

Women's Global Health Movements

01:988:407:90

Course Description

Informed by the history of the International Women and Health Meetings (IWHMs), this course investigates the political vision and organizational structure for women's health movements around the world. It contrasts early strategies driven by coalitions of activists from the North, which focused on reproductive rights, self-help, and a definition of health based largely in the physiology of women's bodies with approaches advanced by activists from the global South, which attend to the social, cultural, and economic factors that affect women's access to the most basic healthcare. This course examines how and why contemporary feminist conceptions of health are grounded in a comprehensive framework attentive to international power dynamics, globalization, macroeconomic policy, national and global poverty, conflict and war, and debt crises in various countries. Beginning with an overview of women's contemporary health challenges, the class then analyzes the political tactics and strategies women have devised to secure access to healthcare for themselves, their families, households and communities. Introducing students to the global institutions, organizations, and policies that impact health, course material also traces how women's nongovernmental organizations have attempted to transform existing institutions and policies of global health governance to enable women in all regions of the world to lead physiologically, psychologically, and emotionally healthier, more dignified lives.

Course Requirements

Students are required to complete all assigned readings for the course and actively participate in the online discussion board. The class participation grade will be based on the number, volume, and quality of student comments, which engage reading materials, films, and lectures (given by the professor and uploaded to the online lecture delivery system). Sustained, astute, and informed class participation is crucial for a successful and productive online classroom experience, and such participation depends largely upon students completing the reading assignments in a timely fashion. Class discussion is closely aligned with the reading assignments for each week. To facilitate candid discussions, it is important that each student manifest respect for the opinions of their classmates. Hostile, intolerant, and insensitive remarks will not be tolerated and will be removed from the online discussion board. **Class participation as described here will count toward 20 percent of the final grade.**

Each student is required to complete three short projects, the requirements for which are outlined in the syllabus under "Course Structure." **Each short project counts toward 20 percent of the final grade; short projects count, in total, toward 60 percent of the final grade.**

There will be a final examination. Students will be given their examination a week prior to its due date and may utilize all course materials (but *only* assigned course materials) to complete the exam. **The final exam counts toward 20 percent of the final grade.**

Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. Any student who plagiarizes the work of another will face serious academic consequences. If students are unclear about the

meaning of plagiarism or whether or not their work may be plagiarizing, the student must discuss the issue directly with me. Again, failure to do so may, and most likely will, result in severe punishment. You may also address your inquiries online at <http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>.

Reading Materials

The following books are required for this class. They are available for purchase at the Rutgers University Bookstore (One Penn Plaza, Ferren Mall, New Brunswick, NJ 08901). ISBN numbers are noted if you would prefer to order these books online.

Peggy Antrobus. 2004. *The Global Women's Movement: Issues and Strategies for the New Century*. New York: Zed Books. (ISBN-10: 1842770179; ISBN-13: 978-1842770177)

Paul Farmer, Margaret Connors, and Janie Simmons, eds. 2011. *Women, Poverty, and AIDS: Sex, Drugs, and Structural Violence*. Monroe, ME: Common Courage Press. (ISBN-10: 1567513468, ISBN-13: 978-1567513462)

Nancy Fraser, and Axel Honneth. 2003. *Redistribution or Recognition?: A Political-Philosophical Exchange*. London: Verso. (ISBN-10: 1859844928; ISBN-13: 978-1859844922)

Anne Firth Murray. 2008. *From Outrage to Courage: Women Taking Action for Health and Justice*. Monroe, ME: Common Courage Press. (ISBN-10: 1567513905; ISBN-13: 978-1567513905)

Rosalind Pollack Petchesky. 2003. *Global Prescriptions: Gendering Health and Human Rights*. New York: Zed Books. (ISBN-10: 1842770071; ISBN-13: 978-1842770078)

Other readings are drawn from these books, which are not required for this class.

Paul Farmer. 2005. *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Naila Kabeer. 2003. *Reversed Realities: Gender Hierarchies in Development Thought*. New York: Verso.

Ichiro Kawachi, and Sarah Wamala, ed. 2007. *Globalization and Health*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Ilona Kickbusch, Kari A. Hartwig, and Justin M. List, eds. 2005. *Globalization, Women, and Health in the 21st Century*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Lechner, Frank J., and John Boli, eds. 2011. *The Globalization Reader*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers.

Shirin M. Rai. 2002. *Gender and the Political Economy of Development*. Malden, MA: Polity.

