

Franklin & Marshall College, Spring 2018
Women, Culture, and Development [ECO/WGSS282]

Professor Zein-Elabdin

Stager 325, Eiman.zein-elabdin@fandm.edu

Office Hours: MW 2:30—4:00 pm; TR 4:00—5:30 pm, and by appointment

“Liberate yourself before you liberate me!”

Nawāl Al Sa`dawi

Course Description

This course examines the role of gender in different cultures across world regions classified as ‘less developed’ or ‘underdeveloped,’ and the impact of economic development on women and gender relations in these societies. We will look at the economic roles women play in many parts of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean; their contributions to social change; and the extent to which conventional methods of economic analysis can capture these roles and contributions. We will also examine developmentalist representations of women and gender relations in ‘less/underdeveloped’ countries. The course is interdisciplinary, with readings from economics and women and gender studies, in addition to other areas in the social sciences and humanities. I encourage you to ask questions, challenge assumptions, and reflect deeply. Do not hesitate to develop your own perspective on any issue, but be sure it is well informed and carefully thought-out. The course requires knowledge of economic principles; you will need to recall several concepts learned in ECO100 and ECO103.

What you should get from this course

1. A certain body of knowledge about women and gender relations in the context of different societies, cultures, and economic conditions.
2. A critical understanding of economic approaches to ‘development,’ especially in relation to women and gender relations. This requires a grasp of economic development as both a historical phenomenon and a normative concept.
3. Familiarity with the discourse on women/gender and development – its origins and evolution, key authors, concepts, theories, and debates.
4. Improved skills: analytical rigor, a critical mind, careful use of language, and communicating ideas by engaging in intellectual conversation with others.

Course Grade

- Class work [attendance, discussion, answering questions, in-class activity] 14%
- Homework and other assignments 18%
- Exams 44% [first 20%, final (cumulative) 24%]
- Research paper 24%.

I will give detailed instructions for each assignment in due time.

Study Materials

- Readings (all are available as PDF files on Canvas, see p. 4-6)
- All lectures and classroom handouts
- Films –DVDs/ videos (see p. 6-7). These will be updated as needed
- Current news sources (e.g., newspapers and media announcements)

Ground Rules

- The course relies on engagement with the material and collective discussion of the readings. It is crucial that you study the assigned readings ahead of time, and be prepared to speak in class. You must bring the assigned readings to class to be able to participate effectively.
- Attendance is mandatory. You have one allowed absence, no questions asked. A second absence reduces your course grade by 2 points. Any additional unexcused absences will result in a significant reduction of your course grade. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what was covered and to collect returned assignments or exams.
- Check your email regularly as I will use it to communicate some assignments and other course information to you. **However: All work must be turned in on time, in paper form. Do not send assignments by email or any other electronic format unless I instruct you to do so.**
- **Use of cell phones and laptops, arriving late, and taking breaks during class are not allowed.**
- Make-up exams will be given only in the event of a documented extraordinary circumstance, which does not include regular athletic events and other social engagements.
- **Academic Honesty is a fundamental principle to college learning and integrity. If I determine that you have cheated or plagiarized on an exam, homework, paper, or any other assignment, you will receive an “F” in the course (see p. 7 for details).**

January

T 16 Course Introduction

I - Ground Work

R 18, T 23 'Women'
Readings: Drucilla Barker, *Gender*
Amartya Sen, *Gender and cooperative conflicts*

R 25, T 30 'Culture'
Readings: Anne Mayhew, *Culture*
Uma Narayan, *Cross-cultural connections, border crossings
and "death by culture"*

February

R 1, T 6 'Development'
Readings: Shirin Rai, *History of international development*
Ester Boserup, *Woman's role in economic development*

R 8, T 13 The Study of Women and Development
Readings: Chandra Mohanty, *Under Western eyes: feminist scholarship
and colonial discourses*
S. Charusheela and E. Zein-Elabdin, *Feminism, postcolonial
thought and economics*

R 15 *First Exam*

II – Women's Lives and Experiences

T 20, R 22 Work, Family, and the Labor Force
Readings: Kalima Rose, *SEWA: Women in movement, India*
Homa Hoodfar, *Women and employment, Egypt*
Lourdes Benería, *Accounting for women's work*
Film: *Kamala and Raji*

T 27 Roundtable/Workshop

March

R 1, T 6, R 8 Farmers, Land Rights, and Property Ownership
Readings: Michael Kevane and Leslie Gray, *A woman's field is made at
Night, Burkina Faso*
Film: *With these hands*

