Women, Men, Gender, and Development
International Relations IR 237

Fall 2017
Thursdays 3:25 pm to 6:05 pm

Professor: Milena Novy-Marx
Email: mnovymarx@gmail.com

Office Hours:
Thursdays 2:15 to 3:15 pm, and immediately after class, or by appointment
Location: Harkness 316

Course Description
This course examines a range of issues in international development from the perspective of women and girls, men and boys. We will review recent literature on gender and development, including how development policies, programs and issues affect men and women, and girls and boys, differently. We will explore gender identity including sexual identity and LGBT+. We bring a critical eye to gender inequality and how it is addressed in the field of sustainable development. We will study how gender roles and norms are socially constructed, vary by society and culture, and change over time. Students will have the opportunity to examine development issues, policies, and programs that address poverty, sustainable development, and human rights in a range of sectors including health, education, agriculture, microfinance, migration, and the environment. We will explore the ways in which gender differences arise through social interactions, and in intersection with race/ethnicity, social class, income level, and sexualities and gender identities.

Learning Objectives
The course learning objectives focus on substantive knowledge and critical thinking, and (for W students) research and writing skills.

By the end of the semester, students should:

- Be familiar with thematic and conceptual debates on gender and development
- Understand basic issues, trends, and concepts in the field of international economic and sustainable development and gender inequality
- Possess a heightened capacity to identify and critically analyze the relevance and influence of gender in a range of development issues, including economic development, poverty, sexual and reproductive health, masculinity and engaging men, LGBT+, the environment and climate change, microfinance, agriculture, and migration
- Be familiar with current and emerging global issues related to the Sustainable Development Goals
• Have a greater understanding of the role gender relations can play in project planning and management, and a basic knowledge of some gender analysis tools and frameworks

• Have a greater awareness of how and why gender is important in development and the evolution of approaches to gender and development, including gender mainstreaming

W Students should also be able to:

• Demonstrate their critical thinking, research and writing skills in a 12 to 15 page research paper on a topic of their choice related to gender and development (topic must be approved by Professor);

• Articulate and defend the principal findings of their research paper in an oral presentation to the class.

Aug 31 (Week 1) Introductory Session: The Global Gender Gap
(Note: Posting comments on the readings on Blackboard is not required for the first week, but come prepared to discuss readings in class.)

Reeves, H. and Baden, S. (February 2000), Gender and Development: concepts and definitions (BRIDGE Report No. 55), (pp. 1-38) 38 pages Institute of Development Studies. Pdf available on Blackboard.


Explore the country profiles of one developing and one developed country of your choice in the Country Profiles of the Global Gender Gap Report (from p. 71 onward) and come prepared to discuss in class. (See link above)

Watch in class:
Video: Ted Conversations Chimamanda Ngozi Aichie: The danger of a single story.

Discussion Questions (come to class prepared to discuss the following):

• How does culture play a role in gender relations and gender identities?
• What is gender equality vs. gender equity?
• How is the Global Gender Gap measured? Do you agree with this approach?
What countries have the greatest gender gaps? What countries have the smallest gaps? Why?

Sept 7  
(Week 2)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Gender


Keep in mind this is Jeff Sachs’ proposal for the Sustainable Development Goals. What he proposed and what was adopted in 2015 vary a bit. The next reading, Transforming Our World, shows you exactly what all UN Member nations adopted as the SDGs in 2015.

Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Finalized Text for Adoption, The United Nations, August 1, 2015. (pp. 1-29) 29 pages Read the entire Text, then choose 2 SDGs and focus on the sub-targets within them, coming to class prepared to discuss.


Discussion Questions:

- Why does Sachs call for moving from the MDGs (completed in 2015) to the SDGs? What are the crises of environmental stability he points to?
- What are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? What is their purpose and how will countries be held accountable?
- Which goals specifically address women, girls, and gender inequality?
- What are the sub-targets under the SDG for gender equality?
- How do the SDGs differ from the MDGs, both in the process for setting them and the goals themselves?
- How are sustainable development and gender linked (i.e., how does improving sustainable development improve gender equality, and vice versa)?
- Which goals in your view should be prioritized, if any?

