

## SYLLABUS

### Description:

This course is an introduction to the subject of women's problems and experiences in various parts of the developing world. The coverage is organized by topic: e.g., how to explain female inequality; the effect of economic development on women's lives; women's work in the formal and informal sector; access to credit and education; health issues as genital cutting and AIDS; fertility and reproduction; local and national political involvement; and women's forms of resistance. The assumption is that women's lives are not just affected by class standing, but also gender-based ideologies about women's roles as wives, reproducers and nurturers. Format is discussion/lecture. A 3-credit course.

### Readings:

Shawn M. Burn: *Women Across Cultures*. (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)  
Heba El-Kholy: *Defiance and Compliance*  
M. Yunus: *Banker to the Poor*  
B. Shell-Duncan & Y. Her nlund: *Female "Circumcision" in Africa*

Photocopy- Karen Booth: *Local Women, Global Science*  
Buy a world map.

### Requirements and Grading:

Midterm Exam	30%	(Oct 22)
Final take home exam	25%	(Due Dec. 8)
Short papers (2)*	25%	(Oct 29 & Dec. 3)
Class participation**	<u>20%</u>	
	100%	

\* **Short Paper Assignments:** See last page for guidelines.

\*\* **Class participation:** Worth 20% of your grade. It is based on regular attendance, effective participation, and oral presentations of the reading material. This is a seminar; students must take an active role in presenting the readings. Please do not miss a presentation without due warning.

**Student Code of Behavior:** You are bound by *Community Standards for Academic Conduct* in the Student Handbook. The specific rules are below. I thank you in advance.

1. **Exam Policy:** Exams are governed by the Honor Code. If you observe an infraction, please report it to me. Do not miss an exam; there are no make-ups unless there are *truly exceptional circumstances, as determined by me*. Cell phones etc must be stored away during the exam.
2. **Papers:** Evidence of plagiarism will net an "F" in the course. Plagiarism includes borrowing, in whole or part, from source without proper citation. Late penalties on papers apply.
3. **Attendance:** You are expected to attend all classes. Please arrive **on time**. Sending me an email or one from the Student Affairs' office about an absence is a welcome courtesy, but it *does not automatically lead* to an excused absence.
4. **Classroom Protocol:** Please observe basic rules of civility: arrive on time, turn off phone, do not talk or eat in class. You have a break at the mid-point of the period, so kindly do not get up and leave while the class is in session.

5. Email: Kindly use email as a formal mode of communication (i.e. like a business letter) with the appropriate parts, correct spelling, and polite language.

**Learning Objectives and Assessment:**

Students are expected to have met the learning objectives outlined below. Students will improve their research skills and critical thinking skills. In addition, students will improve their public speaking, writing, and presentation skills through class presentations and paper assignments. These skills are evaluated through exams, oral presentations, and the major paper assignment.

**Specific Objectives and Assessment:**

1. To learn about common issues that face women in the developing world, for example, making a living, health issues, access to education, patriarchy and sexism. Assessed by exams, presentations, and paper.
2. To understand how development has differentially affected women and men. Assessed by exams.
3. To understand globalization and how developed and developing world are connected in the new world order. Assessed by exams, and paper.
4. To understand how women have responded to oppressive conditions and acted in organized ways. Assessed by exams, presentations, and paper.

**Schedule**

- Aug. 27 Introduction to course and assignments. “Real fiction.”  
**Read:** (after first class) Burn – chaps. 1, 11
- Sept. 3 Theories of gender inequality. WID scholarship. Global geography and map work.  
**Read:** Burn, chap. 2, 8, 10  
**Video:** *Gender Matters* (24° Lehigh)
- Sept. 10 What is development? Globalization and the new world system: multinational corporations, World Bank, IMF, and WTO.  
**Read:** handout on globalization; Burn, chap. 6, 7.  
**Video:** portions of *The New Rulers of the World* (53° CCC)
- Sept. 17 Women’s work in the formal and informal sectors.  
**Read:** Burn, chap. 5, review 7 again  
**Video:** *Life and Debt*
- Sept. 24 Micro-lending banks for the poor: case of the Grameen Bank  
**Read:** *Banker to the Poor*  
**Video:** *Bootstrap Capitalism* (15 mins)
- Oct 1 Marriage, sexuality, and fertility control.  
**Read:** Burn 3 & 4  
**Video:** *Arranged Marriage* (50° Muhlenberg)
- Oct. 8 Lecture: Background on Egypt and case study. Groups present material from assigned chapters. **Read:** *Defiance and Compliance*, chaps 1-5  
**Video:** first part *Honorable Murder* (57° Lehigh)