5-9th *International Women's Week*

T 13, R 15 *Spring Break ☺*

- T 20, R 22 Export Manufacturing and Globalization
 Readings: Amriah Buang, *Development and factory women, Malaysia*
 Diane Elson and Ruth Pearson, *Nimble fingers make cheap workers*
 Haejin Kim and Paula Voos, *The Korean economic crisis and working women*
 Film: *Mini Dragons*
- T 27, R 29 The Microcredit 'Revolution'
 Readings: Naila Kabeer, *Is microcredit a 'magic bullet' for women's empowerment? findings from South Asia*

April

- T 3, R 5 Displacement, Migration, and Refugees
 Readings: Monica Boyd and Elizabeth Grieco, *Women and migration: incorporating gender into international migration theory*
 E. Zein-Elabdin, *Women's bodies: an entry to postcolonial economies of displacement and refuge*

III – Women, Culture, and Development

- T 10, R 12 The Human Development and Capabilities Perspective
 Readings: Martha Nussbaum, *Human capabilities, female human beings*

Research Paper Due April 12

- T 17, R 19 Postcolonial Feminist Perspectives
 Readings: Charusheela and Zein-Elabdin, *Feminism, postcolonial thought and economics (again)*
 Jennifer Olmsted, *Orientalism and economic methods: feminist economic discussions of Islam*
 Brenda Wyss, *Culture and gender in Jamaican household economies*
 Film: *Life and Debt*

- T 24, R 26 Conclusion

May 2-5 Final Exams

Readings (on Canvas)

- Barker, Drucilla [1999] "Gender," in *The Elgar Companion to Feminist Economics*, edited by Janice Peterson and Margaret Lewis, Aldershot: Edward Elgar.

- Benería, Lourdes [1992] "Accounting for Women's Work: The Progress of Two Decades," *World Development*, 20 (11): 1547-60.
- Boserup, Ester [1970] *Woman's Role in Economic Development*, NY, NY: St. Martin. (Extract in *Gender and Development: Critical Concepts in Development Studies*, edited by Janet Momsen, Vol. I, p. 11-47, London: Routledge, 2008).
- Boyd, Monica and Elizabeth Grieco [2003] "Women and Migration: Incorporating Gender into International Migration Theory," *Online Journal of the Migration Policy Institute*, March 1, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/women-and-migration-incorporating-gender-international-migration-theory>.
- Buang, Amriah [1993] "Development and Factory Women: Negative Perceptions from a Malaysian Source Area," in *Different Places, Different Voices: Gender and Development in Africa, Asia, and Latin America*, edited by Janet Momsen and Vivian Kinnaird, London: Routledge.
- Charusheela, S. and E. Zein-Elabdin [2003] "Feminism, Postcolonial Thought and Economics," in *Feminist Economics Today: Beyond Economic Man*, edited by Marianne A. Ferber and Julie A. Nelson, Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- Elson, Diane and Ruth Pearson [1981] "Nimble Fingers Make Cheap Workers: An Analysis of Women's Employment in Third World Export Manufacturing," *Feminist Review*, Spring, p. 87-107.
- Hoodfar, Homa [1997] "Women and Employment," in *Between Marriage and the Market: Intimate Politics and Survival in Cairo*, Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- Kabeer, Naila [2005] "Is Microcredit a 'Magic Bullet' for Women's Empowerment? Analysis of Findings from South Asia," *Economic and Political Weekly*, 29 (October): 4709-18.
- Kevane, Michael and Leslie Gray [1999] "A Woman's Field is Made at Night: Gendered Land Rights and Norms in Burkina Faso," *Feminist Economics*, 5 (3): 1-26.
- Kim, Haejin and Paula Voos [2007] "The Korean Economic Crisis and Working Women," *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, 37 (2): 190-208.
- Mayhew, Anne [1994] "Culture," in *The Elgar Companion to Feminist Economics*, edited by Janice Peterson and Margaret Lewis, Aldershot: Edward Elgar.

- Mohanty, Chandra Talpede [1992] "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses," in *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism*, edited by Chandra Talpede Mohanty, Ann Russo, and Lourdes Torres, Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.
- Narayan, Uma [1997] "Cross-Cultural Connections, Border Crossings, and 'Death by Culture'," in *Dislocating Cultures: Identities, Traditions, and Third-World Feminism*, London: Routledge.
- Nussbaum, Martha C. [1995] "Human Capabilities, Female Human Beings," in *Women, Culture, and Development: A Study of Human Capabilities*, edited by Martha Nussbaum and Jonathan Glover, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Olmsted, Jennifer [2004] "Orientalism and Economic Methods: (Re)reading Feminist Economic Discussions of Islam," in *Postcolonialism Meets Economics*, edited by Eiman Zein-Elabdin and S. Charusheela, London: Routledge, p. 165-182.
- Rai, Shirin [2011] "The History of International Development: Concepts and Contexts," in *The Women, Gender and Development Reader*, edited by Nalini Visvanathan, Lynn Duggan, Nan Wiegersma, and Laurie Nisonoff, London: Zed, 2nd ed.
- Rose, Kalima [1997] "SEWA: Women in Movement," in *The Women, Gender, and Development Reader*, edited by Nalini Visvanathan, Lynn Duggan, Laurie Nisonoff, and Nan Wiegersma, London: Zed, 1st ed.
- Sen, Amartya K. [1990] "Gender and Cooperative Conflicts," in *Persistent Inequalities: Women and World Development*, edited by Irene Tinker, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Wyss, Brenda [1999] "Gender and Culture in Household Economies: The Case of Jamaican Child Support Payments," *Feminist Economics*, 5 (2): 1-24.
- Zein-Elabdin, E. [2017] "Women's Bodies: An Entry to Postcolonial Economies of Displacement and Refuge," paper presented at the International Association for Feminist Economics 2017 conference, June-July, Seoul, South Korea.

