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 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 and 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 are women responding to various oppressive cultural, social practices and changing political processes?
b. to what extent are women 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:
Custom courseware for Women’s Studies 200

Recommended Readings:

(This book will be on 24 hour reserve in the library; a few of the required readings are from this book.)

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

Course Requirements:
Two small papers (900-1000 words each) 30%
Group presentation/Written report (1500 words maximum) 20%
Attendance and Tutorial Participation 15%
Final exam (Scheduled) 35%