WS 303-4: Special Topics: “Other” Feminisms: Women’s struggle for Change in Non-Western Contexts

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This course focuses on feminist expressions by women from non-Western countries in Asia and Africa. The readings include poetry, oral and written narratives and theory. Through lectures, reading and discussions, students will be introduced to women whose life and writing exemplify and express experiences and perspectives different from and in ways complement to Western feminism. The assignments include two short papers, a midterm, a research paper and a final. The goal of the course is to deepen our understanding of feminism in its plural form and build our knowledge of the world through teachings by women.

Required Reading
Custom courseware compiled by the instructor with selections of poetry, personal narratives, historical documents, critical and theoretical essays (available from the University bookstore)

Recommended Reading

Assignments and Grading
15% - Short Paper 1 (1000 words, 5 pages)
15% - Short Paper 2 (1200 words, 6 pages)
20% - Midterm
30% - Research paper (2000-2500 words, 10-12 pages)
20% - Final

Description of the assignment
Short Paper 1  A 5-page paper on one feminist from Asia or Africa discussing the relationship between her feminist thoughts and her life, her culture, her time. Presentation in class required.
Short Paper 2  A 6-page paper on one theme of Asian or African feminist thoughts. Presentation in class required.
Midterm     Close book
Research Paper  A 10 to 12-page paper based on your research on a topic relevant to the study of feminism in non-Western contexts. Proposal and in-class presentation required.
Final       Take home essay questions.

Prerequisites: Six credit hours in Women’s Studies, including WS 101 and/or Ws 102