WS 200-3: Women in Cross-Cultural Perspective

This course is an interdisciplinary exploration of the roles of women in cross-cultural settings, incorporating a broad spectrum of topics and geographical territories ranging from Asia, Africa, and 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, and explore the following questions:

a. How are women responding to various oppressive cultural and social practices and changing political processes?

b. To what extent are women around the world mobilizing 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 this course will be available in the SFU bookstore.

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
Two short papers (4 pages; 1000 each) 30%
Group presentations/written report (1500 words maximum) 25%
Final exam (open book/scheduled) 35%
Class attendance & participation 10%

Prerequisites:
WS 101 or WS 102. May be taken concurrently.

THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S STUDIES ENCOURAGES CLARITY OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION AND GOOD WRITING. STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THESE SKILLS IN ALL COURSES GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT.