WS 320-4: Women’s Rights as Human Rights: Activists, Institutions and Issues

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This course introduces students to the central activists, institutions and issues involved in framing women’s international human rights. It will critically analyze mainstream human rights discourse from a women’s rights perspective and consider the possibilities for recasting international institutions to better reflect women’s experiences. Students will consider the role of transnational feminist actors in shaping and enforcing international human rights instruments including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the International Criminal Court. Attention will be given to the experiences of women in western and non-western countries in accessing rights and assess the role that religion and culture play in this process. Specific women’s rights issues relating to war and conflict, refugee status and trafficking will also be discussed.

Required Reading:

Course Requirements and Grading Structure:
20% Critical analysis of readings
20% In-class group presentation
10% Classroom participation
25% Research project
25% Mid-term exam

Prerequisites: 60 credit hours.

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.