objectives

1. To explore and critique differing perspectives on the nature of development and the concept of the third world.
2. To learn about the diversity of women's lives in the third world and to see third world women as actors, not objects or victims.
3. To explore connections between the first and third worlds, both in terms of needs for development and issues faced by women.

Course Readings

Recommended for Purchase: (also on Library Reserve)

- Bourque, Susan C. and Kay Barbara Warren. 1981. *Women of the Andes: Patriarchy and Social Change in Two Peruvian Towns* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan).
- White, Sara. 1992. *Arguing with a Crocodile* (London: Zed)
- Mies, Maria. 1986. *Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale: Women in the International Division of Labour* (London: Zed)
- Momsen, Janet Henshall. 1991. *Women and Development in the Third World* (New York: Routledge)
- Sen, Gita and Caren Grown. 1987. *Development Crises and Alternative Visions* (New York: Monthly Review)
- Deere, Carmen Diana. 1990. *In the Shadows of the Sun* (Boulder: Westview Press)
- Rodda, Annabel. 1991. *Women and the Environment* (London: Zed)
- Martin, Susan Forbes. 1991. *Refugee Women* (London: Zed)

Packets: All other materials will be available on Library Reserve, both as individually listed articles or books and as a packet in a box marked Elliott 179. Note that there will be two boxes marked Elliott 179, one with the required readings and one (marked 179 Rec.) with recommended readings and other materials we insert as they arise. Students may wish to take materials from the box for copying, and are urged to return them promptly for the use of other students. The instructor will also have a packet of materials available for students to borrow for copying.

Videos: Videos owned by UVM will be on Library Reserve and may be viewed in the Library Media room on the ground floor. Rented videos will be shown in class and not be available at other times.

Course Requirements

- 1) Class attendance and preparation of assigned readings for discussion in class. (10%)
- 2) Weekly journals to record responses to the reading and to identify common issues we share with third world women. At times the instructor will distribute questions to be answered in the journal. Students should write 3-5 pages per week, and keep a running table of contents of entries to facilitate the instructor's reading. Journals will be called in occasionally for grading on dates announced in the previous class. (20%)
- 3) Medium length research paper (5-8 pages) on one of the development issues in the second half of the course. (20%)
- 4) Mid-term and final examinations. (20% and 30%)

Note on grading: Papers and journals are due at the beginning of class. Late journals and papers will lose one grade per day. There will be no excuses or make-up examinations except with a note from a doctor or the dean's office. In the grading of the paper, form and style will be taken into account; no paper will receive an A grade that has mistakes in grammar, spelling or use of words. The journals will not be graded as strictly, but they should be used as practice in writing.

Course Schedule

A. Introduction: Development, Feminist Critiques of Development, and Third World Critiques of Feminism

Charlton, Sue Ellen. 1984. "Development as History and Process," *Women in Third World Development* (Boulder: Westview

Press), pp. 7-28. (packet)

Report of the South Commission. 1990. *The Challenge to the South*, pp. 25-73, 128-131. (packet)
Momsen, 1-28.

Rathgeber, Eva. 1990. "WID, WAD, GAD: Trends in Research and Practice," *Journal of Developing Areas*, Vol. 20, pp. 489-

502. (packet)

Mies, pp. 6-41.

Mohanty, Chandra. 1991. "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses," *Third World Women and the*

Politics of Feminism (Bloomington: Indiana University), pp. 51-74. (packet)

B. Patriarchy and the Sexual Division of Labor

Bourque and Warren, pp. 1-179. 211-218.

White, pp. 27-141.

