

Gender and Development

POL 357/ SPI 314/ GSS 399/ SAS 357

Spring 2025

Professor: Tanushree Goyal

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Contact Information

Website: www.tanushreegoyal.com

Email: tgoyal@princeton.edu

Faculty Assistant: Jessica Conlon (jc6860@princeton.edu)

Teaching Assistant: Narrelle Gilchrist (ng9823@princeton.edu)

Office Hours: Book on [Calendly](#).

Lecture hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 - 11:50 am at A71 Louis A Simpson.

Precepts: Tuesday 10:00 - 10:50 am at location TBA (Professor), TBA (TA)

Course Description

This course offers a comprehensive introduction to gender and development, examining the causes and consequences of gender inequality across societies, with a particular focus on the Global South. It provides an overview of institutional and policy initiatives aimed at reducing gender disparities, analyzing why some efforts succeed while others fail or even produce adverse effects. The course rests on two organizing principles. First is the commitment to studying the best evidence available on a given problem. Second is the commitment to understanding the most pressing problems that affect the most vulnerable people. Through an interdisciplinary approach that incorporates historical, ethnographic, theoretical, experimental, and quantitative research, the course explores gender inequality in diverse contexts, including the United States, India, China, South Korea, Brazil, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, and Mali. By the end of the course, students will gain a deeper understanding of strategies to enhance women's well-being and freedom on a global scale.

Prerequisites

Although not required, attending or having attended a course on causal inference, basic statistics, plotting data visually, will immensely improve your understanding of the quantitative materials. Note: You are permitted to use AI tools solely for mundane tasks like generating graphs or writing code. For any such usage, you must include an appendix in your submission detailing your approach, screenshots, the specific AI platform used, and the prompt provided. AI must not be used for interpretation or substantive writing under any circumstances. The use of AI is easy to detect. If even a few of you rely on AI, the resulting repetition and recognizable patterns across submissions will stand out and can be easily identified. Any improper or unauthorized use of AI—whether intentional or accidental—will result in an automatic fail grade for the course and will trigger further disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Email and office hours

In general, you should email me **ONLY** for substantive queries. You can also bring any questions, ideas, or concerns to office hours if you don't receive a response to your email in time or prefer to talk. For all logistical queries such as regarding attendance, canvas, accessing readings, class schedule, and a general first point of contact - please reach out to the teaching assistant.

Assessment

- Attendance (10%)- Attendance will be recorded by the teaching assistant during every lecture and precept, and it is mandatory. Any unexplained or repetitive absences will lead to fail grade in the course. Each student is allowed one excused absence per semester with prior approval of the teaching assistant. For absences due to illness, other commitments, or religious observances, please notify me via email in advance to arrange accommodations. Attendance is also graded: you earn points for each session attended, with full attendance throughout the semester earning a maximum of 10 points.
- Participation (20%) - Participation in lecture earns 5 points, such as through demonstrating knowledge of the material when asking and responding to substantive questions, and precept participation earns 15 points.
- Speaker memo and question (20%) - We have two guest speakers in our course. For each speaker, prepare a review memo in 1000 words constructively engaging with the speaker's paper. The review should have the following structure. A 200 words summary of the paper in your own words, 3 analytical big picture review points with exposition, and a 100 words concluding statement. At the end of the review pose two questions for the speaker. Due by Friday 6 pm the week ahead of the lecture.
- Country assignment (10%)
- Mid-term assessment (20%)
- Final assessment (20%) : Quiz

South Asia certificate & Economics Cognate

To earn South Asia credit/certificate, your mid-term must focus on a South Asian country. For Economics cognate credit, your final assessment should extend the mid-term paper with data analysis or you can conduct a replication exercise.

Guest speakers

Spring 2025: The Spring 2025 course is indebted to the following guest speakers. Our first guest speaker is Dr. Bhumi Purohit, Assistant Professor of Public Policy at Georgetown's McCourt School. You can read more about her research [here](#). Our second guest speaker and keynote is Dr. Ashwini Deshpande, Professor and Head, Department of Economics, and Founding Director, Centre for Economic Data and Analysis (CEDA) at Ashoka University, India. You can read more about her research [here](#).

