

# Minnesota State University Moorhead

## WS 420: Feminism in Global Perspective

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 08 - Global Perspective, Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

A topical survey of women's issues in various regions of the world with a focus on manifestations of feminism in different cultural contexts. Topics include women's rights as human rights, sex tourism and trafficking, genital mutilation, religious systems and women, and reproductive rights. Core class for Women's Studies Minor program. MnTC Goal 5 and 8.

### B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 06/05/2006 - Present

## **C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS**

1. Introduction to Cross-Cultural Study of Women's Issues
  - Cross-Cultural Similarities
  - Cross-Cultural Differences
  - The Study of Global Women: Rich and Rewarding, Shocking and Disturbing
  - Respecting Diversity and Avoiding Ethnocentrism
  - Women's Rights as Human Rights
2. Global Feminism Issues and Challenges
  - Understanding gender cross-culturally
  - Global, international, transnational
  - Human Rights
  - Ethnocentrism and the charity model
  - Human Rights
  - Females As Property
  - Human Security
  - Understanding the Terminology
  - East/South, etc.
  - Colonialism, Imperialism, Postcolonial
  - Decolonization
3. Overview of Global Feminist Issues
  - Women and the State
  - Voting
  - Governmental participation
  - Women and Politics
  - Labor and Global Economy
  - The Effects of Globalization on Women
  - Women's Work in the Transnational Factory
  - The Global Economy and Women's Migration
  - Domestic Service
  - Mail-order Brides
  - Women's Work in the Global Sex Trade
4. Physical Violence Against Women
  - Domestic Violence
  - Dowry Death
  - Honor Killing
  - Sexual Violence and Exploitation
  - Female Genital Mutilation
  - Trafficking
  - Rape, War Rape
  - Comfort women
  - Prostitution
5. Reproductive rights
  - Maternal Mortality
  - HIV/AIDS
  - Abortion
  - Contraception
  - Control of reproduction
  - Implications and interactions with State and religion

6. Framing Feminist Reactions on the Large Scale
  - Development
  - Women in Development Approach (WID)
  - Gender and Development Approach (GAD)
  - Environment and Microfinance
  - Global Activism
  - South/Third World Issues
  - Organizing Across Borders:
    - Beijing and Beyond
    - Women's World Conference
    - World Wide Web as a site of global activism
7. Human Rights/Women's Rights
  - The United Nations
  - General Description
  - The UN's Contribution to Gender Equality
  - The UN's World Women's Conferences
  - Important UN Conventions and Treaties Regarding Women's Rights
  - NGOs
    - Human Rights Watch
    - Amnesty International

#### **D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)**

1. Develop an understanding of women's issues as they are manifested in various global contexts.
2. Examine specific women's issues as they relate to topics such as development, health, population/reproduction, sexual exploitation, labor, religious practice
3. Examine the effects of globalization on women in various contexts.
4. Understand the basic idea of human rights, particularly as it applies to women
5. Examine manifestations of feminism in global contexts.
6. Examine and understand feminist theories as they apply in international contexts.

#### **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

##### Goal 08 - Global Perspective

1. Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.
3. Analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution.
4. Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.

##### Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
3. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
4. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

#### **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

**G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted