SOSC 3250: Gender and Development

Instructor: Dr. Sujata Balasubramanian  
Room: 3370; Email: sujata@ust.hk  
Office Hours: Friday, 6-7pm.  
TA:  
TA’s email:

Course Objectives and Activities:

This course aims to help students develop a solid understanding of the interactions between gender and development through a study of theoretical frameworks as well as a discussion of practical case studies. Students will compare different approaches to gender and development and will learn about various strategies for empowering women in developing countries - such as increasing their access to credit and employment, and their opportunities for political participation. By the end of the semester, students should be able to critically analyze developmental policies and interventions through a gender lens.

Course activities include lectures, presentation and discussion of assigned readings, a country case study report and related presentations by groups, as well as specific in-class activities and caselet discussions tailored for particular topics.

Intended Learning Outcomes

1. Students will develop an understanding of the social construction of gender and its consequences for the day to day lives of women in developing countries.
2. Students will understand the benefits as well as the drawbacks of various strategies that have been used to empower women in developing countries – such as micro-credit, political quotas and cash transfers.
3. Students will develop the ability to critically assess the design and implementation of development projects and propose modifications to enhance gender equity.

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

Week 1: Introductory Lecture & group formation (Friday, 1st Feb)

Theoretical frameworks and models

Week 2 (8th Feb): Gender as a Social Construct: Socialization for Inequality

“To each less than she needs, from each more than she can do: Allocations, Entitlements and Value” by Hanna Papanek. Chapter 10 of Persistent Inequalities, edited by Irene Tinker, Oxford University Press, 1990.
Week 3 (15th Feb): Women’s Practical and Strategic Needs


Week 4 (22nd Feb): Economic models of the family: intra-household bargaining


**Strategies for Women’s Empowerment**

Week 5 (1st March): Micro-credit to Women


Week 6 (8th March): Women and Work


Week 7 (15th March): Leadership & Political Participation


Week 8 (22nd March): Cash Transfers


**Common Gender Issues**

Week 9 (29th March): Norms of Masculinity


Week 10 (12th April): Mainstreaming gender in development programmes


Week 11 (26th April): Population policy and women’s reproductive rights


Week 12 (3rd May, 2019): Country case study presentations in class

Course Requirements

Assigned Readings: Presentation and Class Discussion

Students will form groups to present the assigned reading/s in class, starting from the second week of class. This will be followed by class discussion of the reading/s.

The group presentation of the readings is expected to be *not more than 15 minutes* long and should highlight the main issues raised in the articles. There will be five groups and each group will present twice during the semester.

*All weekly readings are required* and students are expected to come to class familiar with the assigned reading/s for that week’s topic and prepared to discuss and analyze the related issues. All assigned readings will be available as PDF files on the course website.

For those who would like to learn more about particular issues, a list of Recommended Readings is attached as an appendix to the Course Outline.

Group Project: Report and Presentation

Each group will prepare a country case study - details of this group project will be discussed in class. Groups must submit a WRITTEN project report by *8pm on Monday, 6th May*. These written reports will be checked using the Turnitin software.

In addition, each group will make a presentation of its major findings in class in Week 12 – *on 3rd May, 2019*. 
Term Paper

Each student must submit a research paper related to the subject of gender and development. Papers should be typewritten and should not exceed **3500 words** (excluding references, tables and appendices). The deadline for submission of term papers is **5 pm on Friday, 10th May**.

*Note*: All term paper submissions will be checked by Turnitin which is a plagiarism detection software. This is in line with the University’s policies on academic integrity and plagiarism.

Assessment and Grades

Grades for the course will be based on the following:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Group Presentation of readings</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Term Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group project: report &amp; presentation</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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Academic Integrity

The University takes all allegations of cheating, copying and plagiarism very seriously. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the guidelines for academic integrity posted on the University website. Lack of knowledge or understanding of the rules will not be accepted as an excuse under any circumstances.

In order to avoid any hint of plagiarism, please ensure that you are familiar with the guidelines for proper referencing and acknowledgement of sources for written assignments. The academic integrity website has a section on “How to avoid Plagiarism and Copying” [http://ugadmin.ust.hk/integrity/student-4.html](http://ugadmin.ust.hk/integrity/student-4.html) and A Guide to Good Referencing Skills which you may refer to [https://libguides.ust.hk/basic-citation/good-referencing-tutorial](https://libguides.ust.hk/basic-citation/good-referencing-tutorial)
Appendix 1:  

Recommended Reading

Abu-Ghaida, and Klasen (2004): The costs of missing the millennium development goal on gender equity. World Development


