

SO112-15 International Perspectives on Gender

23/24

Department

Sociology

Level

Undergraduate Level 1

Module leader

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% exam

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

What do the voices of black women domestic workers in South Africa tell us about apartheid? What roles are there for men in the ongoing struggle for gender equality in post-apartheid South Africa? How did Chairman Mao's idea that 'women hold up half the sky' impact on Chinese gender relations after the Communist Party came to power in 1949? Was China's recently rescinded one-child policy an abuse of reproductive rights or an unanticipated way to further gender equality?

Why did both the Indian nationalist movement and the British colonial authorities mobilize the concept of gender equality in the struggle for Indian independence? What do recent demonstrations by women in India, such as SlutWalks and the Pink Chaddhi Campaign, tell us about the prospects for Indian feminism today? Are all contemporary Iranian women passive victims of Islamic fundamentalism, and what did the Revolution in Iran mean for men and masculinities? Does the 'veil' liberate or oppress Muslim women and what does it mean to those who wear it?

These are all questions you'll be exploring on this module, which introduces some of the diverse manifestations of gender around the world in the 20th and 21st centuries.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

To introduce students to some of the diverse manifestations of gender around the world in the 20th and 21st centuries, using case studies from China, South Africa, India and Iran. Themes of resistance, work, sexuality, reproduction, family and religion are pursued in order to facilitate analytical connections between case studies. Particular attention is paid to the symbolic importance of gender and the extent to which it is at the centre of religious and political ideologies that have dominated the last 100 years: colonialism; nationalism; socialism; religious fundamentalism.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Week 1 Why and How to Study Gender in International Perspective

Week 2 Gender, Colonialism and Nationalism in India

Week 3 Gender, Feminism and Post-colonial India: The Importance of Intersectionality

Week 4 Apartheid, Resistance and Articulations of Gender, 'Race' and Class in South Africa

Week 5 Gender, 'Equality' and the Post-Apartheid Era in South Africa

Week 6 Sociology Department Reading Week (no lecture or seminars)

Week 7 Gender, Religion and the State in Iran

Week 8 Multiple Meanings: Islamic Women and the 'Veil'/Hijab

Week 9 Gender and Communism in Maoist China

Week 10 Gender, State Socialism and Capitalism in Contemporary China

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- 1. Demonstrate good understanding of the diverse social and cultural manifestations of gender in the twentieth and twenty first centuries in China, South Africa, Iran and India, and their link to broader history in the case study countries.
- 2. Demonstrate competence in comparing and contrasting the four case studies and pursuing thematic analysis.
- 3. Demonstrate good understanding of the importance of disaggregating categories of male and female and the ways in which gender is constructed in articulation with other social and cultural identities.
- 4. Demonstrate the ability to understand and analyse the relationships between gender and colonialism; nationalism; socialism; religious fundamentalism.
- 5. Demonstrate an appreciation of individual and collective resistance to and transformation of gender inequalities in the case studies.
- 6. Demonstrate the ability to make scholarly written presentations on international perspectives on gender, locating, retrieving, processing and analysing relevant material from the list of sources provided.

Indicative reading list

- Bailey, Paul J. (2012) *Women and Gender in Twentieth-Century China*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

- Bahramitash, Roksana and Eric Hooglund (Eds) (2011) *Gender in Contemporary Iran: Pushing the Boundaries*, New York: Routledge.
- Banerjee, Sikata (2012) *Muscular Nationalism: Gender, Violence and Empire in India and Ireland, 1914-2004*, New York: New York University Press.
- Brown, Gavin (2013) 'Unruly Bodies (Standing Against Apartheid)', in Angus Cameron, Jen Dickinson and Nicola Smith (Eds) *Body/State*, Farnham; Burlington: Ashgate, pp. 145-156.
- Brownell, Susan and Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom (Eds) (2002) *Chinese Femininities, Chinese Masculinities: A Reader*, Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Chaudhuri, Maitrayee (2004) *Feminism in India*, New Delhi: women unlimited/ Kali for Women
- Gouws, Amanda (Ed.) (2005) *(Un)Thinking Citizenship: Feminist Debates in Contemporary South Africa*, Aldershot: Ashgate Publications.
- Greenhalgh, Susan (2008) *Just One Child: Science and Policy in Deng's China*, Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Heath, Jennifer (Ed.) (2008) *The Veil: Women Writers on its History, Lore and Politics*, Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Hunter, Mark (2010) *Love in the Time of AIDS: Inequality, gender and rights in South Africa*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- Irudayam, Aloysius S.J., Mangubhai, Jayshree P. and Lee, Joel G. (2011) *Dalit Women Speak Out: Caste, class and gender violence in India*, New Delhi: Zubaan.
- Moghissi, Haideh (2004) *Women and Islam: Critical Concepts in Sociology*, London: Routledge.
- Ruspini, Elizabetta, Jeff Hearne, Bob Pease, and Keith Pringle (Eds) (2011) *Men and Masculinities Around the World: Transforming Men's Practices*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Said, Edward (1995) *Orientalism: Western conceptions of the Orient*, London : Pengun (first published 1978).
- Sharify-Funk, Meena (2008) *Encountering the Transnational Women, Islam and the Politics of interpretation*, Aldershot; Burlington, VT: Ashgate.
- Yuval-Davis, Nira (1997) *Gender and Nation*, London: Sage.

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

Interdisciplinary

The module engages with research produced across a range of disciplines.

International

The module discusses case-studies from several countries across a range of continents.

Subject specific skills

Cognitive Skills

In the process of developing a substantive understanding of diverse international social and cultural manifestations of gender in the twentieth and twenty first centuries, students will acquire

the ability to:

1. Assess critically comparative social and cultural manifestations of gender, the complex ways in which gender is constructed in articulation with other social and cultural identities, and the differential impacts this has on individual capacities to exercise agency.
2. Locate, retrieve, process and evaluate a wide range of materials about gender, 'race', ethnicity, age, sexuality, class, religion and nationality in the twentieth and twenty first centuries.
3. Evaluate competing and complementary theoretical frameworks for understanding the interaction of gender with other social and cultural identities.
4. Make scholarly presentations, verbal and written, on the substantive and theoretical issues covered in the module material.

Transferable skills

Students will learn the following transferable skills:

Think analytically

Enhance communication and verbal skills

Develop confidence in teamwork /group work

Increase confidence in presentation skills

Develop leadership skills

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (10%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (10%)
Tutorials	(0%)
Project supervision	(0%)
Private study	72 hours (80%)
Total	90 hours

Private study description

Reading and other preparation for seminars. Preparation and writing of critical review of article and essay.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group B1

	Weighting	Study time
Online Examination	100%	60 hours
One two-hour examination in the Summer term with questions on the key aspects covered by the module.		
~Platforms - AEP		

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- Online examination: No Answerbook required

Feedback on assessment

Formative work will receive group feedback through a seminar focused on this, within University's 20 working day policy. Currently feedback on exams in the Sociology Department is for the whole cohort, electronically by the end of July, but individual feedback will be available thereafter on request.

[Past exam papers for SO112](#)

Availability

Pre-requisites

NA

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of USOA-L314 Undergraduate Sociology and Criminology

This module is Option list A for:

- USOA-L301 BA in Sociology

- Year 1 of L301 Sociology
- Year 1 of L301 Sociology
- Year 1 of L301 Sociology