Institute for the Study of International Development  
McGill University  
Fall 2017

INTD 497-005  
Seminar: Gender and Development  
(3 credits)

Time: Fridays 8:30am-11:25am  
Room: Leacock 116

Instructor: Kazue Takamura  
Office: Room 232, Peterson Hall, 3460 McTavish Street  
Email: kazue.takamura@mcgill.ca  
Office Hours: Fridays 13:30-15:30pm

Course Description  
Gender constitutes one of the most significant issues in contemporary international development discourse and practice. This course provides a socio-cultural lens, rooted in anthropological and sociological scholarship, for studying the relationship between gender and development. The seminar themes are largely divided into three broad sections, namely the macro picture, socio-cultural implications, and social justice of gender in development.

In the first section of the course, we will explore the macro picture and discourse surrounding gender and power. In particular, we will examine development discourse, colonialism, the role of the state, the broader effects of governmentality on gender, and the hegemony of neoliberalism in development. In the second section, we will focus on the micro social implications of gender and power. We will pay particular attention to labor, legal rights, reproductive health, and marriage migration. We will look at these distinct development issues by employing Michel Foucault’s idea of governmentality. We will especially focus on the ways in which norms and
values control women’s behavior and the ways in which women react to these norms. In the last section of the course, we will examine social justice and the human rights aspect of gender. We will shed light on multifaceted human rights concerns, including mass atrocities against women, gender-based violence, intersectional resistance, and indigenous justice.

Through the readings we will explore the complexities, controversies, and debates surrounding gender and development. The readings span almost all the major regions of the developing world with a strong emphasis on Asia. Throughout the semester, we will invite guest speakers including local women’s advocacy groups and scholars in order to gain first-hand insight and perspectives regarding gender and development.

Course Requirements

1. Participation
Students are expected to come to class having done the required readings beforehand in order to contribute to class discussion. Readings per week will generally be about 100 pages or less, with a few weeks having 120 pages or more. In order for this seminar to be successful, all students are expected to make thoughtful contributions to the discussion.

2. Précis (reading notes, choose eight themes out of the 11 weekly themes)
In order to stimulate class participation, students are required to prepare a total of eight précis (short reading notes) out of the 11 weekly themes. You will choose any eight weekly topics between week 3 (September 22) and week 13 (December 1). Each précis examines one article or one book chapter from the weekly readings. The précis should clarify the main argument of the article and then provide your reflections (including a critique) on the article. The length will be about 1 double-spaced page.

Please note that you are not allowed to select the same week for your analytical paper. Each précis must be submitted via MyCourses [“Assignments”] by 17:00 on Thursday prior to the seminar meeting. This
exercise is intended to ensure that you pro-actively do the readings and are ready to engage them in the seminar.

3. Group presentation (begins with **Week 7 on Friday, October 20**)

Students must do an oral presentation by working in a group comprised of 3-5 people. Each group is assigned to a specific week to discuss the given theme. The key goal of this group exercise is to answer an _overarching analytical question_ that will be given for each week. A list of the analytical questions will be given in class. This exercise is intended to provide a foundation for thoughtful seminar discussion. The group must answer the question provided for each week in an analytical and empirical manner, addressing both the readings of the week and outside sources.

In the presentation, the group must demonstrate analytical thinking, empirical information, and where relevant, comparative perspectives and policy or practical implications. Overall, the presentation should provide deep and insightful analysis for the theme of the week that reflects close engagement of the readings and significant outside research. We will begin this exercise from Week 7 (October 20). Group presentations should not exceed 30 minutes.

**Note:**
- **Division of labor:** In order to ensure equal group participation, you have to make clear the division of labor among group members. Each member should play a clear role in the group presentation. Please specify each role during the presentation.
- **Submit your group presentation slides:** Please submit your group presentation slides by 17:00 the day before the seminar to the instructor via email.
- You are highly encouraged to meet with me during office hours to discuss the group presentation.

**Evaluation Process:** Each group presentation will be evaluated through three different methods, namely confidential peer evaluation, confidential class
evaluation, and evaluation by the instructor. Therefore, students are expected to participate in the evaluation process.

(1) Confidential peer evaluation: you are required to evaluate your group members for their overall contributions to the group exercise. Please submit your peer evaluation via MyCourses after your group presentation.

(2) Confidential class evaluation: you have to provide your comments on weekly group presentations throughout the semester. Please submit your comments via MyCourses during or after the seminar. Please provide thoughtful comments that reflect your understanding of the theme.