Weekly Plan

- Week 1 (27th Jan week) - Introduction to Gender and Development
 - We will discuss logistics and layout of the course.
 - Sen, Amartya. *Development As Freedom*, Oxford University Press, Incorporated, 2001 [Ebook](#). Introduction and Chapter 8, “Women’s agency and Social Change.”
 - Duflo, Esther. “[Women Empowerment and Economic Development](#)” *Journal of Economic Literature* 50, no. 4 (December 2012): 1051-1079.
 - Browse: [Global Gender Gap Report 2024](#), The World Economic Forum
 - Note there is no precept in first week.

- Week 2 (3rd Feb week)- What explains the gender gap in political office?
 - Lecture on the scale of gender gaps in political representation and key explanations
 - Browse: [Women’s representation in local government: A global analysis](#)
 - Browse: [Women in Parliament in 2021](#)
 - [If Only They’d Ask: Gender, Recruitment, and Political Ambition](#), Richard L. Fox and Jennifer L. Lawless, *The Journal of Politics*, 2010, 72:2, 310-326
 - Chapter Six in Iversen T, Rosenbluth F. “[Women, Work, and Politics: The Political Economy of Gender Inequality](#),” New Haven: Yale University Press.
 - Arriola, Leonardo R., Martha C. Johnson, and Melanie L. Phillips (eds), ‘Individuals and Institutions: Situating African Women’s Political Experiences’, in Leonardo Arriola, Martha Johnson, and Melanie Phillips (eds), [Women and Power in Africa: Aspiring, Campaigning, and Governing](#) (Oxford, 2021; online edn, Oxford Academic, 23 Sept. 2021), accessed 22 Jan. 2023.

- Week 2 Precept: Choose a country** – Please come to the precept with top 3 choices for a country that you will engage with for the rest of the course and a brief explanation behind your choice. Each country should be from a different region as per World Bank’s regional definition ([here](#)). Ideally, every student ends up with a unique country at least in their precept. A finalized list will be available by end of week.

- Week 3 (10th Feb week)– What works to lower the gender gaps in political office?
 - Gender quotas
 1. Pande, Rohini, and Deanna Ford. 2012. “[Gender Quotas And Female Leadership: A Review](#).” Background Paper For The World Development Report On Gender. April, 2011.
 2. Hughes, M, et al. “[Global Gender Quota Adoption, Implementation, and Reform](#)” *Comparative Politics*, vol. 51, no. 2, 2019, pp. 219–38
 - Local governments and decentralization

1. Goyal, Tanushree. 2024. Local political representation as a pathway to power: A natural experiment in India. American Journal of Political Science 00: 1–15.
 2. Goyal, T., & Sells, C. (2024). Descriptive Representation and Party Building: Evidence from Municipal Governments in Brazil. American Political Science Review, 118(4), 1840–1855.
- Candidate training programs and non-profits. See for example, [Emily’s list](#), [America Moment](#), [Run For Something](#) in the U.S; [Renova BR](#) in Brazil; [Emerging leader’s foundation](#) in Kenya.
 - Candidate collectives and political action committees. Read for example, [One seat, multiple representatives? A novel political idea takes off in Brazil and Rep. Ocasio-Cortez Launches Political Group To Boost Progressive Candidates](#) and optionally watch documentary: [Knock down the house](#)

Week 3 Precept – Discuss women’s descriptive representation in your country, laying some prep work for the country memo assignment.

• Week 4 (17th Feb week)– The Effects of Political Representation

1. We have a guest lecture by Dr. Bhumi Purohit on 18th Feb. She will present work on how bureaucracies hinder women in office from achieving substantive representation. A review memo is due Friday 14th Feb 6pm EST.
 2. Purohit, Bhumi. [Bureaucratic Discretion Against Female Politicians](#).
- Should women represent women? Are women leaders role models?
 1. Beaman, Lori, Raghavendra Chattopadhyay, Esther Duflo, Rohini Pande, and Petia Topalova. “[Powerful Women: Does Exposure Reduce Bias?](#)”, The Quarterly Journal of Economics 124, no. 4 (2009): 1497–1540.
 - Does women’s political inclusion increase substantive representation?
 1. Chattopadhyay, R., & Duflo, E. (2004). [Women as Policy Makers: Evidence from a Randomized Policy Experiment in India](#). Econometrica, 72(5), 1409–1443.
 2. Betz, T., Fortunato, D., & O’Brien, D. Z. (2021). [Women’s Descriptive Representation and Gendered Import Tax Discrimination](#). American Political Science Review, 115(1), 307–315.
 3. Watch: [Pahel - Women Leading Change](#)
 - What constraints women in office?

