

Mount Saint Vincent University

WOMS 3351

Winter 2015

Women, War, and Peace

Instructor: Dr. Maya Eichler
Seminars: Thurs 4:30-7:00
Classroom: EVAR 130
Office Hours: Thurs 1:00-3:00 OR by appointment
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Course Description

The course investigates the central place of women (and gender) in the politics of war and peace. While the association of men with war and women with peace is commonplace, there is no intrinsic link between militarism and masculinity or pacifism and femininity. Some of the central questions we will examine and debate in this course are: How have women and men participated in historic and contemporary wars? What are the effects of war on women and gendered relations of power? And how have women (and men) contested militarized gender roles and worked towards peace? The readings are organized around three major themes: 1. Feminist Approaches to War and Peace; 2. Gendered Histories of War and Peace; and 3. Contemporary Gender Issues in War and Peace.

Course Objectives

- illustrate how the waging of war and the struggle for peace are gendered processes
- familiarize students with various feminist approaches to security, war, and peace
- give students the opportunity to critically reflect on the readings, both through class discussion, group work, and written assignments
- support students to develop their own gender analysis of peace and war by researching and analyzing a particular case

Course Materials

All required readings will be posted on Moodle.

Evaluations and Term Work

3 Short Reflection Papers: 15%

Mid-term Exam: 15%

Research Paper: 25%

Presentation of Research Paper: 5%

Final Take-Home: 30%

Participation: 10%

You will be asked to write 250 words (1 page double spaced) each for the **Short Reflection Papers**. Each Reflection Paper will be based on one week's readings from section 1 and 2 of the course (i.e. the

readings of Jan 15, Jan 22, Jan 29, Feb 5, or Feb 12). The reflection papers will be due at the beginning of the classes during which we will discuss the respective readings. You will be asked to concisely

1. identify the main argument of the readings,
2. reflect on your intellectual and emotional reactions to the readings (What did you find most surprising, moving, problematic, or disturbing, and why?),
3. and propose discussion questions for class.

For the **Research Paper** (approximately 2500 words) you will be asked to choose one particular historic or contemporary case study (e.g. a particular war, peace movement, political event, or policy related to gender, war, and peace) to research and analyze from a feminist perspective. A more detailed outline of the expectations for the paper, including a list of possible topics, will be handed out during class. A brief preliminary summary of your research paper will be presented before the paper deadline, in order to allow for feedback from the professor and other students.

Recommended Background Readings

- Cohn, Carol, ed. 2013. *Women and Wars*. Cambridge, UK: Polity.
- Confortini, Catia. 2013. *Intelligent Compassion: Feminist Critical Methodology in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Eichler, Maya. 2012. *Militarizing Men: Gender, Conscription, and War in Post-Soviet Russia*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Enloe, Cynthia. 2000. *Maneuvers: The International Politics of Militarizing Women's Lives*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Hunt, Krista and Kim Rygiel, eds. 2006. *(En)Gendering the War on Terror: War Stories and Camouflaged Politics*. Hampshire: Ashgate.
- Kaufman, Joyce P. and Kristen Williams. 2010. *Women and War: Gender Identity and Activism in Times of Conflict*. Boulder, CO: Kumarian Press.
- Riley, Robin L., Chandra Talpade Mohanty, and Minnie Bruce Pratt, eds. 2008. *Feminism and War: Confronting U.S. Imperialism*. London: Zed Books.
- Shepherd, Laura J., ed. 2010. *Gender Matters in Global Politics: A Feminist Introduction to International Relations*. London: Routledge.
- Sjoberg, Laura and Caron E. 2007. *Mothers, Monsters, Whores: Women's Violence in Global Politics*. London: Zed Books.
- Sjoberg, Laura and Sandra Via, eds. 2010. *Gender, War, and Militarism*. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger.
- Sjolander, Claire Turenne, Heather A. Smith, and Deborah Stienstra, eds. 2003. *Feminist Perspectives on Canadian Foreign Policy*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Tickner, Ann J. 2001. *Gendering World Politics: Issues and Approaches in the Post-Cold War Era*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Whitworth, Sandra. 2004. *Men, Militarism and UN Peacekeeping: A Gendered Analysis*. Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Selection of Relevant Journals

International Feminist Journal of Politics
Armed Forces and Society
Peace Review
Critical Studies on Security
Critical Military Studies
Security Dialogue
International Relations: Canada's Global Policy Journal
Peace and Change: A Journal of Peace Research
Peace and Freedom

