

**UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-AFRICA**  
**GNS 2000: INTRODUCTION TO GENDER STUDIES**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**CREDIT: 3 UNITS**  
**LECTURER:**  
**DAY/TIME:**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Interdisciplinary study of gender issues from social, historical, and cultural perspectives; analysis of feminist theory and men's roles in the feminist movement.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This is an introductory course to Gender Studies which examines Gender issues from historical and socio-cultural perspectives. The course has the following objectives:

- \* to promote the understanding of the concept of Gender and the rationale for mainstreaming gender in development;
- \* to introduce learners to various analytical frameworks which address and redresses various gender, based discriminatory practices which hinder development and perpetuate gender-based oppression.
- \* View commonly held assumptions and structures, and to expose the social mythology that encourages male dominance and women's oppression.

**COURSE CONTENT**

**Week 1:**

Introduction to Gender and Gender Studies

- ♦ Meaning of gender
- ♦ Feminist theory

**Week 2:**

Basic Concepts and the History of Gender Studies.

- ♦ Gender roles
- ♦ Gender mainstreaming
- ♦ Patriarchy

**Week 3:**

The Roots of Gender Discrimination: Theoretical Framework.

- ♦ Biological
- ♦ Sociological
- ♦ Culture and Religion

**Week 4:**

Methodological Issues in investigating Gender Issues: Dilemmas and Non-existent Research Methods.

- ♦ Research methodologies in gender issues
- ♦ Logistics of doing gender based research

**Week 5:**

Social Construction of Gender.

- ♦ Sociolization theories
- ♦ Culture and traditions that form gender roles
- ♦ Social mythology

**Week 6:**

Gender Issues in Education and Development

- ♦ Relationship between education and development
- ♦ Status of men and women

**Week 7: (MID-SEMESTER EXAM)**

Gender, Health and Development

- ♦ Relationship between health and development
- ♦ Aids
- ♦ Reproductive rights

**Week 8:**

Gender and Law

- ♦ Inheritance
- ♦ Property rights

**Week 9:**

Gender and Violence

- ♦ Definition of violence
- ♦ Types of violence
- ♦ Effects

**Week 10:**

Gender, Culture and Religion

- ♦ African Culture
- ♦ Islam
- ♦ Christianity
- ♦ Other religious and cultures

**Week 11:**

- ♦ Strategies for empowering women
- ♦ Affirmative Action
- ♦ Economic, Social, Cultural etc.

**Week 12:**

- ♦ Strategies for empowering men
- ♦ Economic, Social, Cultural etc

## WEEK 13

Revision

## Week 14

FINAL EXAMINATION

### TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Lectures.

Group discussions, workshops and debates.

Research and presentation of case studies.

Use of audio-visual material.

### COURSE TEXTS

Obbo, Christine

*"The Other Side of Silence: An Argument for Gender Studies"* Paper presented at a workshop on Development of Academic Courses in Gender Studies in Eastern and Southern Africa Sept. 1992.

*African Women: Their Struggle for Economic Independence*, (London: ZED Press; 1980)

Paulme, Denis (ed) *Women of Tropical Africa*, (Berkeley: University of California Press. 1962.)

Reiter, Rayna (Ed) *Towards an Anthropology of Women* (New York: Monthly Review Press. 1975)

Sen. G., Germain, A. & Chen, L.C. (eds). *Population Policies Reconsidered: Health Empowerment, and Right* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1994.)

Boonsue, Kornvipa *Women's Development Models and Gender Analysis: A Review* (Bangkok: Asian Institute of Technology, 1992)

Schlegel, Alice *Sexual Stratification: A Cross-Cultural View* (New York: Columbia University Press. 1977)

Obura, Anna *Changing Images: Portrayal of Girls and Women in Kenyan Textbooks*. (Nairobi: African Centre for Technology Studies, 1991)

Boserup, Ester *Women's Role in Economic Development* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1970.)

Canada Advisory Council on the Status of Women, *Guidelines for Non-Sexist Writing*. (Ottawa: CACSN. 1984).

Kabira, W.M. and Muthoni, W. (Eds.) *The Road to Empowerment* (Nairobi: FEMNET, 1994)

Kabira, W.; Masinjila, M. and Mbugua, W. *Delusions: Essays on Social Construction of Gender* (Nairobi: FEMNET, 1994)

## **COURSE EVALUATION**

Attendance & participation	10%
Group Presentation	15%
Term Papers	15%
Assignment	15%
Mid-Quarter	20%
Final Examination	25%

## **GRADING**

90 - 100	A
87 - 89	A-
84 - 86	B+
80 - 83	B
77 - 79	B-
74 - 76	C+
70 - 73	C
67 - 69	C-
64 - 66	D+
62 - 63	D
60 - 61	D-
0 - 59	F