Syllabus
Gender and Economic Development in the Third World

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
Economics Department
Econ 5560/6560, Spring 2016
OSH 135

Diksha Arora
Email: diksha.arora@economics.utah.edu
Office: 209 OSH
Office hours: Monday 10-11am

Course Description
This course examines the gender dimensions of economic development from the perspective of feminist economics. We will examine in detail issues of production (paid work), reproduction (care work), and the family/household nexus (where production and reproduction meet).

Since the early 1980s economic globalization has been achieved on the basis of a common set of macroeconomic policies pursued in industrial and developing countries alike. These policies frame both the gender-differentiated impacts of policy and the initiatives that are implemented to reduce inequalities between men and women. This course will examine the impact of these policies on men and women in the global South (a.k.a. developing countries) on gender inequalities and to evaluate the policies/strategies for reducing gender inequalities and promoting the well-being of all people.

Upon completion of the course students can expect to attain gender-aware literacy and skills in a number of areas:

1. The facility to interpret economic development policy concerns and debates from a feminist economics perspective.

2. A critical perspective and knowledge of how gender matters in development economics.

3. The ability to interpret gender-differentiated indicators and descriptive statistics.

4. The ability to evaluate various popular schemes to reduce gender inequalities and promote women’s well-being in developing countries in the broader development policy context.

5. Gain expertise in one narrow topic in the field through the final paper.

Required Texts
The readings for the course consist of a series of scholarly articles, and excerpts from books, international development agency reports and a required textbook. All the readings on the syllabus are available in electronic form on the course website on Canvas.

Course Requirements and Grading

Grades in Econ 5560/6560 will be determined by two presentations in class (30%), surprise tests (20%) and a final paper (50%).

The final paper for Econ 6560 students will be longer and more in depth.

Course webpage

The course webpage on Canvas will have an outline of each class meeting, study questions to help review the assigned material and the assigned reading. This outline will be posted at the latest by noon three days before the class meeting.

Presentations and Final paper

Each student will make two presentations (not more than 10 minutes) using papers from the reading list.

Students can select a topic of their choice for the final paper. However, it should be within the broad ideas about gender and development discussed in class. A short proposal (200 words) or an abstract must be submitted by March 27 and final paper is due on April 30, 2015.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

In compliance with strict standards of academic honesty, in your paper you should always cite/reference any words or ideas that are not your own. Sharing of others’ essays, uses of pre-written, purchased, or downloaded materials also violates academic honesty, which are grounds for failure or dismissal from the course and from the University. Making a habit of using your own words as much as possible is helpful in guarding against problems in this respect. Whenever in doubt, please ask me.

Course readings

INTRODUCTION

January 11 Course Introduction and Overview of Gender Inequalities

Course objectives and themes


Unit of analysis of Inequality: Men/Women or/and Male-/Female-headed households

Sen, Gita. 2010. “Poor households or poor women: is there a difference?” In The International Handbook of Gender and Poverty by Sylvia Chant. Edward Elgar, Northampton. pp. 101-104

January 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No class meeting
FEMINIST ECONOMICS

January 25 Feminist Economics: A Thematic Overview


HISTORY OF THOUGHT OF GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

February 1

*From WID to GAD*


Beneria, Lourdes and Gita Sen, 1981. “Accumulation, Reproduction, and Women’s Role in Economic Development Revisited” *Signs* 7(2)

Men’s issues in Gender and Development


MEASUREMENT OF GENDER INEQUALITY

February 8

Measuring Gender Inequality


Measurement techniques and conundrums

Gender inequality indices: GII, MPI, WEIA, SIGI. Class notes


February 15 Presidents’ Day—No class meeting
HOUSEHOLDS, FAMILIES AND WORK

February 22 & 29

Unpaid Work: Conceptual and Measurement Issues

Gender roles

GENDER AND POVERTY

March 7

Feminization of Poverty

Time poverty

March 14 - 18 Spring Break - No class meeting

GENDER AND AGRICULTURE

March 21&28

Women’s contribution in agriculture

Inequality in land ownership

Inequality in access to resources and labor

Gender differential in agricultural productivity

GENDER AND GLOBALIZATION
April 4&11

Globalization, SAP and land grabs
Fonchingong, Charles. 1999. “Structural Adjustment, Women, and Agriculture in Cameroon.” Gender and Development. 7(3) pp. 73-79

Global Feminization of Labor

Working Conditions in Global Factories

5
STRATEGIES FOR ADVANCING WELLBEING AND OVERCOMING GENDER DISPARITIES

April 18&25

Engendering Development Policies and Conclusions
Beneria, Lourdes, Gunesli Berik, and Maria Floro. 2015. Gender, Development and Globalization: Economics as if all People Mattered. Second Edition. Ch. 6

Conditional Cash Transfers


Control over Assets
Deere, Carmen Diana, Abena Oduro, Hema Swaminathan and Cheryl Doss. 2013. “Property Rights and the Gender Distribution of Wealth in Ecuador, Ghana and India.” Journal of Economic Inequality

April 25 Revision