Instructor: Medha Nanivadekar  
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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.


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

3. The *Process of Engendering a New Constitution of Rwanda*, Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2002

**Govt-485/685.05**

**Women and Politics in Developing Countries**

**Course Outline**

**Saturday, February 25, 2006**

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:
Kristi 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