

Freshman Seminar
GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA
SOCI 041-401/AMES 084-401/WSTD 041-401
(Draft Syllabus, 8/19/2004)

Time: Tuesday-Thursday 12-1:30PM

Location: McNeil 395

Office Hours: 2:30-4:30 Wednesday and by appointment, 247 McNeil

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Overview

This seminar will focus on gendered experiences of socio-economic development in Asia. We will discuss prominent theories about the relationship between gender stratification and development, considering frameworks that emphasize the role of economic growth, state policies, global development agencies, globalization, and national and regional cultures. We will learn about and use sources of empirical data for research on gender and women in Asia. Finally, we will discuss empirical research about gender issues across the life course, considering topics such as children's health, nutrition, schooling and work, adult women's health and reproductive health and rights, gender and the family, and gender, employment and income.

The class will be conducted as a mix of overview lectures, demonstrations of how to access data sources, discussions of readings and student research, and viewing and discussion of films. Each student will write brief papers reacting to selected readings and will write a case study on an issue of his or her choice. In addition, through a series of guided group exercises, the class will produce a "handbook" of country studies of gender issues in Asia.

Course Objectives

- Introduce students to a selection of current social problems related to gender and development in the Asian context
- Familiarize students with social science frameworks for formulating and answering questions about these problems
- Familiarize students with a variety of data sources and research approaches for addressing questions
- Provide a structured opportunity for guided research on gender-related questions

Pedagogical Approach

This class will take advantage of the flexible structure of a seminar to adopt a variety of pedagogical approaches. Whenever possible, we will seek to use the following structure for each substantive topic: 1) Brief presentation of a region-wide overview of the nature and scope of the issue, and resources available for conducting research on that issue. 2) Discussion of particularly interesting case studies (usually in the form of readings but sometimes in the form of films). 3) Completion of an exercise in which students compile and interpret evidence on the topic of discussion for a particular country. Throughout, we will consider links back to the theoretical frameworks discussed the start of the class.

Class Policies

Assignment Submission Policy

Assignments are due by the **start of class on the specified due date**. Please submit a paper copy, and use the Blackboard Digital Drop Box to submit an electronic backup copy. You are responsible to make sure that both copies are submitted to me. Late submission (including submission at the end of class) will result in a reduction of the assignment score by ten percent per day. **Please note:** in fairness to all class members, I cannot make exceptions to this policy except in cases of well-documented emergencies, such as medical emergencies.

Evaluation Policy

In general, assignments will be evaluated on two scales: (1) substantive merit and (2) logic, flow, and clarity of writing. Regarding the first point, assignments must exhibit evidence that students have made full use of appropriate academic databases available through Penn's library. Regarding the second, papers should be well organized, the writing should be polished, and the text should not contain typographical, grammatical, or spelling errors.

The format for assignments submitted should follow the style guidelines contained in this document: <http://www.popassoc.org/DemographyStyleGuide.pdf>. We will discuss these guidelines at the start of the semester.

Academic Integrity

Please note that an important element of academic integrity is fully and correctly attributing any materials taken from the work of others. Feel free to consult with me before completing assignments if you have concerns about the correct way to reference the work of others.

More generally, please familiarize yourself with Penn's Code of Academic Integrity, <http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/osl/acadint.html>, which applies to this course. Of course, I do not anticipate any problems with academic integrity. In the unlikely event that any concerns do arise on this score, I will forward all related materials to Penn's Office of Student Conduct, <http://www.upenn.edu/osc/index.html>, for an impartial adjudication.

Readings

The books listed below have been placed on order at the Penn Book Center (www.pennbookcenter.com). The Penn Book Center is located at 130 S. 34th St. (34th and Sansom Streets) Philadelphia, PA 19104, Phone: (215) 222-7600, Fax: (215) 222-7610, E-mail: anick@juno.com. Hours are Monday-Friday 10am-6pm and Saturday 10am-4pm (closed on Sunday).