Sept 14  
(Week 3)

The Economics and Science of Sustainable Development

Sachs, J.D. (2008) Common Wealth, Part I pp. 3-53. (51 pages). Reading the entire book is recommended, but only Part 1 will be required for this session.


Discussion Questions

- What is the definition of sustainable development? What are its three pillars?
- What are the four goals that Sachs proposes we can achieve in the coming decades to reach sustainable development?
- What are the six trends that Sachs says will shape this century?
- What is Sachs’ proposed strategy for sustainable development?
- What are some of the planetary boundaries that Rockstrom describes? Which have we reached?
- Consider differing definitions and priorities for development of different groups in the community from the Costa Rican case study and be prepared to do a role play in class.

W Students: Abstract Due

Boys, Men, and Sexuality (Week 4)


Read whole report—this is our main reading for the week.


Read Summary of Findings and Part I (pp 7-15); skim Survey Results and Examine Graphs (pp. 16-59); read Conclusion (pp. 60-61)

Discussion Questions

- Why is gender a boys’ and men’s issue too?
- Why should men and boys engage and be engaged with gender equality?
- What do they have to gain?
- What do girls and women have to gain by engaging men and boys?
- What are strategies for engaging boys and men in advancing gender equality?
- What did the IMAGES study measure, and where?
- Based on the IMAGES (Involving Men and Gender Equity) survey, what statistics surprised you? Which statistics did you expect?
• How do the results of the survey vary across countries? Which country appears to have the greatest gender equality based on the survey? Which country has the least gender equality?

**W Students: Abstract of Paper Due**

**Sept 28**  
(Week 5)  
Gender Analysis Frameworks and Gender Debates  


We will be dividing up in groups in class to discuss the framework used by CARE and the frameworks in the Marsh, et al. Guide to Gender Analysis Frameworks, with each group taking a different framework to describe. To summarize, each person should be familiar with CARE’s framework and two others (a total of 3).

In class we will do a gender analysis on one or more real world cases so that you can apply the frameworks you learned about.

**Discussion Questions**

• What is gender mainstreaming? What are strategic vs. practical gender needs? Consider the definitions of sex vs. gender.  
• What is a gender analysis framework?  
• Why and by whom are these used?  
• What is CARE’s framework and why and how do they use it?  
• Consider the strengths and weaknesses of the frameworks you focus on.  
• Do you think gender analysis frameworks are useful in the context of developing countries? Could they be used in the US?

**Oct 5**  
(Week 6)  
LGBT+, Gender, and Development  


1. What are some of the hardships faced by LGBT people in developing countries?
2. How has the US adapted its international development policies to advance LGBT rights abroad?
3. What are some of the ways in which the University of Vermont adapted to accommodate a third gender—neutral and transgender individuals?

Oct 12 (Week 7)

Primary and Secondary Education for Girls


Optional


Video: Malala Yousafzai address to the United Nations Youth Assembly http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3rNh Zu3ttIU (17 minutes)

Music Video: I am Malala (5 minutes)


Discussion Questions:
What progress has been made in enrolling girls and women in primary, secondary, and tertiary education worldwide? Where are there the greatest gaps? How does the Global Monitoring Report suggest that they be closed?

- Why the concern with “quality” education (Global Compact on Learning)?
- What is the Global Learning Crisis?
- What are some examples of effective models for scaling up quality education in developing countries? What factors affect effective scaling?
- What are the social and economic “returns” to increasing girls’ education? Why is it considered a good investment?
- What does the International Commission on Financing Global Education recommend for financing achievement of SDG 4 on Education?