Selection of Relevant Movies

Women, War, and Peace (5-part PBS series)
Sisters in Arms
The Invisible War
Lemon Tree
GI Jane
Regret to Inform
Pray the Devil Back to Hell
Six Days: Three Activists, Three Wars, One Dream

Selection of Relevant Websites

Unwomen.org
Womenstopwar.org
Peacemagazine.org
Peacewomen.org
Vowpeace.org
Womeninblack.org
Codepink.org
Raginggrannies.org

Course Policies

- 1) Late Assignments: All assignments must be handed in on the due date, unless accompanied by a doctor's note or other form of documentation. Late assignments will be penalized 2% per day, including on week-ends.
- 2) Handing in Assignments: Assignments should be handed in in printed form during class. If you require another arrangement, please let me know in advance.
- 3) Electronic Devices: Please use electronic devices only for activities related to the course. Engaging in other activities is distracting and disrespectful, and will be taken as a sign of lacking participation in the class.
- 4) Absence: Missed tests and late assignments require documentation. Alternative arrangements need to be made well in advance of the relevant deadline.
- 5) E-mail and Phone: I encourage you to come see me during my office hours for any help you require with course materials and assignments. If you are unable to come to my office, I will respond to your email within 2 days. I only check my phone messages during office hours, and will not receive message left at other times. Students are required to use their MSVU e-mail account for course-related correspondence. Please do not e-mail me via Moodle.
- 6) Moodle: Moodle will be used only to post the course outline and reading materials. Class notes will not be posted on Moodle. Moodle e-mail will not be used.
- 7) Correct Use of Language: Correct use of language is one of the criteria included in the evaluation of all written assignments.
- 8) Student Attendance and Participation: Regular attendance is expected, and attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. However, participation requires more than mere attendance. It is crucial that you come to class on time and well-prepared, having not only read the week's readings but also reflected upon

them. Contributing items for discussion, joining in class discussions, and participating in group or other class activities will be taken as evidence for student participation.

Academic Accommodations

Students who have a disability and who require academic accommodations must register with Disability Services as early as possible in order to receive accommodations. Information can be found at: <http://www.msvu.ca/disabilityservices>

Requests for accommodation of specific religious or spiritual observance must be presented in writing to the instructor within the first two weeks of class.

Right Start Program

At the Mount, student academic success is a priority. The University is offering a new program called the Right Start Program which will provide students with the opportunity to receive assistance and support early in the term. If a professor feels that a student might benefit from the support services, he/she may refer the student to the Right Start Program. Faculty will be evaluating a number of criteria such as class participation, attendance, completion of assignments, grades, and quality of written and oral work in order to determine if a student might benefit from the Right Start Program. Once a referral is made by a professor, the student will be contacted by an Academic Advisor in the Right Start Program to begin the process.

Plagiarism and Cheating

MSVU takes intellectual honesty and academic integrity very seriously and has policies and procedures in place to deal with such offences. These offences include cheating, misrepresenting work, and plagiarism. University regulations on plagiarism and cheating and other academic offenses will be strictly enforced. These regulations including applicable procedures and penalties are detailed in the University Calendar and are posted on department notice boards and on the website at:

<http://www.msvu.ca/en/home/programsdepartments/undergradprograms/regulations/academicoffenses.aspx>

The University defines plagiarism as the following:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's words or ideas obtained from any source, including the Internet, as though they were one's own. Specific offences include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Using copied material without enclosing that material in quotation marks
- and/or without appropriately acknowledging its source;
- Paraphrasing or summarizing the original wording too closely;
- Omitting acknowledgment of the source of paraphrases and summaries;
- Submitting work that has been written in full or in part by someone else (MSVU 2010).

Plagiarism detection software may be used in this course at the discretion of the professor. Any questions regarding plagiarism should be directed to the professor.

Research Ethics

Students who conduct research involving human participants must have their research reviewed in accordance with the MSVU Policies and Procedures for Ethics Review of Research Involving Humans before starting the research. Check with your course professor or Chair of the department about proper procedure.

Topics and Weekly Readings

1. FEMINIST APPROACHES TO WAR AND PEACE

Jan 8 Introduction

Explain the course plan, objectives, and assignments. Answer student questions.