Video: "Dadi's Family"

Kandiyoti, Deniz. 1988. "Bargaining with Patriarchy," *Gender and Society*, Vol. 2 (3), pp. 274-290. (packet)

Mies, pp. 44-73.

recommended:

- Lerner, Gerda. 1986. *The Creation of Patriarchy*, (New York: Oxford) pp. 212-220. (packet)
- Weiss, Anita. 1992. *Walls Within Walls: Life Histories of Working Women in the Old City of Lahore* (Boulder: Westview)
pp. 113-159.
- Agarwal, Bina. 1988. "Women, Land and Ideology in India," Agarwal (ed.) *Structures of Patriarchy*, pp. 70-90.

C. Women in the Market Economy

- Momsen, pp. 28-93.
- Harrison, Faye. 1991. "Women in Jamaica's Urban Informal Economy: Insights from a Kingston Slum," Mohanty et al. (eds.),
Third World Women, pp. 173-189. (packet)
- Bhatt, Ela. 1989. "Toward Empowerment," *World Development*, Vol.17 (7), pp. 1059-1065. (packet)
video: "Raji and Kamala"

recommended:

- Waring, Marilyn. 1988. *If Women Counted: A New Feminist Economics* (San Francisco: Harper and Row), pp. 14-46, 276- 298.
- Bruce, J. 1989. "Homes Divided," *World Development*, Vol. 17 (7), pp. 979-989. (packet)
- Moser, Caroline. 1987. "Women, Human Settlements, and Housing: A Conceptual Framework for Analysis and Policy Making," *Women Human Settlements and Housing*, pp. 12-32. (packet)

recommended:

- Gulati, Leela. 1982. "Devaki, the Construction Worker," *Profiles in Female Poverty* (Oxford: Pergamon), pp.99-130.

D. Women and the State

Colonialism

- Mies, pp. 74-78, 88-111.
- Staudt, Kathleen. 1989. "The State and Gender in Colonial Africa," Sue Ellen Charlton, *Women, the State and Development*
(Albany: SUNY), pp. 66-85.(packet)
- Liddle, Joanna and Rama Joshi. 1985. "Gender and Imperialism in British India", *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 20 (43),
pp. WS 72-78.

recommended:

- Schmidt, Elizabeth. 1991. "Patriarchy, Capitalism and the Colonial State in Zimbabwe," *Signs*, Vol. 16 (4), pp. 732-756.

Religious Fundamentalism

- Haeri, Shahla. 1991. "Obedience versus Autonomy: Women and Fundamentalism in Iran and Pakistan," Marty, M.(ed.)
Fundamentalisms and Society, Vol. 2 (Appleby), pp. 181-205. (packet)
- Tabari, Azar, 1986. "The Women's Movement in Iran: a Hopeful Prognosis," *Feminist Studies*, Vol. 12 (2),pp. 343-359. (packet)
- Chhachhi, Amrita. 1989. "The State, Religious Fundamentalism and Women," *Economic and Political Weekly*, March 18,
1989, pp. 567-577.

Socialism

- Mies, pp. 175-204.

Davin, Delia. 1991. "Chinese Models of Development and Their Implications for Women," Afshar, Haleh (ed.) *Women: Development and Survival in the Third World* (London: Longman), pp. 30-49. (packet)

recommended:

Molyneux, Maxine. 1985. "Mobilization without Emancipation: Women's Interests, the State and Revolution in Nicaragua," *Feminist Studies* Vol. 11 (2), pp. 227-252. (packet)

E. Developmental Issues

Overview

Sen and Grown, pp. 9-77.

Rural Development

Shiva, Vandana. 1989. *Staying Alive: Women. Ecology and Development* (London: Zed), pp. 96-135. (packet)

Deere, Carmen Diana. 1987. "The Latin American Land Reform Experience," *Rural Women and State Policy* (Boulder: Westview), pp. 165-186.

Shrijvers, Joke. 1988. "Blueprint for Undernourishment: The Mahaweli River Development Scheme in Sri Lanka," Agarwal, Bina (ed.) *Structures of Patriarchy*(London: Zed), pp. 29-48.

