

Spring 2012

Variable Topics in Women's Studies

Women's Social Movements in Muslim Contexts

WS 3998, Section 004

Instructor: Mahboubeh Abbasgholizadeh

Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:00 – 9:15 AM
Monteith 221

The greatest challenges for women in Muslim countries are fundamentalism and the limitations of citizenship rights. These shared challenges have brought a common understanding and vibrancy to women's social movements in countries like Egypt, Iran and Indonesia, despite their differing cultural contexts. At the same time, the strategy for women's development in each country emerges from the political, religious, cultural, legal and civil society context. This course will compare the context, strategy, and present-day realities of women's movements in these three countries.

Ms. Abbasgholizadeh has conducted fieldwork in each of these countries and is familiar with their women's movements and context. She maintains connections with women journalists and activists in Egypt and understand the language and political situation. In Indonesia, she taught numerous training courses on women's rights advocacy and empowerment with the consortium *Women's Empowerment in Muslim Context* (WEMC). Finally, as an Iranian women's rights leader for more than twenty-five years, Ms. Abbasgholizadeh has an expert understanding of the Iranian context and how the women's movement has evolved in response to ever-changing political conditions. She will draw upon her previous research on how the contexts mentioned above influence women's social movements and will utilize a number of mediums (film, PowerPoint presentations, guest lecturers, books and articles, etc.)

**Please contact the
Women's Studies Program
with any questions,
wsinfo@uconn.edu.**