Jan 15 Where Are the Women? Feminist Perspectives on Women in War and Peace

Laura Sjoberg, *Gender, War, and Conflict*, Polity 2014, ch. 1

Goldstein, Joshua, *Gender and War: How Gender Shapes the War System and Vice Versa*, Cambridge University Press, 2001, ch. 1

Jan 22 What is War, What is Peace? Feminist Perspectives on Security, War, and Peace

Ann Tickner, *Gender in International Relations: Feminist Perspectives on Security*, Columbia University Press 1992, ch. 1

Enloe, Cynthia, *Maneuvers: The International Politics of Militarizing Women's Lives*, University of California Press 2000, "Introduction" and ch. 1

2. GENDERED HISTORIES OF WAR AND PEACE

Jan 29 World War One

Frances H. Early, *A World Without War: How U.S. Feminists and Pacifists Resisted World War I*, Syracuse University Press 1997, ch. 4

Sharon M. H. MacDonald, "A Passionate Voice for Equality, Justice, and Peace: Nova Scotia's Mary Russell Chesley," in Janet Guildford and Suzanne Morton, eds. *Making up the State: Women in 20th-Century Atlantic Canada*, Acadiensis Press, 2010, pp. 45-55

Invited guest: Sharon MacDonald, local historian

Feb 5 World War Two

Anna Krylova, *Soviet Women in Combat: A History of Violence on the Eastern Front*, Cambridge University Press 2010, ch. 1

Ruth Roach Pierson, *Canadian Women and the Second World War*, The Canadian Historical Association 1983

Invited guest: Tracy Moniz, Assistant Professor at MSVU, expert on media representations of women during WWII

Feb 12 The Cold War

Tarah Brookfield, *Cold War Comforts: Canadian Women, Child Safety, and Global Insecurity*, Wilfried Laurier Press 2012, selections

Feb 19 Reading Week

3. CONTEMPORARY GENDER ISSUES IN WAR AND PEACE

Feb 26 Gendered Impacts of War

Angela Raven-Roberts, "Women and the Political Economy of War," in *Woman and Wars*, edited by Carol Cohn, Polity 2013, pp. 36-53

Pamela DeLargy, "Sexual Violence and Women's Health in War," in *Woman and Wars*, edited by Carol Cohn, Polity 2013, pp. 54-79

***** Mid-term exam in class**

March 5 Women's Rights and Canada's War in Afghanistan

Yasmin Jiwani, "Helpless Maidens and Chivalrous Knights: Afghan Women in the Canadian Press," *University of Toronto Quarterly* 78, no. 2 (2009): 728-744

Claire Turenne Sjolander and Kathryn Trevenen, "Constructions of Nation, Constructions of War: Media Representations of Captain Nichola Goddard," in *Locating Global Order: American Power and Canadian Security after 9/11*, edited by Bruno Charbonneau and Wayne S. Cox, UBC Press 2010, pp. 126-148

March 12 Women Warriors

Megan MacKenzie, "Securitization and De-securitization: Female Soldiers and the Reconstruction of Women in Post-Conflict Sierra Leone," in *Gender and International Security: Feminist Perspectives*, edited by Laura Sjoberg, Routledge 2010, pp. 151-166

Paige Whaley Eager, *Waging Gendered Wars: U.S. Military Women in Afghanistan and Iraq*, Ashgate 2014, ch. 4

March 19 Gender and Peace Movements

Cynthia Cockburn, *Antimilitarism: Political and Gender Dynamics of Peace Movements*, Palgrave Macmillan 2012, chs. 1 and 2

Lisa Leitz, *Fighting for Peace: Veterans and Military Families in the Anti-Iraq War Movement*, University of Minnesota Press 2014, ch. 1

March 26 Thinking about Women and Gender across Borders and the Boundaries of War and Peace

Cynthia Enloe, *Nimo's War, Emma's War: Making Feminist Sense of the Iraq War*, University of California Press 2010 (selections)

Ann J. Tickner, *Gender in International Relations: Feminist Perspectives on Security*, Columbia University Press 1992, ch. 5

April 2 Research Paper Presentations

April 9 Film “Six Days: Three Activists, Three Wars, One Dream”, Concluding Discussion and Wrap-Up

Invited guest: Sandy Greenberg, member of Voice of Women Nova Scotia

*** Final Research Paper Due**

***Take-home exams will be distributed**