Course description:
This course undertakes a cross-national, local to global examination of gender-based inequalities in access to fundamental freedoms, rights, and social rewards. We look at how these are shaped by globalization in the economic, cultural, and political realm, and how they are affected by colonization and by the ongoing actions of states, transnational corporations, and civil society (non-state) organizations. We explore wide-ranging harmful effects of rigid gender roles, including their linkage in some cases to armed conflict and criminal violence. A significant portion of our readings and lectures will focus on actions by individuals and groups striving to challenge the strictures of oppressive gender ideology. Geographically our focus will encompass countries across a range of income levels, including Canada and a number of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Throughout the course we will clarify the meanings of some building block concepts such as intersectionality, essentialism, gender justice, feminism, masculinities, gender-based violence, social movements, and of course, gender itself.

Evaluation Scheme
Weekly quizzes 20%
Mid-term exam 25%
Research paper 25%
Final (take-home) exam 30%
Total 100%

Required Readings
- A set of readings (journal articles and book chapters) available online via ARES.