WS 302-4  Special Topics in Women’s Studies: *Women from Africa*  

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Lecture: Wednesday 9:30 – 1:20  
Office Hours: TBA. AQ 5095

This course introduces students to a cultural, political and sociological analysis of the conditions of women’s lives in Africa. We will consider the historical specificity of different regions from Africa; the impact of colonialism on gender relations; sexuality and female labour; the failure of nationalist ideology to support women’s struggles and the gendered implications of the current re-structuring of ‘Africa’ within a global economy. We will ponder the limits of theoretical analysis and sociological methodologies to grapple with the diverse conditions that inflect the notion of a female African identity and we will develop an understanding of the key position of Africa (and its gendered structure) for contemporary geo-politics.

REQUIRED READINGS:  

A Custom Courseware Package containing selected essays is also required.

RECOMMENDED:  
These books will also be placed on reserve  

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:  
15%  Attendance and active participation  
20%  Mini-assignments (reviews) and Blog  
20%  First short essay (5-6 pages)  
10%  Proposal research paper (proposals will be presented in a round-table discussion at the end of the class)  
35%  Final research paper (15 pages)

*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.*