4. Short analytical paper
- Students must write one short analytical paper (4-5 double-spaced pages) based on the assigned readings. The paper is intended to provide an analysis or critique of the reading(s) of a specific weekly topic between week 3 (colonialism) and week 13 (Women’s mobility and vulnerability). The goal of this exercise to think critically on the theme of the week and then to write a paper that provides a distinct argument on the readings. The paper should advance one central argument regarding the ideas from the readings. The paper should not provide a scattered analysis of the different readings, but instead a coherent, focused argument that covers the theme of the week.
- Although some minimal summary of the readings is necessary, the paper should avoid spending significant space summarizing the readings. This is an exercise in analysis and critique.
- You can choose any week in which to write the paper, but it must not coincide with the week in which you are doing the group presentation. These exercises are separate.
- Submit the paper by 17:00 via MyCourses on Thursday before the seminar meeting for which you are writing the paper. Note that you must write your paper prior to the seminar meeting, not after the meeting. In other words, you must come to the seminar ready to discuss your paper.
5. Research paper
-The research paper should be a minimum of 15 double-spaced pages and a maximum of 20 double-spaced pages. Students can choose any topic related to gender but the argument should engage with international development.
-The goal of the research paper is to employ key concepts discussed in the seminar and to develop one's own research ideas. The paper should focus on one central argument and examine it through empirical cases.
-Students must submit the title of one's paper and an abstract describing main argument in one paragraph by 17:00 on Thursday, November 9 via MyCourses. We will explore students’ topics and ideas in class on November 10.
-You must submit your research paper via MyCourses by midnight on Friday, December 15.

Further details on the research paper will be given in class.

Grade Distribution
1. Seminar participation: 10%
2. Précis (based on eight weekly themes): 15%
3. Group project: 15%
4. Analytical paper: 15%
5. Research paper: 45%

Book to Purchase
The following required book has been ordered at Paragraphe Bookstore on 2220 McGill College Avenue. The book is also available on online shops (for example, amazon.ca) often at lower prices for used copies. A copy of the required book will be placed on reserve in the Humanities and Social Sciences library as well.


All the assigned articles other than the required book above will be placed on MyCourses. NOTE: There is no coursepack for this research seminar.

Plagiarism
McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

Policy on Languages
In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

General Information
If you have a hearing, visual, and mobility impairment, please contact the instructor immediately (in advance of any evaluations or other class requirements).

Notare Bene
This course syllabus is subject to change in case of unforeseen circumstances.

Course Schedule

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**Part 1: Macro Picture**

**WEEK 1 (September 8)**

**Introduction**

We will clarify the course outline, including the goals of the course, key course requirements, readings, and class participation. We will also introduce each other and discuss what are the key dilemmas in gender and development.

**WEEK 2 (September 15)**

**What is Gender? Interrogating Gender and Development Discourse**
Readings:


Sharma, Aradhana (2008) Logics of Empowerment: Development, Gender, and Governance in Neoliberal India. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, pp. 1-29 (Chapter 1) [MyCourses].


Optional:

**WEEK 3 (September 22)**

**Colonialism and Gender: Intersectional Approach**

Readings:

Optional:

WEEK 4 (September)
Governmentality and Gender

Readings:


Optional:

WEEK 5 (October 6)
Women’s Labor Participation

Guest Speaker: Hannah Deegan, Human Rights Lawyer, Association for the Rights of Household Workers

Readings:


Optional:


**Part 2: Socio-Political Implications**

**Week 6 (October 13)**
Gender, Resistance, and Social Advocacy

**Guest Speaker:** Juvaria Yasser, Center Manager, South Asian Women’s Community Center, Montreal

**Readings:**
WEEK 7 (October 20)
Gender Norms and Family Law

Guest Speaker: Sarah Mohab, Faculty of Law, McGill University

Readings:


WEEK 8 (October 27)
Biopolitics and Reproductive Health

Readings:


Optional:
Part 3: Social Justice

Week 9 (November 3)
Indigenous Justice and Gender

Readings:


WEEK 10 (November 10)
Gender-based Violence

Readings:


Film-screening: TBA
WEEK 11 (November 17)
Transitional Justice: Forgotten Memories of Comfort Women

Readings:


Optional:

WEEK 12 (November 24)
LGBT Rights

Readings:

WEEK 13 (December 1)
Women’s Mobility and Vulnerability

Readings:
