

PSC 4187 - Gender in Political and Policy Processes

Introduction

This course will take off from PSC 3261 and focus on specific aspects of gender and politics. The scope of the course covers gender and political participation, gender and public policy, gender and social development, gender and leadership, gender and poverty, and gender and education.

Objectives

This course is designed to:

- i. Introduce students to feminist theoretical perspectives on the processes of political, economic and cultural change.
- ii. Make students familiar with research- based knowledge on gender- related issues in Sri Lanka, and
- iii. Enable students to critically assess political, economic and policy from the perspectives of gender studies.

Course Content

1. Introduction to Feminist Political Theory
 - i. Feminist Critique of Politics.
 - ii. Feminist Critique of Class, Nation etc.
 - iii. Identity and difference in feminist theory.
2. Gender and Political Participation in Sri Lanka.
 - i. Gender and Democratic Politics.
 - ii. Women and Political Parties.
 - iii. Women and Political Violence.
 - iv. Women and Political Leadership.
3. Gender, Social Change and Culture
 - i. Gender, class, caste and ethnicity.
 - ii. Women and the mass media
 - iii. Women in cinema, literature and theater.
4. Gender, Economic Development & Public Policy in Sri Lanka
 - i. Poverty alleviation programmes their impact on women
 - ii. Rural development and issues of rural women.
 - iii. Women, education and employment
 - iv. Women and industrial labour.

5. Gender and Politics of Resistance, & Issues of Emancipation of Women in Sri Lanka.
 - i. Radical politics, women and gender issues
 - ii. Women and Sinhala nationalist politics.
 - iii. Women and Tamil nationalist politics.

6. Gender, Civil Society and Social Movements
 - i. Gender and civil society space
 - ii. Women's movements in Sri Lanka

Assessment

Classroom Test	15%
Take -home Assignment	15%
Attendance and Class Participation	10%
End of semester Examination	60%

Recommended Reading

Beckett, Kathryn - Milburn and Linda Mckie (eds.). 2001, *Constructing Gendered Bodies*, New York: Palgrave.

Coomaraswamy, Radhika, 1996, "Women in the World Stand Up against Violence," *Nivedini*: Vol.1, No.1 June.

De Mel, Neloufer, 1998, *Women in Conflict Zones Net Work: A Comparative Sstudy of the Issues Faced by Women as a Result of Armed Conflict: Sri Lanka & the Post-Yugoslavic States*, Henda (Sri Lanka).

Gomez, Mario and Shymala Gomez, 2001, *Preferring Women: Gender and Politics in Sri Lanka*, Colombo: Shakthi

Jayawardane, Kumari, 1982, *Feminism and Nationalism in the Third World*, London, Zed Press.

John, Mary:E. and Janaki Nair, (Eds.), 2000, *A Question of Silence? The Sexual Economy of Modern India*, New Delhi: Kali for Women.

Kiribamuna, Sirima, (Ed.), 1999, *Women and Politics in Sri Lanka: A Comparative Perspective*, Kandy: ICES.

Millet, Kate, 1970, *Sexual Politics*, New York: Ballantine Books.

Thiruchandran, Selvy, (Ed.), 1999, *Women, Narration and Nation*, New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House.