Oct 19

MIDTERM EXAM (term definitions and short essays; in class exam)

Oct 26

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Maternal Mortality

“Dying Too Young: Maternal mortality claims the life of a woman every minute,” Amnesty International, May 2009 (pp. 2-7, 6 pages)


Pascaline Dupas, “Do Teenagers Respond to HIV Risk Information? Evidence from a Field Experiment in Kenya,” (pp. 1-18, 18 pages) Pay special attention to how this Randomized Control Trial (RCT) was designed. See attachment entitled, “Teenagers HIV_January 09”


Discussion Questions:

- How prevalent is maternal mortality? How many women die of childbirth each year? Is the trend worsening or improving?
- What are the main causes of maternal mortality?
- What are the recommended strategies for reducing maternal mortality (Lancet)?
• What did the study on providing risk information in schools re HIV find? How was the randomized control trial (RCT) designed?
• What have been the results of previous US policy to promote abstinence as a way of reducing HIV infections in developing countries?
• Why are rates of maternal mortality increasing in the US? Where is this happening? What factors cause this per the WSJ article?

W Students: Outline and Preliminary Bibliography Due

Nov 2
(Week 9)

Women in Agriculture

(pp 1-39 only—this is Executive Summary, Chapter 1 and Chapter 2)

Video: Catherine Bertini on Agriculture and Women – 6 minutes
Professor Bertini teaches at the Maxwell School of Public Affairs at Syracuse U.

An Elephant in Her Backyard, Cheryl Merrill, 2014 (short blog)

We will watch a video in class on the Ecoexist Project – a cooperative effort of to help farmers and elephants co-exist in Botswana https://vimeo.com/124473058

Discussion Questions:

• What are some of the challenges faced by girls living in rural, agricultural economies?
• What are the roles that women and girls play in farming in developing economies? What are some of the barriers to increasing their productivity and empowerment in this field?
• How does the experience of being a female farmer compare to that of male farmers?
• How can they be empowered to better contribute to these economies? What recommendations does Prof. Bertini make in her report?

Nov 9
(Week 10)

Climate and Energy

Brian Blankespoor, et al, “The Economics of Adaptation to Extreme Weather Events in Developing Countries,” Center for Global Development Working Paper 199 (January 2010) (17 pages) at http://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/1423545_file_Economics_of_Adaptation_FINAL.pdf  Do not worry about understanding the economic modeling in this paper, but rather focus on the text--the description of the impact of women’s education on helping communities adapt and respond to extreme weather events.


Discussion Questions:

• Is climate change gender neutral? Why or why not?
• How does climate change affect women, and the poor, in developing countries?
• How is climate change affecting men and boys? What stresses do they endure due to its impacts?
• How can women be an asset in mitigating climate change?
• Are women well represented in policy making regarding climate change (through UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change-IPCC)?
• What are examples of gender-aware climate responses in Colombia and India (BRIDGE Report)?
• How can losses/impacts from extreme weather events/climate change be reduced through women’s education (Center for Global Development Working Paper)?
• What are the main features of the Paris Climate Agreement of 2015 and how does it differ from past international agreements on climate?
• What is REDD+ ? How can it be used to mitigate climate change?
Nov 16  Women, Men, Children and Migration  
(Week 11)  Temporary Workers; Human Trafficking and Forced Labor

“The Female Face of Migration,” Background Paper for the Forum on Women, Migration and Development, Caritas (2010). At  
http://www.caritas.org/includes/pdf/backgroundmigration.pdf


Watch in Class

Video  Young and Invisible: Domestic Workers in Yemen (33 minutes)

Discussion Questions

- What share of the world’s migrants are women? Why do women migrate?
- Do the poorest women migrate?
- Does migration improve or worsen a woman’s status and empowerment?
- What is the difference between human trafficking and smuggling?
- What measures can be used to address human trafficking?
- What does the Domestic Workers Convention call upon signatories to do? Why is it historic? Can it be enforced?
- What is transnational care work? In what ways can it be exploitative, and in what ways can it not be exploitative? How do we know?

Nov 23  NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK

Nov 30  Governance and Political Representation  

**Rwanda Case Study**


**US Case Study**


Optional:


http://www.unicef.org/sowc07/docs/powley.pdf

Discussion Questions:

- How well are women represented in elected office worldwide? Which regions lead in female representatives in Parliament? Which regions lag?
- What are the arguments for use of gender quotas for political office? What is their track record—do quotas work?
- What are the main arguments against using quotas to increase women in office?
- How did Rwanda become the first nation with over 50% women in Parliament? Does it offer best practices for other countries?
- Do women in office govern and vote differently from men? How do we know? What does the evidence say for the US?
- What was the natural experiment reported on by Beaman et al in village councils in India? What was the impact on girls and parents of having women village council leaders?

