Course Description:

This course examines the gender politics of planning practices in the context of international development. It begins by claiming development as a feminist practice and proceeds to explore the implications of neoliberalism for doing ‘feminist development’. We then consider the genealogy of the existing, mainstream field of ‘gender and development’, through which we explore how different strains of feminism—liberal, Marxist, postmodern, post-colonial—have informed development theory and practice. These perspectives help us to examine key themes animating debates about the role of development in feminism today: social capital, empowerment, capabilities and masculinities. We conclude by exploring [a] how feminism has/has not been institutionalized in gender training and development organizations and [b] what are the ideal institutions and methodologies for realizing a feminist theory of justice?

Evaluation of Students:
Classes will be conducted as seminars. It is crucial that students read the required materials and be prepared for class discussions. Each student will be expected to lead in-class discussions during the semester, as well as prepare two short written assignments related to course readings (see below for due dates). For the written assignments, students will be given 3-4 questions from which they may select one question to address in their writing. In addition, each student will have an opportunity to elaborate on one issue or case of gender planning and development through a final research paper. The production of the research paper is staged over the course of two months, with interim due dates and peer evaluation of working drafts. Papers will be presented orally to the class at the end of term.

The final grade will be based on the following criteria:

- Class discussions and participation 15%
- Short written assignments [3-4 pp.] 20% ea. Due 2/6 & 3/20
- Final paper [15 pp.] 40% Due 4/10
- Final paper--oral presentation 5% Due 4/3

Required Texts: The following course books are available for purchase at the Toronto Women’s Bookstore [73 Harbord St., just West of Spadina]. It is also on reserve, Robarts Library, 3rd Floor.


A course reader, containing other required readings for the course, can be compiled from the photocopied material in Donna’s office.

Course Outline and Readings

Week 1 (Jan. 6):  Course Introduction

Week 2 (Jan. 13):  Feminists Doing Development


Suggested Reading:

Week Three [Jan 20]:  Neoliberalism and the Reconstitution of Gender


Lourdes Benería, “Global/Local Connections: Employment Patterns, Gender, and Informalization,” in Gender, Development and Globalization, 91-130.

Plus, any 2 of the following 3 readings:


*Film: Made in Thailand*

**Week Four [Jan 27]: Gender and Development: The Making of a Field**


*Suggested Reading:*


*Film: Beyond Beijing*

**Week Five [Feb. 3]: Feminist Economics of Development**


Plus


Or

Diane Elson, Barbara Evers, Jasmine Gideon, Gender Aware Country Economic Reports: Working Paper Number 1: Concepts And Sources (Manchester: University Of Manchester Graduate School Of Social Sciences GENECON Unit), July 1997

First short paper due

Week Six [Feb 10]: Development and its Discontents: Contributions of Postmodern and Post-colonial Feminisms

Mridula Udayagiri, “Challenging Modernization: Gender and Development, Postmodern Feminism and Activism,” in Feminism/Postmodernism/Development, 159-178.


Suggested Reading:


**** READING WEEK: FEB. 14-18 ****
Week Seven [Feb. 24]: Social Capital, Civil Society, and the Feminization of Development


Plus


Or


Suggested Reading:

Week Eight [Mar. 3]: Empowerment and Social Movements


Plus:


OR

Film: Made in India

Week Nine [Mar 10]: The Capabilities Approach


Lourdes Benería, “Development as if All People Mattered,” in Gender, Development and Globalization, 161-170.


Second short paper due

Week Ten [Mar. 17]: Masculinities in Development


Sarah White, “Making Men and Issue: Gender Planning for ‘the Other Half’,” in Mandy Macdonald (ed.), Gender Planning in Development Agencies: Meeting the Challenge (Oxford: Oxfam, 1994), 98-109,

Week Eleven [Mar 24]: Gender Training


Naila Kabeer, “Triple Roles, Gender Roles, Social Relations: The Political Subtext of Gender Training Frameworks,” Reversed Realities, 264-305.

**Suggested reading:**

**Week Twelve [March 31]: Getting the Institutions Right**


Susie Jolly, Gender and Cultural Change: Overview Report (Bridge, Institute of Development Studies, July 2002) [http://www.ids.ac.uk/bridge/reports_gend_CEP.html](http://www.ids.ac.uk/bridge/reports_gend_CEP.html)

*Plus*

Emma Bell, Emerging Issues in Gender and Development: An Overview (Bridge, Report No 58, Institute of Development Studies, November 2000), 1-7. [http://www.ids.ac.uk/bridge/reports_general.htm](http://www.ids.ac.uk/bridge/reports_general.htm)

*Or*


**Suggested Reading:**

**Week Thirteen [Apr. 7]: Class Presentations:**

Oral presentations based on research papers

*Final papers due*