

SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE

Selected Topics in Gender Studies: Participation and Autonomy: A global perspective on gender

This is a proposed design for a course and not one I have already taught. It is to be adapted to suit nature of particular class and to be in line with the relevant department goals and guidelines.

Course description: In this course, we will try to understand what it means to participate in gendered social practices. We will address serious challenges to autonomy in these contexts, including socio-economic disadvantage, forced procreation, and gendered assumptions about what is valued by and valuable about individuals. What is it to be complicit in the oppression of one's own group? Are there alternatives to cultural relativism that avoid naive understandings of non-Western values? What is the role of consent in conception and pregnancy? What ought it to be? What is the moral status of male neonatal circumcision? How should we assign responsibility to socio-economically disadvantaged populations? Does this help us understand the needs of refugee populations in our communities when it comes to specifically gender-related challenges? We will look at a broad selection of readings from a variety of disciplines and cultural perspectives, including, but not limited to, sub-Saharan African sociology and political philosophy, early Islamic feminism, and the gender-related challenges of communities granting political asylum.

Week	Topic	Reading
1	Introduction: Does participation in gendered social practices undermine personal autonomy?	Overview
2	Building a toolkit: concepts to help us read, listen, and interpret	Instructor-designed materials
3	A type of participation: Complicity in oppression	Selections from: Card, C. (2000) Women, Evil, and Grey Zones
4	Conditions of and threats to personal autonomy: Consent	1. Card, C. (2008) The Paradox of Genocidal Rape Aimed at Enforced Pregnancy

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GENDER STUDIES

	in general and in the case of reproduction	2. Kukla, R. et al (2009) Finding Autonomy in Birth
5	Informed decision making during pregnancy: When does information contribute to autonomous decision making and when does it undermine it?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Etieyibo, E. (2013) The Case of Competency and Informed Consent 2. Lyerly, A. et al (2009) RISK and the Pregnant Body
6	A type of participation: Bioenhancement and self-respect	Hoffman, G. (2014) The Self-Disrespect Objection to Bioenhancement Technologies: A Feminist Analysis of a Complex Relationship Between Enhancement and Self-Respect
7	Autonomy, culture, and risk: Male circumcision	Benatar, M. and Benatar, D. (2003) Between Prophylaxis and Child Abuse: The Ethics of Neonatal Male Circumcision
8	Socio-economic disadvantage and moral responsibility - Part 1: Poverty and justice	Etieyibo, E. (2012) Genetic Enhancement, Social Justice, and Welfare-Oriented Patterns of Distribution
9	Socio-economic disadvantage and moral responsibility - Part 2: Gender-related challenges facing refugee populations	For Vancouver and Greater Vancouver Area classes: Visit to Terminal Ave. headquarters of the BC Immigrant Services Society to learn more about specifically gender- and sex-related issues that particularly affect refugee populations in Vancouver and elsewhere. (Equivalent where possible in other locations.)
10	Cultural relativism and global feminism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wiredu, K. (2005) On the Idea of a Global Ethic 2. Imasiku, E. (2013) Variations in Unmet Need for Contraception in Zambia: Does Ethnicity Play a Role?
11	Paternalism and the ethics of care: who's to say what autonomy looks like?	Hanrahan, R. and Antony, L. (2005) Because I Said So: Towards a Feminist Theory of Authority

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12	A case study on participation and autonomy: Norway's provision of classes on gender norms to migrants and refugees	Instructor-designed materials
13	Food for thought and a break from reading	Film: <i>Tsotsi</i> (2005) Dir.: Hood, G.
14	Conclusion: Can participation in gendered social practices preserve and promote personal autonomy?	Selection from : Nana Asma'u - Collected Works - Edited by Boyd, J. et al (2012)

Component	Portion of Grade
Participation and attendance	15%
In-class presentation	25%
Midterm written assignment	25%
Final written assignment	35%