- Oct. 15 *Defiance and Compliance* continued. Groups present assigned material.  
**Read:** *Defiance and Compliance*, chaps 6-9  
**Video:** second part *Honorable Murder* (57° Lehigh)
- Oct 22 **Midterm exam** (30%) Do not miss exam. There are no make-ups.
- Oct 29 Women's political participation: informal and formal.  
**Read:** Burn 9  
**Short paper #1:** Women in leadership positions in developing world  
**Video:** *Beyond the Veil: Are Iranian Women Rebellious?*
- Nov. 5 Genital cutting in Africa and elsewhere: lecture followed by student presentations on assigned part of book, *Female Circumcision in Africa*.  
**Read:** *Female Circumcision in Africa*, chap 1-7  
**Video:** *Feminine Dilemma: Female Circumcision* (22° Muhlenberg)
- Nov. 12 Genital cutting continued. Second half of *Female Circumcision in Africa*.  
**Read:** *Female Circumcision in Africa* (8-14)  
**Video:** *Female Circumcision* (41° CCC)
- Nov. 19 (I will be at conference, but class will meet)  
The global AIDS pandemic. Class discussion of photocopy chapter from *Local Women, Global Science*.  
  
Web resource for statistics for AIDS in Africa: [www.avert.org/aidsinafrica.htm](http://www.avert.org/aidsinafrica.htm) and <http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/HIVData/GlobalReport/2008/>  
**Read:** photocopy provided and review Web reports  
**Video:** *A Closer Walk* (85° Lehigh)
- Nov. 29 TG Break
- Dec. 3 Complete discussion of AIDS pandemic.  
**Read:** *Local Women, Global Science*, chapter 5 & 6 and visit this NPR Web site on HIV sufferer, Thembi of South Africa: <http://www.radiodiaries.org/aidsdiary/about.html>  
**Short Paper #2:** Argued position on genital cutting  
**Audio:** Thembi's AIDS diary

**Take home exam is distributed Dec 3rd. Due December 8 at noon.**

## **Paper Assignments for WID (Fall 2008)**

You will do two short papers. Each assignment is worth 12.5% or 125 points of your grade (for a total of 25% or 250 points). Both require some research with subsequent write-up. Each paper should be about 5-7 pages in length, *plus references*. Use normal 12-point font and margins.

### **Short Paper #1: Women in leadership positions in developing countries** (due Oct 29)

Read chapter 8 in the Burn book on women in politics and additional print and/or Web sources. Do some research on women in high level positions in developing countries. Choose one woman to focus on. Or, if you want, select a couple and generalize about them. Two to consider are Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia and Michelle Bachelet of Chile. Both still in power. You might also consider Benazir Bhutto, assassinated in the fall of 2007.

### **Resources to Start With:**

For Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ellen\\_Johnson-Sirleaf](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ellen_Johnson-Sirleaf) Michelle Bachelet Jeria of Chile: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michelle\\_Bachelet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michelle_Bachelet)

- Give a brief biography(ies) of woman/women you choose. What prepared her/them for her/their position?
- What were the special obstacles she/they may have had to deal with on her ascent to leadership and during their election?
- What special problems does she/they currently have to deal with, especially those left over from previous regimes?
- What accounts for her/their popularity? Think about their campaign platform.
- What are their political agendas and priorities?
- If two or more, do you think there is anything common in their personalities and styles?

### **Short Paper #2: Argued position on genital cutting** (due Dec 3)

Begin by reviewing the appropriate chapters in *Female Circumcision in Africa*.

We will read about and discuss different positions on genital cutting, as it is widely practiced in Africa. Surprisingly, there are some African feminists who feel that Western women have no place weighing in about whether cutting should be banned. In this paper, you should:

- Pick a country or region to study. Provide some statistics on genital cutting for area
- Give some brief background in the reasons it is done and its health consequences
- Discuss the positions taken, pro and con cutting, along with special consideration for the African pro-position
- Then – and this is the important part of your paper – you take a position: decide what you want to argue, that is, whether or not you agree with some African feminists about the indigenous practice of genital cutting.

### **Additional references for both papers:**

UN – *World's Women 2000 - Trends and Statistics*

N. Stromquist – *Women in the Third World*. (on reserve in library)

Pamela Byrne – *Women in the Third World: A Historical Bibliography*.

David Levinson (ed.) – *Encyclopedia of World Cultures*. R306.03 E560.

Boston Women's Collective – *Women in Development. A Resource Guide*. R305.42 W872.

Also, good reference material in reference section R016.3054.