New International Division of Labor

Linda Y. C. Lim. 1989. "Women's Work in Export Factories: The Politics of a Cause," Tinker, Irene (ed.) *Persistent Inequalities* (New York: Oxford University Press), pp. 101-119. (packet)

Ong, Aihwa. 1991. "The Gender and Labor Politics of Postmodernity," *Annual Review of Anthropology*, Vol. 20, pp. 279-309.

Truong, Thanh-Dam. 1990. *Sex Money and Morality* (London: Zed), pp. 123-129, 149-191. (packet)

recommended:

Arizpe, Lourdes and Josefina Arande. 1986. "Women Workers in the Strawberry Agribusiness in Mexico," Leacock, Eleanor and Helen Safa (eds.) *Women's Work* (South Hadley: Bergin and Garvey), pp. 174-193.

Safa, Helen. 1990. "Women and Industrialisation in the Caribbean," Stichter, Sharon and Jane Parpart (eds.) *Women*.

Employment and the Family in the International Division of Labour (Philadelphia: Temple), pp. 72-95.

Structural Adjustment

Deere, pp. 1 121, 187-204. Ashworth, Georgina. 1992. "Politicising Gender and Structural Adjustment," Afshar, Haleh and Carolyne Dennis (eds.) *Women and Adjustment Policies in the Third World* (New York: St. Martin's Press), pp. 233-250. (packet)

Employment

Moser, Caroline. 1991. "Gender Planning in the Third World: Meeting Practical and Strategic Needs," Grant, Rebecca and

Kathleen Newland (eds.) *Gender and International Relations* (Bloomington: Indiana), pp. 83-111. (packet)

Leonard, Ann. 1989. *Seeds: Supporting Women's Work in the Third World*, (New York: The Feminist Press), pp. 31-50, 163-187. (packet)

Environment

Rodda, pp. 1-7, 47-58, 81-154.

Silliman, Jael. 1992. "Presentation to Conference on Population, Development and the Environment: The Earth Summit

Debate." (packet)

Seager, Joni. 1991. "Making Feminist Sense of Environmental Issues," *Sojourner* (Boston).

Health and Reproduction

Germain, Adrienne and Jane Ordway. June 1989. *Population Control and Women's Health*, International Women's Health

Coalition.

Petchesky, Rosalind. June 1990. "Feminist Perspectives on Reproductive Rights Since 1985," in "Global Feminist

Perspectives on Reproductive Rights and Reproductive Health," Report on the Special Sessions Held at the Fourth International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women, Hunter College, New York, pp. 1-9.

Dixon-Mueller, Ruth. 1987. "U.S. International Population Policy and 'The Woman Question',"

International Law and Politics,

Vol. 20, pp. 143-167.

recommended:

Hartmann, Betsy. 1987. *Reproductive Rights and Wrongs*, pp. 3-91, 126-160, 227-241, 271-296.

Refugees

Martin, pp. 1-102.

Sexual Violence and Human Rights

Mies, pp. 145-174.

Heise, Lori. 1989. "Crimes of Gender," Worldwatch Institute.

Bunch, Charlotte and Roxanna Carrillo. "Gender Violence, A Development and Human Rights Issue,"

(Rutgers: Center on

Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University.)

Fraser, Arvonne and Miranda Kazantsis. August 1992. "The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination

Against Women and Violence Against Women," International Women's Rights Action Watch, (University of Minnesota: Hubert Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs) pp. 1-4, 28-33, 42-44.

video: "No Longer Silent"

F. Women's Activism in Political Struggles

Safa, Helen. 1990. "Women's Social Movements in Latin America," *Gender and Society*, Vol. 4 (3), pp. 354-368.

Barrig, Maruja. 1989. "The Difficult Equilibrium Between Bread and Roses," Jaquette, Jane (ed.) *The Women's Movement in*

Latin America (Boston: Unwin Hyman), pp. 114-146.

video: "Des Madres: The Mothers of Plaza De Mayo"

G. What Next?

Sen and Grown, pp. 78-end.