This course is an interdisciplinary exploration of the roles of women in cross cultural settings; it incorporates a broad spectrum of topics and geographical territories ranging from Asia, Africa, Latin America to Canada. Using feminist praxis, this course will generate multi-faceted approaches for examining women’s experiences and women’s lives in their cultural, historical, political and social contexts. We will attempt to explore/interpret how women’s lives as well as women’s rights have been constrained and shaped not only by religion and culture, but also by the state, class location, and neo-colonization/imperialism.

The objective of this course is to go beyond description of issues and practices; the course may raise the following questions:

a. How women are responding to various oppressive, cultural, social practices and changing political processes?
b. To what extent women are mobilizing around the world to participate in their communities and societies?
c. Do feminist sentiments/women’s movements grow from indigenous roots or western influence?
d. Can a global perspective be used to increase women’s participation and empowerment to address women’s issues?

**Required readings:**
A custom courseware package will be available from the bookstore.

In addition, a set of readings will be available on reserve in the library.

**Recommended readings**

**Assignments & Evaluation:**
1. Two short papers (4 pages; 1000 words each paper) 30%
2. Research essay and presentation (8-10 pages; 250 words per page) 30%
3. Final exam (open book/scheduled) 30%
4. Class attendance & participation 10%

**Prerequisites:**
WS 101 or WS 102 (may be taken concurrently).