Women, Development and Politics - PPHA 47400
The Harris School of Public Policy Autum 2021 (updated: 08/27/21)

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Time and Location: Tuesday 2:00 pm to 4:50 pm
Course materials: Canvas

Course Description
This course will be a conversation between a political economy and critical development studies approach to the study of women and international development. The course will explore dominant and emerging trends and debates in the field, drawing on quantitative and qualitative methodologies to understand the status of women in the majority-world. Students will have a better understanding of global gender inequities alongside a wide range of themes impacting women such as discrimination, structural inequality, globalization, cultural politics and peace and security. The lectures will focus on gender inequalities at the global and local levels, including the workplace, communities, households and in formal development programming. The course will also explore aid policies focused on improving the conditions of women and gender relations.

Course Requirements:
All students are expected to have completed the relevant readings before the class meeting each week. The course is not taught from a single textbook. Instead, weekly readings will be drawn from a collection of articles and book chapters (whenever possible, these readings will be posted on the UChicago Canvas course site). You should aim to evaluate critically the theoretical argument and the evidence advanced in each reading. Some of the readings contain sections that contain econometrics.

We will regularly update the syllabus online and mark the required readings at least one week in advance of each respective lecture. Check the course site in Canvas before every lecture for announcements of updated versions of the required readings and the syllabus.

Required books:
All readings are available online through UChicago library catalogue or at the Canvas Website:  
The following course text is also available as an e-book resource:  
Grading:
Class Attendance and Informed Participation (20%) It is necessary that you attend each class session having read the assigned materials. All students are expected to participate in small and large group discussions.

Critical Review Essay (20%) Students must complete a critical review essay, 4-6 pages on either a book or journal articles related to the course topic. A suggested bibliography will be circulated by the instructor, but if you choose a title not on the list please submit it for review and approval.

Research Paper (40%) Students must complete a research paper, 11-15 pages from a list of topics that will be distributed. If you prefer a topic not on the list, please ask an instructor for permission.

Group Presentations (20%) All students will be divided into groups and must prepare a class presentation that incorporates their individual research papers (see above) around a particular group theme (such as gender and poverty) that will be assigned by the instructor. A detailed handout will be uploaded at the Canvas site of the class. Each presentation must be 20 minutes in length to be followed by a question/answer session with the rest of the class.

Late Work: All assignments are expected to be turned in on time. Late assignments will be downgraded one half-grade (A to A-, A- to B+, etc.) per day late. This includes weekends. The only exceptions will be made for serious medical or family problems with documentation. There will be no other exceptions.

ADA student accommodations: “Any student who believes they may need assistance should inform the Office of Student Disability Services by the end of the first week of class. Once you have received an accommodation letter, it should be presented to the course instructor immediately.” https://disabilities.uchicago.edu/

Course outline, reading list and remainders:

Lecture 1 – September 28th Discrimination and Gender Inequality


Lecture 2 – October 5th Overview of the Field of Women, Gender and Development


Lecture 3 – October 12th Ignoring Women


*Note: We will have a writing and research workshop in order to discuss the critical review essay.

Lecture 4 – October 19th Debt, Industrialization and Globalization: The Impact and Implications on Women


*Note: Due date for critical review

Lecture 5 – October 26th Cultural Politics in Development: Project to Rescue?


Lecture 6 – November 2nd Causes and Consequences of Discrimination


Lecture 7 – November 9th Women, peace and post-conflict development


Nadje Al-Ali (2005) Reconstructing Gender: Iraqi women between dictatorship, war, sanctions and occupation, Third World Quarterly, 26:4-5, 739-758

Lecture 8 – November 16th Natural experiments on Empowerment and Promoting Empowerment


*Note: Final research papers are due on TBD

Lecture 9 – November 23rd DOCUMENTARY

Lecture 10 – November 30th Presentations