**W Students Draft Paper Due**

Dec 7 (Week 13)

Women, Diversity, and Corporate Leadership


Watch Behavioral Design to avoid bias - Video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=niH9wfKsUlC

Optional:

“Closing the Gender Gap in Japan”, 2014 – Added as of 9/1/2016 –


Discussion Questions:

- Does gender diversity within corporate leadership improve performance of a corporation? What does the research tell us?
- What are the arguments for gender diversity in leadership?
- Do men and women have different leadership styles? Is it possible to make such generalizations? How do we know?

W Students Final Paper Due December 16

Course Requirements

Exams/Papers

Mid-term Exam (in class)

Final Exam – (scheduled by the Registrar, subject to change, confirm final time and date with Registrar).
**For W Students:** A substantial research paper (12-15 pages) on a gender and development-related topic (must be approved) is required for this course. Please choose a research question and design your paper around answering that question. See the syllabus for dates that the abstract, outline and rough and final drafts are due. I am happy to work with you on successive drafts if you would like to discuss them and improve your paper. I do require at least one rough draft. This process is designed to help you improve your writing—a skill that will serve you well in the future in nearly any field you pursue.

**Readings**

All students are expected to complete all of the readings every week and to be familiar with the major arguments made. Discussion questions are provided on the syllabus to help guide your reading. Be prepared to discuss these questions in class. In addition

1. Each week, students are required to post on Blackboard talking points reflecting on the readings for that week, by Wednesday at midnight prior to the Thursday seminar. The talking points should offer critical reflections on all of the readings. Instead of summarizing or synthesizing the readings, they should highlight puzzles, make comparisons, present your reflections, relate to your experiences, and/or identify contradictions, thereby stimulating class discussion. They can be in the form of a narrative, bullet points, and/or a table and will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

2. Most weeks, a group of two to three students will work together create and deliver in class a short presentation (no more than 12 minutes) regarding the topic of the week. Detailed instructions will be provided to guide the development of the presentation. Presentations will require some outside research. In some cases, presentations will also draw on aspects of the readings but are not meant to reproduce or synthesize the main points of the readings. Student presentations will serve as a jumping off point for class discussion and add a new angle to the week’s topic. W students may elect to present on their paper instead of this weekly presentation, or in addition to it.

3. Class discussion is an important part of the course. I expect all students to read each week’s assigned readings, be prepared to discuss them, and to participate actively. Discussion questions are offered for each week to help guide your reading.

All readings are available online and/or via electronic reserves on Blackboard.

**W Paper Due Dates**

- Abstract
- Discussion of Topic with Professor
- Outline & Bibliography Presentations
- Draft Paper

September 14
Continuing
October 26
(to be scheduled if student chooses this option)
Nov 30
I will work with you on multiple drafts if you would like to improve your writing. We will also hold a writing workshop (1-2 hours) with other W students in the class to read and comment on each other’s drafts.

**Grading**

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class Discussion, Talking Points, &amp; Presentation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<td>Final</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<td>For W Students</td>
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<td>Research Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Discussion, Talking Points &amp; Presentation</td>
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<td>Mid-term</td>
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<td>Final</td>
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**Film screenings (TBD)** – extra credit will be available for viewing a film and writing a brief film review (5%); also, some films may be viewed in class

**Pray the Devil Back to Hell**  

**A River Changes Course**  
Documentary by Kalyanee Mam - see  

**Girl Rising**  
[http://www.girlrising.com/girl-rising/](http://www.girlrising.com/girl-rising/) 10 girls from around the world tell their stories and share their experience with education and empowerment

Video, Art, and Poetry

See CARE wiki [http://gender.care2share.wikispaces.net/Art](http://gender.care2share.wikispaces.net/Art)