POLS 379.001  ST: Feminist Theories of International Development  
Fall 2008  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:00-12:50pm  
Location: Maybank 316  
Professor: Dr. Kea Gorden  
gordenk@cofc.edu  
Office Phone Number: 843-953-7858  
Office Hours: Mondays 1-2:30, Tuesdays 3:30-4:30, by appointment  
Office Location: 114 Wentworth St., Room 205  
Note: syllabus subject to revision

Course Description and Learning Objectives  
This course serves as an introduction to thinking about the complexity of international development within the framework of feminist theories. After decades of efforts to promote development, why is there so much poverty in the world? What are some of the root causes of inequality world-wide and why do poverty, economic transformations and development policies often have different consequences for women and men? This course explores these issues while also examining the history of development itself, its underlying assumptions, and its range of supporters and critics. It considers the various meanings given to development by women and men, primarily as residents of particular regions, but also as aid workers, policy makers and government officials. The course is appropriate for those intending to work in international development, as well as for those desiring an advanced introduction to the growing literature on gender and international development. Through the study of a range of theoretical texts, primary data sources and policy statements, we will rigorously examine the politics and policies of international development from a feminist perspective. Central to our understanding of these matters will be a continued discussion of the concept of gender and its critical connections to the socio-historical, cultural, and geopolitical conditions of international development.

Course Requirements:  
Attendance at class and participation is essential and constitutes 20% of course grade.  
Course materials must be read for the assigned day in class. Completed reading assignments, regular attendance in class, and informed participation in discussions are extremely important not only for your, but also for other
students in the class. They are your contribution to the group’s learning process. All readings are required. You should come to class with questions written down for the class discussion. These can be comprehension or discussion questions. I will collect these periodically, so please bring them on a sheet of paper or email them to me the night before class.

Written assignments included:
One short 3 page paper (worth 20% of grade)
One 5-7 page paper (worth 25% of grade)
Final Exam (worth 35% of grade)

Honor System and Academic Integrity
Any breach of the College of Charleston Honor Code will result in a failing grade in this class. The following is taken from the College of Charleston website and can be found at http://www.cofc.edu/StudentAffairs/general_info/honor_system/faculty_guide.html

Honor Code
The Honor Code specifically forbids lying, cheating, attempted cheating, stealing, attempted stealing and plagiarism. Students at the College are bound by honor and by their acceptance of admission to the College to abide by the Code and to report violations.

Code of Conduct
As members of the College community, students are expected to evidence a high standard of personal conduct and to respect the rights of other students, faculty, staff members, community neighbors, and visitors on campus. Students are also expected to adhere to all federal, state, and local laws.

Faculty members are required to report violations of the Honor Code or Code of Conduct to the Office of Student Affairs.

Disability Statement
If there is a student in this class who has a documented disability and has been approved to receive accommodations through the Center for Disability Services/SNAP (Student Needing Access Parity), please come and discuss this with me during my office hours.
Required Texts – All texts can be found at both University Books and the College of Charleston Bookstore.

You are also required to print and read the E-Reserve materials. Please plan accordingly.


August 27    Introduction to the Class and Expectations
August 29    Introduction to International Development and Feminist Theories
September 1 Development and Conceptions of Progress

Readings: September 1-3

September 5  Film: Life and Debt

September 8  Perspectives from the South
Readings: September 8-10
Kincaid, Jamaica. A Small Place.

September 10  Perspectives from the South (contd.)

Part I: The Colonial Legacy: The Gendered Precedents of Development

September 12  The Colonial Legacy
Readings: September 12-15
Emecheta, Buchi. The Joys of Motherhood.

September 15  The Colonial Legacy (cont.)

September 17  Colonial Images of "Native" Women and Men
Film: First Contact
Readings: September 17


September 19  Colonial Transformations of Gender
Readings: September 19

September 22  Women, Tradition and Modernism
Readings: September 22


September 24  Socialism and Post-Colonialism
Readings: September 25-30
Chungara, Domitila de. Let Me Speak!

September 26  Socialism and Post-Colonialism (cont.)

September 29  Film: Joe Leahy's Neighbors  *Paper 1 Due*

Part II: The Rise of Development Theory
October 1  The Rise of Development Theory
Readings: October 1


Finnemore, Martha. "Redefining Development at the World Bank." Chapter 7 in International Development and Social Sciences. (E-Reserve)

October 3  Critics from within the Economic Frame
Readings: October 3


**Part III: Development and Daily Life**

**October 6**  
Film: Our Friends at the Bank

Readings: October 6-10


**October 8**  
Development and Daily Life (cont.)

**October 10**  
Development and Daily Life (cont.)

**October 15**  
Development and Bureaucracy

Readings: October 15


**October 17**  
Development and Bureaucracy (contd.)

Readings: October 17

Scott, James. Selections from *Seeing Like a State.* (E-Reserve)

**October 20**  
Knowledge and the Environment

Readings: October 20


**October 22**  
Knowledge and the Environment (contd.)


**October 24**  
The Complexities of Activism

Readings: October 24


**October 27**  
**Film: Black Harvest**  
*Paper 2 Due*

**Part IV: Further into Daily Life – The Politics of Poverty outside the Development Frame**

**October 29**  
The Politics of Wage Labor  
Readings: October 29–November 3  
Wolf, Diane. Selections from Factory Daughters.

**October 31**  
The Politics of Wage Labor (contd.)

**November 3**  
The Politics of Wage Labor (contd.)

**November 5**  
Drawing the Line Between First and Third Worlds?  
Readings: November 5  

**November 7**  
Drawing the Line Between First and Third Worlds? (contd.)  
Readings: November 7-10  
Mignolo, Walter. Selections from Local Histories/Global Designs (E-Reserve)

**November 10**  
Drawing the Line Between First and Third Worlds? (contd.)

**November 12 – 21**  
Issues of Health  
Readings: November 12 – 21  

**November 24**  
Film: Celso and Cora

**Week of December 1-5**  
Thinking More About Gender  
Readings: December 1-5
Gutmann, Matthew. Selections from *The Meanings of Macho*.

December 8  Review Session

December 15  FINAL