WS 480-Ec Campus (section 400)
International Women

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Please, do not hesitate to contact me with questions you have about this course.
(Pre-requisites: Students should have taken either WS 223 or WS 224, or an equivalent course.)

Blackboard - This course will be delivered via Blackboard, your online learning community, where you will interact with your classmates and with the instructor. Within the course Blackboard site you will access the learning materials and syllabus; discuss issues; submit assignments; take quizzes; email other students and the instructor; participate in online activities; and display your projects. To preview how an online course works, visit the Ec Campus Course Demo. For technical assistance, Blackboard and otherwise, see http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/services/technical-help.htm

Course Description:
This Course examines the lives and experiences of women in different parts of the world, looking at work, education, the family, the arts and social movements. Explores the comparative realities of various women's struggles for social justice and studies key definitions and theoretical assumptions relevant to the subject of global feminism. WS 480 is a Global Issues Synthesis course in the baccalaureate core. As such, this course will:

A. Focus, from a historical perspective, on the origin and nature of critical issues and problems that have global significance;
B. Emphasize the interdependence of the global community;
C. Use a multidisciplinary approach and be suitable for students from diverse fields

In this course, you will be asked to think critically. You will learn to identify and assess global problems from feminist perspectives. You will learn to analyze how gender is operative in a wide variety of social, economic, cultural, and political issues around the world, and you will learn how to develop strategies for social change for women worldwide.

Course Objectives:
As a result of having taken this course, students will be able to:

- Articulate an overview of women, women's issues, and the status of women throughout the world.
- Explain concepts and perspectives of global feminism.
- Analyze global women's issues from feminist perspectives
- Identify and analyze current world events and their impact on women's lives
- Evaluate the status of women in various countries/regions of the world
- Engage in activism on behalf of women around the world
Course Materials

**Textbook and other Readings:**
- Weekly assigned readings are posted on blackboard

**NOTE:** For textbook accuracy, please check the textbook list at the OSU Bookstore website (http://osubeaverstore.com/). Sample syllabi may not have the most up to date textbook information!

Students can also click the OSU Beaver Store link associated with the WGSS 480 course information in the Ecampus schedule of classes for course textbook information and ordering.

**Course Expectations:**

1. **Participation in Discussion Forums (20 points):**
   This is a discussion-oriented class and its success is consequently dependent upon your level of commitment and preparedness. You are responsible to your classmates and yourself for the success of our joint teaching and learning. Therefore, you are expected to be prepared for discussion of the readings and to bring your experiences, leadership capacities, and perspectives to participatory discussions. Students will be responsible for announcements and reading material posted on Blackboard. Starting from week 1 you will be responsible for conducting class discussion on the Discussion Board on the scheduled course readings for that week. You will be responsible for providing to the class with an overview of the reading, your thoughts about the reading and presenting/generating/responding to questions for discussion on issues related to the reading. Your discussion board posts are due by the end of the week, Fridays, but you should starting posting early in the week to get to the dialogue early. I'll grade based on the quality of your posts, amount of meaningful replies to your classmates, and timeliness.

2. **News Reports (15 points):**
   Starting from week 1, every week you will post a 1-page analysis of a news report about women in the world (non US) from any credible news source (total of 3 news reports for this course 3x5=15 points). The news should be related to course topics and material. For example, if the course topic is "Women and Microfinance" try to find a news report for that week that discusses this issue about women in a specific country or globally. Please write a full discussion of this issue with appropriate citation. Analysis of the issue means that you not only describe the topic but also discuss explanations for it, including causes and consequences. Please use class materials and external links for your analysis. The news report assignment will be graded on a check basis where a check implies satisfactory performance. Use the "External Links" link on Blackboard to access alternate news sources about women. News reports are due on Fridays by noon. (see the dates in the Course Calendar in the BlackBoard).
3. **Reflection Essays on Novel (20 points):**
   You will write an essay (minimum of 5 pages, typed, double spaced) on the required course reading novel. The essay will be worth 20 points. You must answer the following questions in your analysis of the book:
   1. A summary of the book: This must be very clear and include, the time period and country, the plot, main characters and themes.
   2. Analysis of the main woman/women in the book to include answers to the questions:
      a. How was the woman/women in the book affected/ influenced by economic, social, and political forces? (to answer this question you need to reflect on social and economic class and political environment)
      b. What did the main character in the book you read value most?
      c. Did the main character in the book you read accomplish what she wanted?
   3. Present a conclusion that integrates the key points of your analysis and describes the impact of this book on you.

   **REFLECTION ESSAYS ARE DUE in the end of Week 8 ---- sent through blackboard ONLY as a Word attachment. LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

4. **International Non-governmental Organizations (INGOs) Report (20 points):**
   You will write a 5-6 page (double spaced, 1 inch margins, Times Roman font 12) report describing a specific INGO of your choice (serving primarily women and families). The report will give you the opportunity to explore INGOS in greater depth than class time will afford and with as much creativity as you like.

   **INGO REPORTS ARE DUE in the end of Week 10 ---- sent through blackboard ONLY as a Word attachment. LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

   You should choose an organization that interests you. Include as much information about the following aspects (those with * marks are required).
   Indicate the sources you used at the end of the paper.

   **GRADING CRITERIA FOR PAPER (Please read before planning your report)**
   1. All requirements are met in 5-6 pages.
   2. The organization selected is appropriate.
   3. At least three sources are cited (this can be two websites)
   4. All asterisked items are included
   5. At least several items in each category are included
   6. The overall analysis is logical and justified
7. The paper follows the guidelines and is written in a clear, concise, and well-organized manner.