Haun Saussy, ed. 2010. *Partner to the Poor: A Paul Farmer Reader*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Meredith Turshen. 2007. *Women's Health Movements: A Global Force for Change*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Course Overview

Week # 1: Course Introduction: Framing the Discussion on Women's Health Activism

Week of Tuesday, September 4th

Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor (Paul Farmer), "On Suffering and Structural Violence: Social and Economic Rights in the Global Era," Chapter 1, pp. 29–50; "Listening for Prophetic Voices: A Critique of Market-Based Medicine," Chapter 6, pp. 160–178; "New Malaise: Medical Ethics and Social Rights in the Global Era," Chapter 8, pp. 196–212; "Rethinking Health and Human Rights," Chapter 9, pp. 213–246

Partner to the Poor (ed. Saussy), "Introduction: The Right to Claim Rights," pp. 1–24

Week # 2: The Fight over Healthcare for All: Best Characterized as Redistribution (of resources) or Recognition (of different identities)?

Week of Monday, September 10th

Redistribution or Recognition?: A Political-Philosophical Exchange (Fraser and Honneth), "Introduction: Redistribution or Recognition," pp. 1–6; "Social Justice in the Age of Identity Politics: Redistribution, Recognition, and Participation," Chapter 1, pp. 7–109

Week # 3: The Global Roots of the Women's Health Movement: Part I

Week of Monday, September 17th

The Global Women's Movement (Antrobus), "The Global Women's Movement: Definitions and Local Origins," Chapter 2, pp. 9–27; "Global Contexts for an Emerging Movement: The UN Development Decades, 1960s–1970s," Chapter 3, pp. 28–36; "A Decade for Women: UN Conference, 1975–1985," Chapter 4, pp. 37–66

"The International Women and Health Meetings: Catalyst and End Product of the Global Feminist Health Movement." Delivered by Sylvia Estrada-Claudio at the Workshop "Transnationalization of Solidarities and Women's Movements" held at the University of Montreal, April 27–28, 2006.

Week # 4: The Global Roots of the Women's Health Movement: Part II

Week of Monday, September 24th

Global Prescriptions (Petchesky), “Transnationalizing Women’s Health Movements,” Chapter 1, pp. 1–30; “The UN Conferences as Sites of Discursive Struggle: Gains and Fault Lines,” Chapter 2, pp. 31–75

Women’s Health Movements (Turshen), “Women Organizing: Activism Worldwide,” Chapter 1, pp. 1–33; “The Global Context,” Chapter 2, pp. 34–60

Week # 5: The Biopolitics of Gender

Week of Monday, October 1st

From Outrage to Courage (Murray), “From the Beginning, A Deadly Preference,” Chapter 2, pp. 17–28; “Childhood: The Hope of Education and the Persistence of Discrimination,” Chapter 3, pp. 31–59; “Adolescence: Change and Vulnerability,” Chapter 4, pp. 61–83; “The Maternity Death Road: Reproductive and Sexual Health,” Chapter 5, pp. 85–109; “Violence against Women: Abuse or Terrorism?” Chapter 6, pp. 111–131; “Women Caught in Conflict and Refugee Situations,” Chapter 7, pp. 133–157; “Laboring in a Globalized World,” Chapter 8, pp. 159–191; “Aging in a Man’s World,” Chapter 9, pp. 193–212

Week # 6: Project Week: Transformative Tactics

Week of Monday, October 8th

Project # 1 due 11:59 pm, Friday, October 12th

Anne Firth Murray features small descriptions of international women’s health NGOs and projects throughout *From Outrage to Courage*. Your first project consists of two parts. **Part 1:** Select a women’s health NGO that Murray features in her book and write up a fact sheet on it. (Guidelines for the formatting of the fact sheet will appear in a separate document.) **Part 2:** Research an international women’s health NGO or project that is not featured in Murray’s book and write a brief description (250–300 words) of the NGO or project. You must (1) be absolutely sure that the NGO or project is not already featured in Murray’s book, and (2) write descriptions for two international women’s health NGOs.

The online discussion board for this week will focus on the various tactics utilized by these organizations and projects to achieve more equitable access to healthcare for their constituencies.

Week # 7: Structural Violence and Health

Week of Monday, October 15th

Partner to the Poor (ed. Saussy), “Women, Poverty, and AIDS,” Chapter 15, pp. 298–327; “On Suffering and Structural Violence: Social and Economic Rights in the Global Era,” Chapter 16, pp. 328–349; “An Anthropology of Structural Violence,” Chapter 17, pp. 350–375; “Structural

Violence and Clinical Medicine,” Chapter 18, pp. 376–392; “Mother Courage and the Costs of War,” Chapter 19, pp. 393–408; “‘Landmine Boy’ and Stupid Deaths,” Chapter 20, pp. 409–426