Week 4 Precept – Discuss whether your country has gender quotas in politics and a brief history of gender quotas in your country: when they were adopted and the background/ circumstance under which they were adopted. Describe the quota adopted and its effectiveness using terminology as in Hughes et al 2019. This is prep work for your country memo.

• Week 5 (24th Feb week)– Political participation – What works to lower gender gaps in political participation?

- Robinson, A., & Gottlieb, J. (2021). *How to Close the Gender Gap in Political Participation: Lessons from Matrilineal Societies in Africa*. *British Journal of Political Science*, 51(1), 68-92.
- Desposato, S., & Norrander, B. (2009). *The Gender Gap in Latin America: Contextual and Individual Influences on Gender and Political Participation*. *British Journal of Political Science*, 39(1), 141-162.
- Goyal T. 2024. *Representation from Below: How Women’s Grassroots Party Activism Promotes Equal Political Participation*. *American Political Science Review* 118(3), 1415–1430.
- Cheema, Ali, Sarah Khan, Asad Liaqat and Shandana Khan Mohmand. 2022. *“Canvassing the Gatekeepers: A Field Experiment to Increase Women Voters’ Turnout in Pakistan”*, *American Political Science Review*. 1-21.

Week 5 precept - Discuss gender gaps in political participation using online survey data tools during the precept, laying some prep work for the mid-term assignment.

Country memo – Focusing on your country, describe gender gaps in political representation, using at least one and up to 3 original plots that demonstrate the point clearly and visually. You must discuss and highlight some variation - temporal, local vs higher-level offices, or geographic in your country. Use the readings to hypothesize or explain why these gender gaps exist in your country and discuss whether quotas and what type of quotas have been implemented in your country to address these gaps. Limit: 1000 words. **Submission deadline:** Monday 6pm ET 24th Feb.

- Week 6 (3rd March week)– Recap and mid-term

- We will recap the readings from the course and discuss the mid-term assignment. Students should catch up on missed readings. There will be an open-forum to ask questions.
- **Mid-term paper**– Comparative cross-national brief – Describe gender gap in various forms of political participation, knowledge, or efficacy measures (women’s electoral turnout (mandatory), participation in protests, political ambition etc.) in your country. Plot bar charts or maps to compare it to:
 - 1) regional and world average (e.g. South Asia or Latin America average)
 - 2) countries within the region (e.g., Nepal/ Bangladesh or Brazil/ Chile etc.)
 - 3) cross-nationally. Select three papers from the course-list or peer-reviewed journals on the topic of gender gap in women’s political participation **in your country/region** and cite/ review how these papers explain the gender gaps you have plotted. The mid-term must not exceed 6 plots and 2500 words.

* Deadline - March 17th 6pm EST.

Note there is no precept this week, but additional office hours.

