



WOMEN & POLITICS INSTITUTE

SCHOOL of PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Govt. 485/685.05 Women and Politics in Developing Countries
February 25 – 26, 2006
Spring 2006

Instructor: Medha Nanivadekar
Phone Number: 202-885-2903
Email: medhananivadekar@yahoo.com

Course Description: This class explores the process of women's political empowerment in developing countries. It gives an account of the ways in which women have moved into positions of political power and acted on their governments to achieve equality. The class looks at the ways in which the issues of poverty, health needs, education and violence are being addressed.. Speakers include experts from the NGO community as well as congressional and administrative staff.

Course Expectations: Attendance at every session is absolutely mandatory. You must be in class by 9AM each day. Attendance will be taken before every session. You must complete a 7-10 page paper, **due on Monday, March 27, 2006 at 4PM**, on one of the following topics:

- Discuss the characteristic features of women's political participation in developing countries and compare the same with those in the USA.
- Discuss the issues facing the women in developing countries and those in the developed countries. Do you see any meeting ground for the two to forge a common agenda?
- Discuss major achievements of women's quotas in politics.
- Formulate sample policy statement for the empowerment of women in developing countries.

Grading: Your grade for the course will be based on your class participation (10%), in-class assignments (10%) and your final paper (80%). Papers more than two days late will not be accepted.

Required Readings: These readings will help you prepare for the course and it is expected that they will be done prior to the first day of class.

1. Nanivadekar, Medha (2003) "Dual-Member Constituencies: Resolving the Deadlock on Women's Reservation" http://www.quotaproject.org/papers_other.htm
2. "Women's Representation in the Rwandan Parliament: An Analysis of Variations in the Representation of Women's Interests Caused by Gender and Quota" **Helle Schwartz** http://www.quotaproject.org/other/Schwartz_2005.pdf

3. Norris, Pippa “Increasing Women’s Representation in Iraq:What strategies would work best?” http://www.quotaproject.org/papers_other.htm
4. Norris, Pippa “Implementing Women’s Representation in Afghanistan’s Electoral Law: Options for reserved seats” http://www.quotaproject.org/papers_other.htm

Suggested Readings: These readings will contribute to your overall understanding of the course and topics presented.

1. Morna, Collin Lowe Ed. **Gender in South African Politics: Ringing up the Change**, Johannesburg, Gender Links 2004
2. Dahlerup, Drude Ed. **Women, quotas and politics** New York : Routledge, 2006
3. **The Process of Engendering a New Constitution of Rwanda**, Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2002
4. Dhar, Samirendra Nath **Micro-finance for women: necessities, systems, and perceptions**. New Delhi: Northern Book Centre, c2005
5. Arya, Sadhana and Anupama Roy Eds. **Poverty, gender, and migration** Thousand Oaks, California, SAGE Publications 2006
6. Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance- IDEA’s quota Project web page: <http://www.quotaproject.org/>
7. Nelson, Barbara J. and Najma Chowdhury Ed. **Women and Politics Worldwide** New Haven: Yale University Press, c1994
8. Burra, Neera, Joy Deshmukh-Ranadive, Ranjani K. Murthy Eds. **Micro-credit, poverty and empowerment: linking the triad** New Delhi; Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 2005
9. Inter-Parliamentary Union data on percentage of women in National Parliaments <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>.
10. Other related links: <http://www.ipu.org/english/home.htm>

**Govt-485/685.05
Women and Politics in Developing Countries
Course Outline**

Saturday, February 25, 2006

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| 9:00 | Overview and Introduction to Course
Medha Nanivadekar |
| 10:00 | Lecture: Women and Politics in Developing Nations
Medha Nanivadekar |
| 11:00 | Break |
| 11:15 | The Development of Women as Citizens
Jennifer Greene, Peace X Peace Initiative |

- 12:15 Lunch
- 1:15 Women and Participation in Civil Society:
Kristin Haffert, NDI – WIN with Women Global Initiative
- 2:15 Break
- 2:30 Women’s Quota in Indian Politics: Unanimity over Local Quotas and the
Controversy over Parliamentary Quotas
Medha Nanivadekar
- 3:30 Break
- 3:45 Film, *Community* 1996 (24 min.)
- Film looks at positive long term change that can come with women's participation in community affairs. Women and men in the Satkhira district of southwestern Bangladesh discuss their progress in creating economic opportunity for all while addressing the issue of women's rights. (VHS 4906)*
- 4:15 Class Discussion
- 4:45 Review of Day, Reading Assignment

Sunday, February 26, 2006

- 9:00 Class Activity: Campaigning for Women’s Quota in India
- 10:00 Women and Education
Dr. Luba Fajfer, USAID
- 11:00 Break
- 11:15 Class Discussion
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:15 Film, *The Women’s Bank of Bangladesh*, 1997 (47 min.)
- In Bangladesh, the Grameen Bank, founded by professor of economics Muhammad Yunus, makes small-business loans to women only. Film describes the philosophy, development, and function of the bank and then follows the daily activities of three women who have taken out loans to fund their cottage industries. (VHS 4542)*

- 1:15 Women and Economics – Microfinance
Deborah Burand, Grameen Bank Foundation USA
- 2:15 Politics of Violence Against Women
Seema Jalan, Women’s Edge Coalition
- 3:15 Break
- 3:30 Politics of Family Planning and Reproductive Health
Stephenie Foster, Planned Parenthood Federation of America
- 4:30 Looking Ahead
- 4:45 Course Assignment