WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM

SPRING 1991

CATHY NESMITH

Lec.: Tue. 9:30-11:20
Tut.: Tue. 11:30-12:20

W.S. 310-3

WOMEN IN SOUTH ASIA

(India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal)

The complexity of South Asian society and the long history of the women's movement in the region represent a rich area of study. The course will review women's place in historical, geopolitical, and general social terms, and then concentrate on contemporary women and development issues. The bulk of the contemporary material will relate to India, however, comparative examples will be drawn from other South Asian countries. The course will analyze the variety of socio-economic structures which influence women's lives including how the regional religions (Hinduism, Islam and Buddhism) have contributed to the ideological construction of gender. An emphasis will be placed on understanding the diversity of women's lives and how gender interacts with class and caste differences. Specific topics include: rural women's employment and their relationship to natural resources; the effects of development on household structure and function; and urban women, employment and settlements; population and health issues.

REQUIRED READING


RECOMMENDED READING

Sharma, U. Women's Work, Class and the Urban Household.

Other required and recommended readings will be on reserve in the library.

ASSIGNMENTS

10% Class Participation
15% Seminar Presentation
15% Midterm Exam
25% Term Paper (10-15 pages)
35% Final Exam (scheduled)

Prerequisite: 60 credit hours or WS 100.

THIS COURSE MAY BE DESIGNATED AS 3 UPPER DIVISION CREDITS IN SOCIOLOGY FOR STUDENTS WHO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR THIS FROM THE SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT.

TUTORIALS WILL BE HELD DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES