WS 200-3 Women in Cross-Cultural Perspective

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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 descriptions 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 available from the bookstore.

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

Recommended Readings


Course Requirements

Two short papers (900-1000 words each) 30%
Research Essay & Presentation (8 - 10 pages/2000 words) 30%
Attendance & Tutorial Participation 15%
Final Exam (Scheduled) 25%