

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S STUDIES AND FEMINIST RESEARCH
WS 1022G GENDER, JUSTICE AND CHANGE

Instructor: Professor Bipasha Baruah

Teaching Assistants: Nadine Wettlaufer, Nicole Ephgrave, Jacob Evoy, Pamela Uppal, Melanie Stone

Class: Wednesdays 2:30-4:30 pm plus one-hour tutorial

Classroom: 3M Centre 3250

Instructor Office: Lawson Hall 3244

Phone: (519) 661-2111 ex. 86316

Email: bbaruah@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

The 21st century is a period of accelerating change focused around issues of gender, justice and activism. This interdisciplinary course will introduce students to the ways in which movements for justice and change are informed by and take up gender issues in struggles for social justice, economic empowerment, education, health, poverty alleviation, human rights, environmental protection, peacebuilding, good governance and political representation.

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

This course seeks to enable students to accomplish the following objectives:

1. To demonstrate an understanding of contemporary issues in gender, justice and change;
2. To understand the applications, strengths and weaknesses of global measures of human development and gender equality;
3. To describe and critically analyze how gender issues are integrated into social, political, economic and environmental movements;
4. To optimize student learning through course readings, lectures, films, case studies, guest speakers, debates as well as written and verbal participation; and
5. To provide students with the opportunity to relate course content to their daily lives, future studies and careers.

Course Texts and Resources:

V. Spike Peterson and Anne Sisson Runyan. *Global Gender Issues in the New Millennium [Fourth Edition]*. 2013. Westview Press.

Wangari Maathai. *Unbowed: A Memoir*. 2007. Anchor Books.

World Bank GenderStats: <http://datatopics.worldbank.org/gender/>

Human Development Index website: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/humandev/>

Student Assessment:

Film Review (1,500 words max): 20%
Book Review (1,500 words max): 20%
Midterm: 20%
Final Exam: 30%
Attendance and participation: 10%

Film Review and Book Review: Students are expected to write reviews (of 1,500 words each) of the documentary, *MissRepresentation*, and the biography, *Unbowed*. Students will be provided with sets of questions as guidelines for writing the reviews.

Midterm and Final Exam: The midterm and final exam will be designed to provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding and application of course content. Both short answer and essay-type questions may appear in the exams. The instructor will provide students with the list of possible essay-type questions a week in advance.

Attendance and Participation: The purpose of student participation is to allow students to take an active part in learning as well as to foster mutual understanding and debate. Active participation refers to regular attendance in class and tutorials and frequent participation in discussion and debates. Qualitative participation refers to informed discussion, based on close analysis of assigned readings and critical analysis of the topic of the day, and to the student's ability to interact with classmates in a respectful manner.

Course Policies:

Attendance Requirement: Students are expected to attend all classes and tutorials. Failure to attend classes and tutorials regularly, present material in class, or participate in group activities, in the absence of a documented medical reason, will be reflected in the student's final grade.

Laptop and Electronics Policy: I reserve the right to ask any student to refrain from using their laptop computer in class. Students must not access social media during classes or tutorials. MP3 players, mobile phones and other mobile devices are not permitted during class time.

Late Papers: Late papers may be penalized. Students are encouraged to assess their own time commitments well ahead of time.

The university regulations require that the following plagiarism information be included on course syllabi:

Scholastic Offences:

“Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/crsout.pdf>

Specifically on Plagiarism:

“Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see the ‘Scholastic Offense Policy’ in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism checking: The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.” --- U.W.O. Senate statement on plagiarism

Turnitin:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement currently between the University and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>) (<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/crsout.pdf>)

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course.

Winter 2013 Course Schedule¹

Week 1: 8 January 2014

Introduction to the course

Week 2: 15 January 2014

Gender and Global Issues (P&R)

Introduction to web resources on gender equality: World Bank GenderStats and UN Human Development Index

I. Politics, Governance and Security

Week 3: 22 January 2014

Gendered Lenses on World Politics (P&R)

Global Women Political Leaders*

Week 4: 29 January 2014

Gender and Global Governance (P&R)

Tinker, NGOs: An Alternative Power Base for women?*

Week 5: 5 February 2014

Gender and Global Security (P&R)

Jennings, Women's participation in UN peacekeeping operations*

Week 6: 12 February 2014

Film: *MissRepresentation*

Week 7: No Class (SPRING BREAK!)

Week 8: 26 February 2014: MIDTERM EXAM

¹ Readings marked with an asterisk (*) have been uploaded on the OWL course website.

II. Economy and Environment

Week 9: 5 March 2014 (FILM REVIEW DUE)

Gender and the Global Political Economy (P&R)

Working the Night Shift*

Female Bankers in India Earn Chances to Rule:

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/28/world/asia/28iht-windia.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

Global Woman: Nannies, Maids and Sex Workers in the New Economy*

The end of men: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/07/the-end-of-men/308135/>

The decline of men? Actually it's a release:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/relationships/the-decline-of-men-actually-its-a-release/article6704406/?page=all>

Week 10: 12 March 2014

Gender and the Environment (Class Discussion of *Unbowed: A Memoir*)

Nobel Prize Lecture (2004):

http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/2004/maathai-lecture-text.html

Film: *Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai*

<http://takingrootfilm.com/index.htm>

Week 11: 19 March 2014

Gender and Climate Change

No climate justice without social justice*

Low Income Women: First Casualties of Green Economy Land Grab*

Where are the new jobs for women?

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/09/opinion/09hirshman.html>

III. Emerging Gender Justice Movements

Week 12: 26 March 2014 (BOOK REVIEW DUE)

Arab Women and Gender Justice

Documentary: *Because Our Cause is Just* (2013)

Gender and the Revolutions: Critique Interrupted

<http://www.merip.org/mer/mer268/gender-revolutions>

Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?*

Week 13: 2 April 2013

Gendered Resistances (P&R)

From Quake Grrls to Desperate Housewives: A Decade of Gender and Computer Games*

Becoming a Player: Networks, Structure, and Imagined Futures*

April 2013 Final Examination (30%): Date and Time TBA