Women, Poverty, and AIDS (ed. Farmer, Connors, and Simmons), “Sex, Drugs, and Structural Violence” (Connors), Chapter 3, 91–123

Week # 8: Epistemological Boundary Crossings in the Fight for Universal Healthcare

Week of Monday, October 22nd

Women, Poverty, and AIDS (ed. Farmer, Connors, Simmons), “Rereading Social Science” (Farmer, Connors, Fox, and Furin), Chapter 5, pp. 147–205; “Rereading Public Health” (Rhatigan, Connors, Rodriguez), Chapter 6, pp. 207–243; “Rereading Clinical Medicine” (Rhatigan and Daily), Chapter 7, pp. 245–276

Week # 9: The Global Women’s Movement Responds to Capitalist Development

Week of Monday, October 29th

Reversed Realities (Kabeer), “The Emergence of Women as a Constituency in Development,” Chapter 1, 1–10; “Treating Cancer with a Bandaid? The Theoretical Underpinnings of WID,” Chapter 2, 11–39; “Same Realities, Different Windows: Structuralist Perspectives on Women and Development,” Chapter 3, 40–68

Gender and the Political Economy of Development (Rai), “Globalization: New Agendas for Gender and Development?” Chapter 3, pp. 84–120; “Global Restructuring and Restructuring Gender Relations: The Politics of Structural Adjustment,” Chapter 4, pp. 121–158

The Global Women’s Movement (Antrobus), “The Lost Decade—the 1980s,” Chapter 5, pp. 67–75

Week # 10: The Impact of Globalization on Women’s Health

Week of Monday, November 5th

Globalization and Health (ed. Kawachi and Wamala), “Globalization and Women’s Health,” Chapter 10, pp. 171–184

Globalization, Women, and Health in the 21st Century (ed. Kickbusch, Hartwig, and List), “Understanding Gender, Health, and Globalization: Opportunities and Challenges” (Doyal), Chapter 1, pp. 9–27; “Globalization, Trade Liberalization, and Women’s Health: A Nepalese Perspective” (Maskey), Chapter 3, pp. 76–85; “Gender, Health, and Globalization: An International NGO Perspective” (Harcourt), Chapter 3, pp. 86–94; “Globalization, Health, and the Engendering of Resistance in Everyday Life” (Spiegel and Andruske), Chapter 4, pp. 95–112; “Globalizing Gendered Resistance: Moving Beyond the Individual,” Chapter 4, pp. 126–

133; “Women, Health, and Globalization: A Critical Social Movement Perspective” (Desai), Chapter 5, 135–148; “Gendered Cures for Global Health Initiatives in Africa” (Nhongo-Simbanegavi), Chapter 5, pp. 149–156; “A Comfortable Home: Globalization and Changing Gender Roles in the Fight against HIV/AIDS” (Csete), Chapter 6, 167–182

Week # 11: Global Health Governance

Week of Monday, November 12th

Global Prescriptions (Petchesky), “Managing Health under Global Capitalism: Equity vs Productivity,” Chapter 4, 133–187

Globalization and Health (ed. Kawachi and Wamala), “Health Policy and the World Trade Organization” (Bloche and Jungman), Chapter 15, pp. 250–267; “Promoting Public Health in the Twenty-First Century: The Role of the World Health Organization,” Chapter 16, pp. 268–283; “What’s Politics Got to Do with It? Health, the G8, and the Global Economy” (Schrecker and Labonte), Chapter 17, pp. 284–310; “Military Spending: Global Health Threat or Global Public Good?” (Hyatt), Chapter 18, pp. 311–329

Richard Dodgson, Kelley Lee, and Nick Drager. 2011. “Global Health Governance: A Conceptual Review,” 278–284. *The Globalization Reader*, ed. Frank J. Lechner and John Boli.

David McCoy, Gayatri Kumbhavi, Jinesh Patel, and Akish Luintel. 2011. “The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation’s Grant-Making Programme for Global Health,” 284–288. *The Globalization Reader*, ed. Frank J. Lechner and John Boli.

Week # 12: Project Week: Women Cultivate Mechanisms of Global Accountability

Week of Monday, November 19th

Project # 2 due 11:59pm Monday, November 26th

We have examined the economic and social consequences of the policy tools of significant institutions of global health governance: the World Bank and the IMF utilize structural adjustment policies; the World Trade Organization utilizes trade agreements; and the World Health Organization utilizes the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health. In 1000 words, make a case for which institution and attendant policy tool is potentially most harmful to women’s health globally. Clearly identify one or two ways women’s NGOs might hold these institutions accountable to human rights, including the universal right to health.

