

## **Gender, Colonialism, and Post-Colonialism**

Sociology and Anthropology 435

Section: D100

Term: 2003 Fall

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Discussion Topics: Women in Africa were central to the transfer of cultural and politicized knowledge during colonialism. Changes in their lives continue to chart socioeconomic transformations. In the Middle East, chador-clad and unveiled women have formulated expansive and inclusive visions of gender relations. In India, women have demonstrated how everyday feminist practices articulate with or depart from larger organized political movements. Meanwhile, in North America, anti-racist feminists are engaged in deconstructing historical and social trajectories to reveal patterns of racialization of women and men. This body of work has challenged the idea that gender can be experienced in a uniform manner. Adding analysis of race to feminist theorizing effects a paradigm shift - one that makes transparent the intricate linkages between gender, politics, economics and the nation-state. On the transnational plane, women workers share their experiences of exploitation and dominance as well as of autonomy and liberation.

This course addresses these developments with reference to three interrelated themes. First is the way in which women/their bodies are used as potent symbols of identity and boundary markers of nation-states and communities. Women's appropriate conduct and place in society may serve to make political statements about cultural authenticity and integrity. Second is the complex manner in which the West and global capitalism are implicated in contemporary gender politics of difference and solidarity. Third is the way in which women actively participate in these debates to decolonize and democratize feminist practice and theory, locally and transnationally.

Through an analyses of social, economic and cultural phenomena, we will examine how local/global intersections are mediated by gender; how these phenomena reshape gender relations and constructs, and how they both impinge on relations of power. Specific ethnographic accounts and case studies will facilitate our understanding of why gender has become a highly charged issue in nation-building projects which expands to the transnational level. This focus will involve an examination of historical and material circumstances where gender, race, class and notions of citizenship intersect and shape everyday lives of women and men. The substantive theme of this course is the exploration of decolonized feminism engaged with the realities of daily life as they unfold on the plane of global capitalism and within an increasingly militarized world.

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This course has a seminar/lecture format. Students are required to participate and lead class/group discussions.

All students are required to have an SFU e-mail account.

Grading: Book/Articles Review: 20%

Group Assignments: 20%

Class Participation: 20%

Semester Paper: 40%

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

Required Texts: N. Naples & M. Desai. *Women's Activism and Globalization: Linking Global Struggles and Global Politics*, 2002. Routledge.

C. T. Mohanty. *Feminism without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity*, 2003. Duke Un

Recommended Texts: P. Hill Collins. *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge Consciousness and the Politics of Empowerment*, 2000. Routledge.

A. E. Brodsky. *With all our Strength: The Revolutionary Association of Women in Afghanistan*, 2003. Routledge.

Materials/Supplies: None

Prerequisite/Corequisite: SA 101, 250, and one of SA 201, 263, 286 or 293. Students who have taken SA 463 prior to 1999 may not take SA 435 for further credit. 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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