This course counts towards majors and minors in International Relations, Sociology, and Women's Studies.

**WOMEN AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** What has the traditional role of women been in the developing world? Do women benefit as much as men from industrialization? What effects does modernization have on women’s role within the family, the work force, and politics? Have women been a conservative political force, or have they been influential in promoting social change? Does female social, cultural, economic, and political participation vary by social class, and how does it differ in the developed and less developed world? Do women’s opportunities differ in socialist and capitalist countries? The course will address such questions. Each week different readings will be discussed that address these issues.

BOOKS (available at Barnes and Nobles, BU) (also, on reserve at Mugar Library)

*I...Rigoberta Menchu: An Indian Woman in Guatemala*

Bumiller, *May You Be the Mother of a Hundred Sons*

Paternostro, *In the Land of God and Man*  [or material on-line]

Chang, *Wild Swans*

Kristof & WuDunn, *Half the Sky*

Mahdavi, *Iran’s Sexual Revolution*

Coulter, *Bush Wives & Girl Soldiers*

OPTIONAL (strongly recommended for S0820/IR825):

Kelly, et al (ed.), *Gender, Globalization, & Democratization*

Aulette, Wittner, Blakely, *Gendered Worlds*

Jaquette and Summerfield (eds.), *Women and Gender Equity in Development Theory and Practice*

Segura and Zavella (eds.), *Women and Migration in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands*

Moghadam, *Modernizing Women*

Scott, *Gender and Development*
Waylen, *Gender in Third World Politics*
Kempadoo & Doezema (eds.), *Global Sex Workers*
Brettell and Sargent (eds.), *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective*
Abassi and Lutjens (eds.), *Rereading Women in Latin America and the Caribbean*
Cornwall (ed.), Andrea, *Gender in Africa*

**ARTICLES** are on reserve at Mugar Library and on the web, at Blackboard

I. OVERVIEW OF CLASS (SEPT 3)
II. WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT: HISTORY VIEWED THROUGH PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Two Perspectives

1. Rigoberta Menchu [Sept. 10]

   1. Paternostro, *In the Land of God and Man* (Sept. 17) [out of print, read on-line or on reserve in library]


**WRITTEN/ORAL ASSIGNMENT**: you are responsible for finding a NEWS article on abortion, LGBT, divorce, or women’s labor force involvements in Latin America that addresses issues raised in Paternostro’s book. Summarize the key points of the article, and address in what ways the issues covered in the article point to/do not point to actual changes in Latin America since Paternostro wrote her book. One can look at her
book as reflecting the period in which she wrote. The question is, what has/has not changed since then.

III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT: VARIOUS THEORETICAL ISSUES AND DEBATES (Sept. 24)

Aulette, Wittner, Blakely, *Gendered Worlds*, pp 7-9, 26-29, 163-66
Boserup, *Women’s Role in Economic Development* (excerpts on reserve for S0420)
Ryan, “Encountering the State: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Women’s Political Experience,” in Brettell and Sargent (eds.), *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective*, 317-29
Vandana Shiva's work "monocultures of the mind."

http://www.npr.org/2012/09/03/160496712/pakistans- transgenders-in-a-category-of-their-own

NPR on the struggle of the hijras in Pakistan for legal recognition of a third gender - it made it to the Supreme Court and won.


III. Economy and Society: Gender and Varieties of Labor Market Experiences (Oct. 1)

Kara, Siddharth, *Sex Trafficking*, pp 1-44
New York Times article: “Microcredit is Imperiled in India by Defaults”

FILM: B.A.T.A.M.

OPTIONAL READING: Annette Fuentes & Barbara Ehrenreich, *Women in the Global Factory*

IV. CULTURE AND GENDER: INDIA CASE STUDY (Oct. 8)

*Bumiller, May You Be the Mother of 100 Sons*

“India’s New Focus on Rape Shows Only the Surface of Women’s Perils,” *New York Times* July 21, 2013


*Focus on Rape Only Scratches Surface*
By GARDINER HARRIS


A video on child marriage in India:

I WILL HAND OUT THE FIRST TAKE-HOME EXAM ON OCT. 8. IT WILL BE DUE ON OCT. 22. ASIDE FROM ANSWERING THE EXAM BASED ON READINGS AND CLASS DISCUSSION, YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANALYZING

NO CLASS ON OCTOBER 15—MONDAY CLASSES

V. GENDER & CULTURE: CROSS-CULTURAL THEMES [OCT. 22]
Schepa-Hughes, “(M)other Love…: Culture, Scarcity and Material Thinking,” in Zinn et al, Gender through the Prism of Difference, in Zinn, 261-67

Pietila, Gossip, Markets, and Gender: How Dialogue Constructs Moral Value in Post-Socialist Kilimanjaro, “Introduction” and “Conclusion,” pp 3-14, 191-202

Bachrach Ehlers, “Debunking Marianismo…,” in Zinn et al, Gender through the Prism of Difference, 49-59