Week # 13: Women Fight for Alternative Modalities of Global Health Governance

Week of Monday, November 26th

Global Prescriptions (Petchesky), “Implementing International Norms at the National Level: Women’s Health NGOs in the Firing Line,” Chapter 5, pp. 188–246

Shirin M. Rai. 2004. “Gendering Global Governance.” *International Journal of Feminist Politics* 6(4):579–601.

Jutta Joachim. 2003. “Framing Issues and Seizing Opportunities: The UN, NGOs, and Women’s Rights.” *International Studies Quarterly* 47:247–274.

Marie L. Campbell, and Katherine Teghtsoonian. 2010. “Aid Effectiveness and Women’s Empowerment: Practices of Governance in the Funding of International Development.” *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 36(1):177–202.

Gender and the Political Economy of Development (Rai), “Gender and Multi-Level Governance: Feasible and Transformative Politics?” Chapter 5, pp. 159–197

Week # 14: Integrating the Fight for Health as a Human Right in the Global Women’s Movement

Week of Monday, December 3rd

Partner to the Poor (ed. Saussy, all pieces written by Paul Farmer), “Rethinking Health and Human Rights: Time for a Paradigm Shift,” Chapter 21, pp. 435–470; “Rethinking Medical Ethics: A View from Below,” Chapter 22, pp. 471–486; “Never Again? Reflections on Human Values and Human Rights,” Chapter 23, pp. 487–527; “Rich World, Poor World: Medical Ethics and Global Inequality,” Chapter 24, pp. 528–544; “Making Human Rights Substantial,” Chapter 25, 545–559

The People’s Charter for Health, written by The People’s Health Movement

The Global Women’s Movement (Antrobus), “It’s About Justice: Feminist Leadership Making a Difference on the World Stage,” Chapter 6, 80–108; “Political Strategies and Dynamics of Women’s Organizing and Feminist Activism,” Chapter 7, 109–136; “Leadership for Moving Forward,” Chapter 9, 164–180; “Epilogue: Is Another World Possible?” 181–186

Week # 15: Project Week: Women’s NGOs Strategize the Global Redistribution of Resources

Week of Monday, December 10th

Each of these readings are short and are chosen to prepare you for your final short project.

Christine Keating, Claire Rasmussen, and Pooja Rishi. 2010. “The Rationality of Empowerment: Microcredit, Accumulation by Dispossession, and the Gendered Economy.” *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 36(1):153–176.

Natalie Raaber, and Masum Momaya. September 24, 2010. "Can Financial Transaction Taxes Help Finance Development in Line with Human Rights." Written for the Association for Women's Rights in Development. (<http://www.awid.org/Library/Can-Financial-Transaction-Taxes-help-finance-Development-in-line-with-Human-Rights>)

Gigi Francisco. 2002. "Expanding the Debate on the Global Tobin Tax." A presentation at the conference session on Controlling Capital Finance convened by ATTAC at the World Social Forum, p. 2.

Sonia Correa. 2002. "Financial Transaction Taxes: Evaluating National Experiences." A paper presented at the 4th Prepcom for Financing for Development held in New York, NY, January 2002, p. 5.

Jasmin Enayati, and Minu Hemmati. 2000. "Tobin Tax for Social Development." (<http://www.earthsummit2002.org/wssd/wssd5/wssd5tobin.html>)

Financial Flows (a short clip by AWID explaining their subject of their international forum held in Istanbul, Turkey, April 19–22, 2012, and why financial flows matter to women)

"Tobin Tax and Women" presented by Gita Sen at the DAWN Panel, "Feminist Interventions Amidst Contending Views on Financing for Development," during the public forum of the Asia Pacific Capacity Development on Gender and Macroeconomic Issues: 1st Regional Intensive Course (Miriam College, Philippines, 2010 June 14–25).

Project # 3 due 11:59 pm, Wednesday, December 12th

The development mantra of neoliberal capitalism is "trade, not aid." The sustainable development mantra of the Association for Women's Rights and Development (AWID) and Development Alternatives for Women of a New Era (DAWN) is "tax, not aid." In 1000 words explain this distinction between trading and taxing as development strategies and explain why feminist development scholars and organizations prefer the latter. Define what a financial transaction tax is and state why feminist development scholars believe that a financial transaction tax potentially allows for development financing without conditions, dissimilar from the conditional lending structures of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. How do AWID and DAWN tie the financial transaction tax to healthcare financing, and what might the financial transaction tax mean for guaranteeing healthcare as a universal human right (and holding countries, corporations, and the international financial institutions responsible for upholding the right to healthcare)?

The final examination is open book and will appear online by 11:59pm Wednesday, December 12th. The exam is due on or before 11:59pm Thursday, December 20th.