

# Spring 2010

## GWST 490-03 Women in Africa and the Diaspora

Tuesday/Thursday, 2:30-3:45 p.m.

Instructor: Gloria Chuku, Ph.D.

This course uses the comparative approach to examine the experiences of women of African descent from the era of the trans-Atlantic slave trade to the present. It will introduce students to interdisciplinary and comparative theories and materials that will enable them to explore the economic, cultural, social and political roles of women in Africa and African descended women in the United States. Using comparative gender analysis as its theoretical focus with a global perspective, the course emphasizes the diverse, shared historical experiences of women of African descent as enslaved persons, colonial subjects and victims of all forms of oppression as well as agents of social change. Examined as well are their roles in society as mothers, daughters, wives and workers along with their participation in social and political movements since the abolition era. The course also highlights how such other social indexes as class, race, ethnic, national and religious backgrounds affect women's lives and roles in society. Problems and issues that directly affect them and how to improve their status in the face of increased globalization will be explored. Also listed as AFST 440-2.

Gloria Chuku is an Associate Professor in Africana Studies. Her research and teaching interests demonstrate a strong commitment to the issues on women and gender relations in Africa and the Diaspora. Dr. Chuku earned her Ph.D. in History at the University of Nigeria in 1995.