- Week 7 (17th March week)– What explains gender norms? Can policy change culture?
 - Alberto Alesina, Paola Giuliano, Nathan Nunn, **On the Origins of Gender Roles: Women and the Plough**, The Quarterly Journal of Economics, Volume 128, Issue 2, May 2013, Pages 469–530.
 1. Optional Alice Evans, **Ten Thousand Years of Patriarchy!**
 - Kandiyoti, D. (1988). **Bargaining with Patriarchy**. Gender & Society, 2(3), 274–290.
 - Paola Giuliano, Nathan Nunn, **Understanding Cultural Persistence and Change**, The Review of Economic Studies, Volume 88, Issue 4, July 2021, Pages 1541–1581.
 - Bau, Natalie. 2021. **“Can Policy Change Culture? Government Pension Plans and Traditional Kinship Practices.”** American Economic Review, 111 (6): 1880-1917.
 - Watch: **Seema Jayachandran** summarizing Dhar, Diva, Tarun Jain, and Seema Jayachandran. 2022. **”Reshaping Adolescents’ Gender Attitudes: Evidence from a School-Based Experiment in India.”** American Economic Review, 112 (3): 899-927.
- Week 8 (24th March week)– Household and women’s agency
 - Households
 1. Bina Agarwal (1997), **““Bargaining” and Gender Relations: Within and Beyond the Household”**, Feminist Economics, 3:1, 1-51.
 2. Doss, Cheryl. 2013. **“Intrahousehold Bargaining and Resource Allocation in Developing Countries.”** Oxford University Press on behalf of the World Bank.
 - Women’s agency
 1. Saba Mahmood (2011), **“Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject,”** Princeton University Press, Chapter One – **“The Subject of Freedom.”**
 2. Donald, Aletheia et al. 2017. **“Measuring Women’s Agency”**. Working Paper; No. 8148. World Bank. Also see: **[Best-performing survey questions to measure women’s agency]**
- Week 9 (31st Mar week)– Violence against women
 - What is gender-based violence? What are the causes?
 1. Krook, M. **“Violence Against Women in Politics.”** Journal of Democracy, vol. 28, no. 1, Jan. 2017, pp. 74-88.
 2. Abi Adams, Kristiina Huttunen, Emily Nix, Ning Zhang, **“The Dynamics of Abusive Relationships,”** The Quarterly Journal of Economics, Volume 139, Issue 4, November 2024, Pages 2135–2180.
Optional but worth reading abstract: Abi Adams-Prassl, Kristiina Huttunen, Emily Nix, Ning Zhang, **Violence against Women at Work**, The Quarterly Journal of Economics, Volume 139, Issue 2, May 2024, Pages 937–991.

3. Bloch, Francis, and Vijayendra Rao. “Terror as a bargaining instrument: A case study of dowry violence in rural India.” *American Economic Review* 92.4 (2002): 1029-1043.
 4. Read : Bhalotra, S., A. Chakravarty, and S. Gulesci (2020): “The Price of Gold: Dowry and Death in India” *Journal of Development Economics*, 143, 102413.
- Week 10 (7th Apr week)– Maternal risk, fertility decisions, and “Missing women”
 1. Sen, Amartya - “More Than 100 Million Women Are Missing.”
 2. Qian, N. (2008). “Missing women and the price of tea in China: The effect of sex-specific earnings on sex imbalance” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 123(3), 1251-1285. (Read introduction only)
 3. Anukriti, S., Herrera-Almanza, C., Pathak, P.K. and Karra, M. (2020), *Curse of the Mummy-ji: The Influence of Mothers-in-Law on Women in India*. *Amer. J. Agr. Econ.*, 102: 1328-1351.
 4. Juliana Londoño-Vélez Estefanía Saravia, 2024, *The impact of being denied a wanted abortion on women and their children*.
 5. Optional: Indian matchmaking on Netflix Episode Season 1 Episode 5 32:00 to 34:30
 6. Browse data on [Maternal mortality](#).
 - Week 11 (14th Apr week)— Women in the Economy
 1. Jayachandran, S. “Social Norms as a Barrier to Women’s Employment in Developing Countries.” *IMF Econ Rev* 69, 576–595 (2021).
 2. How the Washing Machine Changed the World: The Far-Reaching Impact of Household Appliances, read blog [here](#). The economist and author says the washing machine changed the world more than the internet, a tool we overestimate while ignoring its downsides, read [here](#).
 3. Claudia Goldin and Lawrence F. Katz, “The Power of the Pill: Oral Contraceptives and Women’s Career and Marriage Decisions,” *Journal of Political Economy* 2002 110:4, 730-770.
 4. Lundborg, Petter, Erik Plug, and Astrid Würtz Rasmussen. 2017. “Can Women Have Children and a Career? IV Evidence from IVF Treatments” *American Economic Review*, 107 (6): 1611-37.
 5. Watch: 2020, 12th Annual Feldstein Lecture, Claudia Goldin, “Journey Across a Century of Women”
 6. Second lecture is a keynote guest lecture by Prof. Ashwini Deshpande. A review memo is due Friday 7th April 6pm EST.
 - Week 12 (21st Apr week)– Recap and reflections
 - In lecture 1: recap or a practitioner’s talk (TBA).
 - Final quiz (pen and paper) will be conducted in this lecture. The material covered is from Week 7-11, includes slides and mandatory readings.
 - Note there is no precept this week, but additional office hours.