Statistical Sources

- United Nations Development Program (UNDP) [2016] *The Human Development Report 2016*, New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
- World Bank [2017] *World Development Indicators 2017*, Washington DC: The World Bank.

Films

- Kamala and Raji*, Michael Camerini and Shari Robertson, Watertown, MA: Documentary Educational Resources, 1996. VHS.
<https://fandm.kanopystreaming.com/video/kamala-and-raji-1991>
- With These Hands: How Women Feed Africa*, Claude Sauvageot, Aline Danger, Francoise Medard, and Bob Rootes. New York: Filmmakers Library, 1987. DVD4430.
<https://fandm.on.worldcat.org/search?format=Video&queryString=with+the+se+hands&scope=wz%3A465#/oclc/70195795>
- Mini Dragons: South Korea*, 1991. (Episode 1)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLP3taOLiOM>
- Mini Dragons II: Malaysia*, Maria Nicolo, Maryland Public Television Co., 1993.
- Life and Debt*, Stephanie Black, N.E.W Yorker Video, 2001. DVD770.
- Femmes aux Yeux Ouverts (Women with Open Eyes)*, Anne-Laure Folly, California Newsreel, 1994.
<https://fandm.kanopystreaming.com/video/femmes-aux-yeux-ouverts-women-open-eyes>

Recommended Readings:

- Agarwal, Bina [1994] *A Field of One's Own: Gender and Land Rights in South Asia*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Elson, Diane (ed.) [1991] *Male Bias in the Development Process*, Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- Needleman, Ruth [2011] "I am somebody!": Brazil's Social Movements Educate for Gender Equality and Economic Sustainability," in *The Women, Gender and Development Reader*, edited by Nalini Visvanathan, Lynn Duggan, Nan Wiegersma, and Laurie Nisonoff, London: Zed, 2nd ed.
- Sen, Gita and Caren Grown [1987] *Development, Crises, and Alternative Visions: Third World Women's Perspectives*, New York, NY: Monthly Review Press.
- Shiva, Vandana [1989] *Staying Alive: Women, Ecology, and Development*, London: Zed Books.
- Zein-Elabdin, E. [2017] "Feminist Economics: Women, Culture, and Development," in *Economics, Culture and Development*, London: Routledge, pp. 156-177.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Academic dishonesty applies to exams, homework, papers, or any other assignment. It includes the following (in addition to other forms listed in the F&M College Catalogue):

- a) **Cheating** (“giving or receiving uncondoned assistance” (*College Catalogue* at <http://www.fandm.edu/catalog/academic-honesty>) in an exam, homework, paper, or any other assignment; or submitting work that does not belong to you in whole or in part). You may work together and exchange ideas about assignments. However, **all work you submit must be your own.**
- b) **Plagiarism**
 - “Use of the language and thoughts of another author [or source] and the representation of them as one’s own,”
 - “Verbatim copying or imitation of the language, ideas, or thoughts of another author and representing them as one’s own original work.”
 - Act of “theft, appropriation, infringement, piracy, lifting” (*The Free Dictionary* by Farlex, 2014, <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/plagiarism> accessed 8/26/2016, 4:30 pm).
 - Borrowing ideas or language from another source – paragraphs, sentences, parts of sentences, specific words or expressions – without proper citation.

To avoid plagiarism, you must properly cite all borrowed work. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting or collaboration, you may ask me, or consult The F&M Writing Center’s “Using Outside Sources” at <http://www.fandm.edu/admin/aMediaBackend/original?slug=using-outside-sources-10th-ed-redux-2011&format=pdf>

You will be penalized for plagiarism regardless of whether it resulted from intentional dishonesty, carelessness, or ignorance about what constitutes plagiarism. It is your responsibility to know the meaning of plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty as defined in the F&M College Catalog.

GRADING SCALE

A	93+	C +	75-79
A -	90-92	C	70-74
B+	87-89	C -	65-69
B	83-86	D	60-64
B -	80-82	F	<59

Have a wonderful semester!

