

## **Women in Cross-Cultural Perspective**

Women's Studies 200

Section: D100

Term: 2009 Fall

Instructor: Dr. Delia Douglas

Discussion Topics: Everywhere in the world women have the least amount of income, everywhere in the world the intensity of the bond between women is seen to be subversive it would be good to develop international responses to these conditions. We cannot eliminate problems unless we see them in their global dimensions June Jordan (as cited in Parmar 1990, p. 113).

This course is a cross-cultural, cross-national examination of women's status in a range of societies that include Africa, the Middle and Far East, Europe and the Americas. We begin from the assumption that owing to differences of history, language, race, class, generation, location and sexuality our experiences and the nature of our oppressions vary. Correspondingly we will engage in an interdisciplinary dialogue, drawing upon feminist scholarship, critical race analyses and sociology in our efforts to identify and explore the diversities and commonalities that exist among women within and across cultures and national boundaries. Some of the issues that we will examine include globalization and tourism, the prison industrial complex, violence against women, the politics of displacement, forced relocation, inter/national struggles for community and justice, as well as narratives of home and belonging. One of the goals of this course is to develop different ways of seeing and thinking so that we can identify and examine various forms of subordination that are understood to be emblematic of the interactive effects of gender, class, race, sexuality in a broad socio-historical and economic context. In short this class encourages students to explore the contradictions and politics of women's lives so that we might develop a more dynamic and complicated understanding of women as producers of knowledge and as agents of resistance and transformation.

Grading: Attendance:\x09\x09\x09\x09\x0910%

Group Presentation:\x09\x09\x09\x0915%

In Class Midterm:\x09\x09\x09\x0925%

Reading Responses/Cultural Critiques\x0920% - (2 x10%)

Autoethnography:\x09\x09\x09\x0915%

Take Home Final:\x09\x09\x09\x0915%

Required Texts: All of the articles and excerpts from books or chapters from edited collections will be held on reserve in the library (in addition to the articles, where possible the books will also be available).

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Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite: WS 101 or 102 (may be taken concurrently)

Notes:

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.