SOSC 3250: Gender and Development

Instructor: Dr. Sujata Balasubramanian
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Office Hours: Tuesday, 12pm to 1pm.
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Class Timings: Tuesdays 9am to 11:50am

Course Objectives and Activities:

This course aims to help students develop a deeper understanding of the interactions between gender and development through a study of theoretical frameworks as well as a discussion of practical case studies. Students will compare different approaches to gender and development and will learn about various strategies for empowering women in developing countries - such as increasing their access to credit and employment, and their opportunities for political participation. By the end of the semester, students should be able to critically analyze developmental policies and interventions through a gender lens.

Course activities include lectures, presentation and discussion of assigned readings, a country case study report and related presentations by groups, as well as specific in-class activities and caselet discussions tailored for particular topics.

Intended Learning Outcomes

1. Students will develop an understanding of the social construction of gender and its consequences for the day to day lives of women in developing countries.
2. Students will understand the benefits as well as the drawbacks of various strategies that have been used to empower women in developing countries – such as micro-credit, political quotas and cash transfers.
3. Students will develop the ability to critically assess the design and implementation of development projects and propose modifications to enhance gender equity.

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

Week 1 (Tues, 6th Feb): Introductory Lecture & group formation

Theoretical frameworks and models

Week 2 (Tue, 20th Feb): Gender as a Social Construct: Socialization for Inequality


***“To each less than she needs, from each more than she can do: Allocations, Entitlements and Value” by Hanna Papanek. Chapter 10 of Persistent Inequalities, edited by Irene Tinker, Oxford University Press, 1990.

Week 3 (Tue, 27th Feb): Approaches to Gender Planning: WID and GAD


Week 4 (Tue, 5th March: Economic models of the family: intra-household bargaining


Strategies for Women’s Empowerment

Week 5 (Tue, 12th March): Micro-credit to Women


** “Who takes the credit? Gender, power and control over loan use in rural credit programs in Bangladesh” by Anne-Marie Goetz & Rina Sen Gupta. World Development, 24 (1), 1996.
Week 6 (Tue, 19th March): Women and Work


Week 7 (Tue, 26th March): Leadership & Political Participation


Week 8 (Tue, 9th April): Cash Transfers


Common Gender Issues

Week 9 (Tue, 16th April): Norms of Masculinity


** “Men, Masculinities and the politics of development” by Sarah White in Men and Masculinity edited by Caroline Sweetman, Oxfam, 1997.

** “From Woman-blind to Man-kind: should men have more space in Gender and Development?” by Sylvia Chant. IDS Bulletin, 31 (2), 2000.
Week 10 (Tue, 23rd April): Mainstreaming gender in development programmes


Week 11 (Tue, 30th April): Population policy and women’s reproductive rights


Week 12 (Tuesday, 7th May): Country case study presentations by the groups in class

Course Requirements

Assigned Readings: Presentation and Class Discussion

Students will form groups to present the main points of assigned readings (both required and recommended readings), starting from Week 2. This will be followed by class discussion of the required readings. There will be exactly five groups and each group will present twice during the semester – Group 1 will present in Week 2.

The group presentation of the readings is expected to be not more than 20 minutes long and should highlight the main issues raised in the articles. Groups should present a very concise summary of the recommended readings while going into greater detail when presenting the required readings.

Students are expected to come to class familiar with the required readings for that week’s topic and prepared to discuss and analyze the related issues – all starred readings are required. All readings will be available on Library Reserve and as PDF files on the course website. The TA will also have 1 set of hard copies of all the readings.
Group Project: Report and Presentation

Each group will work on a country case study - details of this project will be discussed in class. Groups must make a **20 minute presentation** of their major findings in Week 12 on **Tuesday 7th May**. They must also submit a **WRITTEN** project report by **12 noon on Fri, 10th May**.

Final Research Term Paper

In lieu of a final exam, each student must submit a final, individual research paper related to the subject of gender and development. Papers should be typewritten and should not exceed **3500 words** (excluding references, tables and appendices). The deadline for submission of term papers is **12 noon on Tuesday 14th May**.

Assessment and Grades

Grades for the course will be based on the following:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Group Presentation of readings</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Term Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<td>Group project: report &amp; presentation</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>Class participation &amp; discussion</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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Feedback on assessments will be provided upon request in about 10 working days.

Use of GenAI and Academic Integrity

Students are permitted to use ALL kinds of Generative Artificial Intelligence tools (such as ChatGpt) to complete written assignments – guidelines for appropriate usage of such tools will be discussed in class.

All written assignments will be checked by Turnitin which is a plagiarism detection software. This is in line with the University’s policies on academic integrity and plagiarism.

The University takes all allegations of cheating, copying and plagiarism very seriously. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the guidelines for academic integrity posted on the University website: [https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/resource-library/academic-honor-code-and-academic-integrity](https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/resource-library/academic-honor-code-and-academic-integrity). Lack of knowledge or understanding of the rules will not be accepted as an excuse under any circumstances.

In order to avoid any hint of plagiarism, please ensure that you are familiar with the guidelines for proper referencing and acknowledgement of sources for written assignments. The academic integrity website has a section on “How to avoid Plagiarism and Copying” [https://registry.ust.hk/resource-library/how-avoid-plagiarism-and-copying](https://registry.ust.hk/resource-library/how-avoid-plagiarism-and-copying) and the library website has several instruction guides on writing papers and referencing which you can consult to avoid any suggestion of plagiarism.