1. Croll, Elisabeth. 2001. *Endangered Daughters: Discrimination and Development in Asia*. London: Routledge. ISBN: 0415247659
2. Rhacel Salazar Parrenas. 2001. *Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration and Domestic Work*. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press. ISBN: 0804739226.
3. Brinton, Mary [ed.]. 2001. *Women's Working Lives in East Asia*. Chicago: Stanford University Press. ISBN: 0804743541
4. Fernandes, Leela. 1997. *Producing Workers: The Politics of Gender, Class, and Culture in the Calcutta Jute Mills (Critical Histories)*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. ISBN: 0812215974
5. Mills, Mary Beth. 1999. *Thai Women In The Global Labor Force: Consuming Desires, Contested Selves*. Piscataway, NJ: Rutgers University Press. ISBN: 081352654X

All other reading materials will be posted as e-reserves on the course Blackboard site, and will be identified by the class number in attached schedule.

Course Requirements

Course requirements are described below. Assignment lengths, grading weights, and deadlines are summarized in the attached schedule.

Reaction Papers

Students will write reaction papers for 4 of the 5 books assigned for the "book discussion" classes. Each reaction paper should be in essay format (introduction, body, conclusion) and should express and justify an opinion about one of the arguments

made by the author. Critique the theory or assumptions behind the argument, and evaluate the nature and strength of the evidence that the author uses. Each reaction paper should also contain two questions that you would be interested in discussing in class.

Case Studies

Students will write a short research paper on an issue related to gender issues in Asia. This paper should assess a social problem, and draw linkages to one of the theoretical frameworks discussed in class. The paper should be written in essay format, and should contain references to at least 15 books and journal articles.

“Handbook” Assignments

A main element of this class will be working together to compile a handbook on gender issues and development in Asia. Groups of two students will work to put together an overview of gender issues in a country. Much of the work will involve guided, in-class exercises (together with some out-of-class time), which result in 2-3 page topic summaries that will be submitted to me.

Students will integrate these exercises at the end of class to produce and present a paper that summarizes gender issues in the selected country and places these issues in the context of frameworks discussed in class or readings. Using funds from a small grant from Women’s Studies, I will copy and bind the full document at the end of the term, and make it available to interested students.

Specific guidelines for the handbook assignments will be provided during in-class exercises.

Class Participation

Because much of this class will revolve around student research, participation is very important. Students enrolling in this class should come to class prepared for discussion and participation in in-class exercises.

Students should also anticipate full participation in the group handbook project. When handbook exercises are submitted, each student should independently submit to me a confidential, short paragraph describing his or her own contribution to the project. This information will assist me as I evaluate student participation in the class.

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Assignment Schedule

Assignment	Due	Length	Weight (%)
<i>Individual:</i>			
Reaction Papers for 4 out of 5 Assigned Books.			
Croll	Tuesday, September 28, 2004	1-2 Pages	9
Brinton	Thursday, October 21, 2004	1-2 Pages	9
Fernandes	Tuesday, November 02, 2004	1-2 Pages	9
Mills	Tuesday, November 16, 2004	1-2 Pages	9
Salazar Parrenas	Tuesday, November 23, 2004	1-2 Pages	9
Case Study Proposal	Thursday, October 28, 2004	1-2 Pages	4
Case Study	Thursday, November 18, 2004	5-7 Pages	20
Participation in Discussion, In-Class Activities, Group Projects	NA	NA	10
<i>Group:</i>			
Handbook Topic Summaries			
Gender and Child Welfare	Tuesday, September 28, 2004	2-3 Pages	3
Gender, Health and Mortality	Tuesday, October 12, 2004	2-3 Pages	3
Gender, Work and Family	Thursday, November 04, 2004	2-3 Pages	3
Globalization and Women's Work	Tuesday, November 30, 2004	2-3 Pages	3
Handbook Chapter Draft	Thursday, December 09, 2004	10-12 Pages	5
Presentation	Thursday, December 09, 2004	NA	3
Final Handbook Chapter	Thursday, December 16, 2004	10-12 Pages	10
Total:			100

