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 South Asia, South-East Asia, Africa, Middle East 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, among others, 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/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:

Custom Courseware for Women's Studies 200


In addition, a set of texts/readings will be available on reserve.

Course Requirements:

Two small papers (3-4 pages each) 20%
Essay (8-10 pages) 25%
Final Exam (Scheduled) 35%
Tutorial Participation and Presentation 20%

Prerequisite: WS 101 or 102 (may be taken concurrently)

Designated Credit: This course may be applied to the certificate in Liberal Arts, lower division credits in Sociology and Anthropology.