MAIN CONTENT OF PAPER SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:
8. * What is the current mission of this INGO?
9. Has that mission changed during the past few years? How?
10. * What are the main programs/activities?
11. Do you think this is a feminist organization? What are your arguments for why or why not?
12. What does their Website look like? What type of language is used?

A. *Organization Structure - Headquarters*
   1. Who sits on the Board of Directors? (Types of people, not specific individuals)
   2. What is the role of the Board?
   3. Who is the chief executive officer?
   4. * Is there a single CEO or is there a management team?
   5. How does decision-making take place?

B. *International Structures*
   1. * In how many countries does the operate? List them.
   2. * Which countries have offices/affiliates?
   3. * What is the relationship between the head office and the field offices?
   4. * Give one or two examples of projects accomplished by this INGO.

C. *Finances*
   1. * What is the annual budget?
   2. Is there an endowment?
   3. * From what sources does this INGO receive its funding?

D. *Communications Mechanisms*
   1. Is there a public relations department? If not, how is this function handled?
   2. * Are there any Publications? If yes describe them.

E. *Evaluation*
   1. * Does this INGO evaluate its programs? If yes how?
   2. How the success of this is INGO measured? What constitutes 'success'?

F. *Analysis*
   1. * Please conclude your paper with an analysis of the organization structure (1-2 paragraphs).
   2. * What are the main features of this INGO?
   3. * What did you find most interesting about this INGO?
   4. * Is there anything you would change about this INGO? Why?

**GRADING**
A Excellent work. An example for all to follow. Exhibits openness and unusually sharp insight into many sides of an issue. Shows...
considerable critical thought. Written work is virtually flawless in terms of grammar, spelling, cogency, and content. Performs far above minimum requirements. Exceptionally articulate.

Above average. Speaks and writes well. Performs above the B minimum requirements. Demonstrates very good understanding of ideas.

C

Speaks and writes in an acceptable manner. Work is satisfactory, average. Meets minimum requirements.

D

Below average work. Minimally acceptable, but unacceptable if this course is required.

F Unacceptable work. Does not meet minimum requirements.

A 95%   B 85%   C 75%   D 65%

A- 92%   B- 82%   C- 72%   D- 62%

B+ 90%   C+ 80%   D+ 70%   F below 62%

**Honor Code Policy**

Students are also reminded that they must at all times abide by the OSU Honor Code.

**Academic dishonesty:**

- a. Academic dishonesty is defined as an intentional act of deception in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work;

- b. It includes "cheating" (intentional use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information, or study aid), "fabrication" (intentional falsification or invention of any information), "assisting in dishonesty" (intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another commit an act of dishonesty), "tampering" (altering or interfering with evaluation instruments and documents), and "plagiarism" (intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another person as one's own);

- c. Academic dishonesty cases are handled initially by the academic units, but will also be referred to the Student Conduct Coordinator for action under these rules.

**Communications**

**Ground Rules for Online Communication & Participation:**

*Online threaded discussions* are public messages, and all writings in this area will be viewable by the entire class or assigned group members. If you prefer that only the instructor sees your communication, send it by email, and be sure to identify yourself and the class.

Posting of personal contact information is discouraged (e.g. telephone numbers, address, personal website address).

*Online Instructor Response Policy:* I will check email frequently and will respond to course related questions as soon as possible.
Observation of "Netiquette": All your online communications need to be composed with fairness, honesty and tact. Spelling and grammar are very important in an online course. What you put into an online course reflects on your level of professionalism. Here are a couple of references that discuss:

- writing online: [http://goto.intwg.com](http://goto.intwg.com)

Please check the Announcements area and the course syllabus before you ask general course "housekeeping" questions (i.e. how do I submit assignment 3?). If you don't see your answer there, then contact the instructor. (Adapted from Jean Mandernach, PSY)

Guidelines for a productive and effective online classroom

- The discussion board is your space to interact with your colleagues related to current topics or responses to your colleague's statements. It is expected that each student will participate in a mature and respectful fashion.
- Participate actively in the discussions, having completed the readings and thought about the issues.
- Pay close attention to what your classmates write in their online comments. Ask clarifying questions, when appropriate. These questions are meant to probe and shed new light, not to minimize or devalue comments.
- Think through and reread your comments before you post them.
- Assume the best of others in the class and expect the best from them.
- Value the diversity of the class. Recognize and value the experiences, abilities, and knowledge each person brings to class.
- Disagree with ideas, but do not make personal attacks. Do not demean or embarrass others. Do not make sexist, racist, homophobic, or victim-blaming comments at all.
- Be open to be challenged or confronted on your ideas or prejudices.

(Adapted from a statement provided by Susan Shaw, WS)

Course Schedule (subject to change from quarter to quarter)

**Week 1**
Development of Transnational Feminisms
What is CEDAW?
International Networking for Women's Human Rights

**Week 2**
Women and micro-credit: The Case of Grameen bank
Women and Violence
News Report #2 Due on Friday, by noon (no extension)

**Week 3**
Sexual violence and armed conflict Case of DRC
Additional readings on Iran
News Report #3 Due on Friday, by noon (no extension)

**Week 4**
Global identities and Queer discourse
Women and HIV/AIDS
Week 5
Sex Trafficking

Week 6
Harmful Traditional Practices and Unlocking the Power of Women Female Genital Cutting or is it Mutilation?

Week 7
Violence against Women /Women and Armed Conflict

Week 8
Women and Literacy

Week 9
Novel Reflection due Sunday, by 11 pm through Bb

Week 10
Politics and Women’s Citizenship

Feminist Futures? International solidarities and transnational challenges

INGO article due

Students with Disabilities
Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability and Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

Course Evaluation
We encourage you to engage in the course evaluation process each term – online, of course. The evaluation form will be available toward the end of each term, and you will be sent instructions through ONID. You will login to “Student Online Services” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted.