DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:
This course addresses the social, sexual-reproductive, economic, political, and cultural dimensions of women's lives from a global perspective. We scrutinize the status of women and girls, identifying the consequences of globalization for life in societies, in communities and of individuals.

Our critical feminist standpoint encompasses three interconnected stages: description of conditions and theoretical framing of issues; development of visions of social justice leading to liberation from oppression; and planning and engagement in action necessary to create such social and personal change. Here, we are particularly interested in finding ways to connect activism at the local level to activism at the national and global levels.

COURSE CONTENT:
Overview of the general geographical and geopolitical characteristics of nations in the five continents: America, Asia, Africa, Oceania, and Europe.

1. The historical expansion of the patriarchal capitalist system and the connection to Western colonization of nations in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Pacific Islands. Overview of this global economic and political history and trends in the 20th Century, including:
   a. Modernity and the creation and demise of centrally planned socialist states in the Soviet Union, China, Korea, Vietnam, Cuba, Chile, Grenada and Nicaragua; the capitalist wars against national liberation struggles and the role of women in them, for example, in Nicaragua, Chile and Argentina.
   b. Dependent capitalist development efforts in the Third World, after WWII's the economic boom, including manufacturing for internal consumption and for export, and agricultural development; gender, class and race/ethnicity related effects of development on women and families.
   c. Transfer of manufacturing from advanced economies to the Third World, creating "the global assembly line" where young women have provided a pool of cheap labor globally;
   d. Impact of information technologies on the intensification of globalization and capitalist appropriation of financial, labor and natural resources around the globe;
   e. Militarism, military industry and commerce, wars and their impact on prostitution and violence against women.
   f. Militarism, military industry and commerce, wars and their impact on prostitution and violence against women.
   g. Role of international financial and lending institutions, such as the World Bank, in imposing neoliberal economic models and the impact of structural adjustment policies on women and children.

2. Analysis of life histories--with special attention given to domestic labor and labor market employment, sexuality and reproduction, health, and education of women and children from diverse backgrounds from selected and especially targeted countries from different regions of the world, particularly from the Third World and non-Western nations. For example, women
from Afghanistan, Thailand, Malaysia, India, South Africa, Sierra Leon, Morocco, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Israel, Haiti, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Chile. Also stories from women in countries in translation to capitalism such as Bosnia and Russia, and indigenous women in advanced capitalist nations such as Australia, New Zealand, the U.S. and Canada. Stories are told by the women themselves in works of fiction and nonfiction and in video documentaries and they are examined in terms of institutional issues such as domestic and labor market employment, sexuality and reproduction, health and education.

3. Feminist and women's activism and their agenda worldwide;

4. Leadership role of the United Nation and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in setting international laws and policies affecting the rights of women, including the results of the U.N. Decade of Women and resulting international conferences, particularly the 1995 Beijing Conference and its platform of action.

LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS
At the end of the course, students will demonstrate having the ability to:

1. Research the geographical, geopolitical, historical, social, political and economic characteristics of countries and describe the status of women and minorities, using library and Internet resources.
   Assessment: Student will do an oral presentation of a research project on one country.

2. Analyze the lives of women taking into consideration social, cultural, historical, economic and political factors, and identifying issues concerning domestic and labor market employment, sexuality and reproduction, health and education.
   Assessment: Student will contribute to classroom discussions and write response papers to readings.

3. Articulate the impact of the historical trends of the 20th century on women in developed and developing nations.
   Assessment: Student will take formal examinations and will contribute to classroom discussions.

4. Plan a course of action to bring about social and personal change concerning women's issue of global dimension and implication.
   Assessment: Student will prepare a written plan for activism and will write journal of activism documenting steps taken towards the fulfillment of the plan.

TEACHING METHODS AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES
The suggested class format is that of a seminar. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the topics in the readings, and to be responsible for the direction of the discussion. Students will also be involved in projects that will result in oral presentations, and will have the opportunity to interview guest speakers as well as watch videos about various topics. Use of the world wide web will be an important tool in this class, as well as participation in activist events, in particular during Women's History Month. The professor will take the role of learning facilitator and will lecture as appropriate to instruct, make connections, and clarify concepts.

SUGGESTED TEXTS AND READINGS:


**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**