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Class Schedule

Class and Date	Topic	Preparatory Readings	Class Activities
1 Thursday, September 09, 2004	Introduction to the Course	(Syllabus)	Lecture/Discussion
2 Tuesday, September 14, 2004	Library Resources for Research on Gender and Development	(None-Handouts in Class)	Lecture/Discussion
3 Thursday, September 16, 2004	Frameworks for Understanding Gender and Development	(E-Reserves 3)	Lecture/Discussion
4 Tuesday, September 21, 2004	Gender and Child Welfare: Overview and Indicators	(E-Reserves 4)	Lecture/Discussion
5 Thursday, September 23, 2004	Handbook Workshop: Child Welfare	(None-Handouts in Class)	Computer Lab
6 Tuesday, September 28, 2004	Gender and Child Welfare: Son Preference in Asia	Croll	Book Discussion
7 Thursday, September 30, 2004	Country Presentations and Feedback: Child Welfare	(Student-Prepared Country Summaries)	Student Presentations and Discussion of Student Work
8 Tuesday, October 05, 2004	Gender, Health and Mortality: Overview and Indicators	(E-Reserves 8)	Lecture/Discussion
9 Thursday, October 07, 2004	Handbook Workshop: Gender, Health and Mortality	(None-Handouts in Class)	Computer Lab
10 Tuesday, October 12, 2004	Women's Reproductive Health and Rights	(E-Reserves 10)	Lecture/Discussion
11 Thursday, October 14, 2004	Country Presentations and Feedback: Gender, Health and Mortality	(Student-Prepared Country Summaries)	Student Presentations and Discussion of Student Work
12 Tuesday, October 19, 2004	Gender, Work and Family: Overview and Indicators	(E-Reserves 12)	Lecture/Discussion
13 Thursday, October 21, 2004	Gender, Work and Family: East Asian NICs	Brinton	Video Clip Viewing, <i>Millions of Japanese Women Rejecting Duty and Motherhood</i> ; Book Discussion

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Class and Date	Topic	Preparatory Readings	Class Activities
Tuesday, October 26, 2004 No Class--Fall Break			
14	Thursday, October 28, 2004 Handbook Workshop: Gender, Work and Family	(None-Handouts in Class)	Computer Lab
15	Tuesday, November 02, 2004 Gender, Work and Family: China	(E-Reserves 15)	Book Discussion
16	Thursday, November 04, 2004 Gender, Work and Family: Calcutta	Fernandes	Book Discussion
17	Tuesday, November 09, 2004 Country Presentations and Feedback: Gender, Work and Family	(Student-Prepared Country Summaries)	Student Presentations and Discussion of Student Work
18	Thursday, November 11, 2004 Globalization and Women's Work: Overview and Indicators	(E-Reserves 18)	Lecture/Discussion
19	Tuesday, November 16, 2004 Globalization and Women's Work: Thailand Example	Mills	Book Discussion
20	Thursday, November 18, 2004 Handbook Workshop: Globalization and Women's Work	(None-Handouts in Class)	Computer Lab
21	Tuesday, November 23, 2004 Globalization and Women's Work: Philippines Example	Salazar Parrenas	Start Film Viewing: <i>When Mother Comes Home for Christmas (109 Mins).</i>
Thursday, November 25, 2004 No Class--Thanksgiving Break			
22	Tuesday, November 30, 2004 Globalization and Women's Work: Philippines Example Cont'd	Salazar Parrenas	Finish <i>When Mother Comes Home</i> ; Book Discussion
23	Thursday, December 02, 2004 Country Presentations and Feedback: Globalization and Women's Work	(Student-Prepared Country Summaries)	Student Presentations and Discussion of Student Work
22	Tuesday, December 07, 2004 Globalization and Women's Work: Trafficking	(E-Reserves 22)	Film Viewing: <i>Trading Women (60 Mins.)</i>

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24	Thursday, December 09, 2004	Handbook Workshop: Presentations and Review of Final Handbook Chapters	(Student-Prepared Chapter Drafts)	Presentations and Feedback
25	Tuesday, December 14, 2004	Handbook Workshop: Presentations and Review of Final Handbook Chapters (Continued)	(Student-Prepared Chapter Drafts)	Presentations and Feedback