

ST-Development Studies

Sociology and Anthropology 463

Section: D100

Term: 2003 Spring

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Discussion Topics: This course offers a theoretical and thematic exploration of gender inequality, work, and the labour process in the context of current global transformations. We will examine the connections between global processes of economic, political and cultural change on the one hand, and women's actions, and experiences on the other. We will focus on the following themes:

- 1- the transnational restructuring of capital and classes (as aspects of capital accumulation and class formation);
- 2- the reorganization of states and political alliances (conceptualizing states in relation to each other as well as in relation to civil society);
- 3- the emergence of ideological/cultural challenges to universalist beliefs and previous assumptions about social change.

The course attempts to provide new insights into these themes from a historical comparative and global perspective on North-South relations. First, we look at the origins and diversity of the "Third World". We then turn to a more specific examination of the relations between changes in First World countries and changes in the Third World. We consider the experiences of women in the "Third World" in relation to the global economy and the reorganization of states and national cultures. The substantive theme here is the impact of global forces, including the demands of Northern life styles, on the specific configurations of gender, class, and race. Assessing the balance of structural constraints and opportunities will be central to our discussion throughout the course. We ask how gendered inequalities affect the dynamics of long term changes and the ways in which variation in these dynamics affect the well-being of women, men, and children.

Through a program of focussed readings, and film materials, we examine a number of case studies. These studies show the diverse ways in which global economic crisis and state policies of restructuring are premised on unpaid and underpaid work by women. The question of what happens to women as workers, mothers and family members during this process of structural adjustment to a market economy is the main focus of this course. Specific issues include structural adjustment to a market economy; the current economic crisis; industrial restructuring (subcontracting and the informal economy); agribusiness; and new diets. We also analyze household divisions of labour in order to see how they guide everyday life in both the private domain of the household and the public domain of the workplace. We look at the relationship between the household and workplace from the perspective of religion, marriage, wife abuse, and the politics of sexuality.

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Grading: 1- Class Test # 1: 30%

2- Class Presentations: 30%

3- Journals: 25%

4- Class Participation: 15%

*All the assignments in this course must be completed for a final grade to be assigned.

Required Texts: Philip McMichael. (2000). Development and Social Change: A Global Perspective. Thousand Oaks, California: Pine Forge.

A required custom courseware package will be available for sale in the bookstore.

Recommended Texts: None

Materials/Supplies: None

Prerequisite/Corequisite: SA 250 or 101 and one of SA 201, 263, 286 or 293. Recommended: SA 363.

Notes: The course instructor reserves the right to check for plagiarism using software provided by the SFU administration for this purpose.

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