An article on mujerismo that should be on Blackboard

Ong, Spirits of Resistance and Capitalist Discipline, xiii-xv, pp 195-213

Cairoli, “Factory as Home and Family,” Brettell and Sargent (eds.), Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective, pp 551-63

The Nawal El Saadawi Reader, pp. 73-99

CELIA W. DUGGER, Gradual Fall Found in Female Genital Cutting in Africa New York Times July 22, 2013

V. CULTURE AND GENDER: ISLAMIC CASE STUDY, IRAN (OCT. 29)

Tohidi, “Gender and Islamic Fundamentalism: Feminist Politics in Iran,” in Mohanty et al, Third World Women, 251-70 [read this article before reading the book]

Mahdavi, Iran’s Sexual Revolution

New York Times articles on women in the Middle East—available on Blackboard

OPTIONAL:

Film: Persepolis, A Separation or Women without Men probably

A Link from the Boston Globe. Keep the pictures in mind when we discuss women in Islamic countries [we will discuss the RANGE of experiences]. Pictured experiences are not the norm. http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2011/07/worlds_most_dangerous_countries.html

OTHER BOOKS [RECOMMENDED, NOT REQUIRED]

The Favored Daughter: One Woman’s Fight to Lead Afghanistan into the Future by Fawzia Koofi and Nadene Ghouri

Letters To My Daughters: Amazon.ca: Fawzia Koofi:

VII. WOMEN AND POLITICS (NOV 5)

Htun, “Sex and the State in Latin America,” in Krook & Childs (eds.), *Women, Gender, and Politics*


Krook, *Quotas for Women in Politics*, 19-35, 57-106


Baldez, “Women’s Movements and Democratic Transition in Chile, Brazil, East Germany, and Poland, “ in Krook & Childs (eds.), *Women, Gender, and Politics*

**Film:** PBS, on women in Chile

**VIII. WOMEN AND POLITICS: AFRICAN EXPERIENCE [NOV 12]**

Coulter, *Bush Wives and Girl Soldiers* [you can skim Chapter 1]

Documentary film you might want to watch: narrated by Leymah Gbowee. *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*. It is available through pbs.org and was created by Abigail Disney, Pamela Hogan, and Gini Reticker. The URL for the documentary is: http://video.pbs.org/video/2155873888

**IX. WOMEN, REVOLUTION, AND SOCIALISM**

**CHINA:** Chang, *Wild Swans* (NOV 19)

**CUBA, NICARAGUA, EASTERN EUROPE, IRAN (NOV 26)**


Fodor, “Gender and the Experience of Poverty in Eastern Europe & Russia After 1989,”
Fodor, et al, “Family Policies and Gender in Hungary, Poland, and Romania.”


www.elsevier.com/locate/postcomstud
One step forward, two steps back: women in the post-communist states
Suzanne LaFont * City University of New York, Kingsborough Community College, 2001

SO820 class presentation
Rueschemeyer (ed), *Women in the Politics of Postcommunist Eastern Europe*
Nechemias, “Women and Politics in Post-Soviet Russia,” 8-23
Reuschemeyer, “Women in the Politics of Eastern Germany,” 89-115

XI. SOCIAL ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
1. **Kristof & WuDunn, Half the Sky** [please list your 5 favorite chapters/topics & explain why—in addition to submitting 3 questions] **December 3.**
   you might want to read this critique of Kristof’s work:
   **FILM** based on the book, early October: Here's the link to the trailer:
   [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRfDzznFEOU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRfDzznFEOU)

reread articles on migration, eg. by George and Parrenas
Hvistendahl, *Unnatural Selection* (excerpts)
Aulette, Wittner, Blakely, “Gender and Global AIDS Pandemic,” *Gendered Worlds*, pp 288-
2ND TAKE-HOME EXAM HANDED OUT DECEMBER 3. IT MUST BE HANDED IN DECEMBER 10. BUDGET YOUR TIME SO THAT YOU CAN HAND IN YOUR EXAM ON DECEMBER 10TH. IF YOU HAVE KEPT UP WITH YOUR READINGS, YOU SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM MEETING THE DEADLINE.

2. On Dec. 10 you will be expected to hand in an analysis of a NEWS article on women and a social justice issue, e.g. women industrial workers in Bangladesh, women and microfinance, gender rights. Summarize the key points, and relate it to issues that we have addressed in class. Be prepared to discuss your article and analysis in class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1. weekly questions submitted in writing
2. class participation—this is ESSENTIAL, on a weekly basis
3. midterm and final (take-home)—please note, in that this is a reading course you will be held responsible for ALL readings for the exams
4. regular attendance

Your grade will be determined primarily on the basis of the two exams (each of equivalent worth), but also on the basis of your weekly contributions to the course, both in writing and class discussion

In choosing to take So420/820 you are expected to abide by all Boston University policies regarding plagiarism. If you are unfamiliar with those regulations, please contact me.

In electing to take S0420/820 you are also expected to attend classes regularly and participate in class discussions regularly. The strength of a seminar is contingent on the quality of student input. It is ‘your class.’ **You should let me know in advance reasons for missing ANY CLASS.**