

WS 395 GENDER, WAR, AND PEACE IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE Fall 2006

**Tuesdays & Thursdays
10:50AM – Noon**

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Course Description

This class will examine gender as a central issue in war, peace and global politics. Students will study how conceptions of femininity, masculinity, and gender relations change in times of heightened political conflict and after peace agreements are signed. Case studies will include the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the conflict in the North of Ireland and the post 9-11 US led attacks on Afghanistan and Iraq.

My background and teaching philosophy

We teach who we are

The courage to teach is the courage to keep one's heart open in those very moments when the heart is asked to hold more than it is able so that teacher and students and subject can be woven into the fabric of community that learning, and living, require.

*--Parker Palmer *The Courage to Teach**

Teaching for me entails more than the mere transmission of knowledge from teacher to student. I am committed to a type of pedagogy that focuses not only on the presentation of content, facts, and information, but also on the ways in which particular theories and topics could be taught so they resonate with your every day lives and experiences. I see academic institutions as sites for personal growth and social transformation, and teaching, mentoring, and supervising as the means to bring about this transformation. My professional training as a teacher, which includes a Masters of Arts degree in Education and Counseling, a doctorate in Conflict Analysis and Resolution and over two decades of teaching experience, has provided me with a strong theoretical and practical basis in critical pedagogy and in experiential teaching.

Texts and other Required Materials

Zillah Eisenstein, *Against Empire: Feminisms, Racism, and the West*. London and New York: Zed Press

Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Feminism without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity. Durham & London: Duke University Press.

Asne Seierstad, The Bookseller of Kabul

Map of the Middle East

Selected articles online and class handouts.

Course Expectations, Requirements, and Grading

The requirements and assignments are designed to maximize your learning. They will help you integrate theoretical concepts and reading material with your own thinking and life experiences. In addition to prompting you to think about certain issues and questions in preparation for in-class workshops or discussions, assignments were designed to improve your critical thinking, writing and research skills. Because of the volume of material covered, it is very important that you don't fall behind and submit ALL your assignments on time.

You will have the option to re-write ALL your assignments and re-submit them with your final portfolio.

- ***Regular Attendance, participation & self-evaluation***

Because this class involves experiential learning in the classroom, which cannot be reproduced if missed, students are expected to attend ALL class sessions, arrive on-time and leave when class ends. You should notify me before class if an illness or emergency requires you to miss class. You should come to class prepared and bring with you notes you have taken while reading the assigned materials. Occasionally I will ask you to do a brief writing exercise at the beginning of class to get a sense of your reactions to the readings and enable students who are more comfortable expressing themselves in writing to participate in that manner. These in-class assignments will not be graded but will be factored into your final grade. On the first day of class you will be asked to reflect on your expectations from and learning objectives in this class as they relate to your personal and intellectual journey and identity formation. On the last day of class, you will have to submit a one-page self-evaluation detailing what they have learned during the quarter and providing input as to what grade you expect to get. We will discuss this assignment and the process of self-evaluation as the semester progresses. **(20%)**.

- ***Media & popular culture Journal***

The journal should include at least one entry per week, examining conventional and alternative media items as well as music and other aspects of popular culture related to class themes. You should keep your journal up to date and bring it with you to class every week, as we will make an attempt to integrate your journals into our class discussions. You can also integrate relevant “findings” from your media and popular culture exploration into your synthesis papers. A summary of your journal entries should be submitted twice during the semester. **(30%)**

Length: -1-2 double-spaced paragraphs per week.

Due dates: Oct. 5, Nov. 21

- **Review of a film or novel**

Choose a film (documentary or feature film), a novel or a short story that addresses class themes and critically examine it in relation to class readings and discussions. The review should contain a brief description of the film's content but consist mostly of your ORIGINAL analysis of how the film or the novel addresses issues and questions that we have explored in class readings and discussion

You will receive more instructions on how to write a film/book review in class. **(20%)**

Length: 2-3 double-spaced and typed pages.

Due: Nov. 7

- **3 Synthesis Papers**

In a synthesis paper you are expected to analyze in a cohesive, unified essay, material you have read, discussed, viewed, and heard during a particular period in the course.

You may consider such questions as what seems to be a common thread throughout the readings you have done in the course? What are the common issues and themes you have noticed across the material? You will receive assignment sheets with more details for each one of these papers.

Length: 4-5 double spaced and typed pages each. **(10% X 3 = 30%)**

Due dates: Sep. 19, Oct. 24 & Nov. 30.

Course Outline

Week 1 Feminist Theorizing on War, Peace, and International Politics

August 29: Feminist Theory and Gender Studies for Beginners

August 31: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics: Central Issues and Debates

Read:

Simona Sharoni, "Middle East Politics through Feminist Lenses: Toward Theorizing International Relations from Women's Struggles" in Linda McDowell and Joanne Sharp, eds. *Space, Gender, Knowledge: Feminist Readings* (London: Arnold 1997), pp. 425-445 (on reserve)

Due:

Autobiographical reflection on your relationship to class themes

Week 2 Gender and the Politics of Identity: Situating Ourselves

Sep. 5 Gender Studies in Context

Read:

Mohanty pp. 169-220

Sep. 7 "The Personal is Political and the Political is Personal"

Read:

Eisenstein pp. 1-52

Mohanty pp. 85-105, 124-136

Week 3 Gender and the Politics of Domination and Inequality

Sep. 12 Intersections: Gender, Race, Class, and Sexuality

Read:
Eisenstein pp. 53-73,
Mohanty pp. 106-123
Sep. 14 The Potential and Pitfalls of Solidarity
Read:
Eisenstein, pp. 114-147

Week 4 Gender, Race, Class, and the Politics of Empire

Sep.19
Read:
Eisenstein pp. 74-113
Mohanty pp.17-42, 221-251
Due:
Synthesis essay 1
Sep. 21
Read:
Mohanty pp. 42-83, 139-168

Week 5 The Gendered Politics of War and Peace: Constructions of “the Feminine”

Sep. 26 Militarized Femininities: Women & War
Read:
Women in the military, national liberation move. Suicide bombers
Sep. 28 Women & Peace
Read:
UNIFEM Report: “Getting it Right, Doing it Right: Gender and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration”
<http://womenwarpeace.org/issues/ddr/gettingitright.pdf>

Week 6 The Gendered Politics of War and Peace: Constructions of “the Masculine”

Oct. 3 Militarized Masculinities: Men & War
Read:
Henri MYRTTINEN, Disarming Masculinities Disarmament Forum Women, Men, Peace and Security 2003 no. 4 pp. 37 - 46
<http://www.unidir.org/pdf/Gender/6%20myrttinen.pdf#search=%22Disarming%20masculinities%22>
Oct. 5 Men & Peace
Read:
Simona Sharoni, “Gendering Resistance within an Irish Republican Prisoner Community: A Conversation with Laurence McKeown.” International Feminist Journal of Politics, Vol. 2, No. 1 (Spring 2000), pp. 104-123.
<http://simonasharoni.com/Docs/IFJPconversation.pdf>
Due:
Media and popular culture summary 1

Week 7 Sexism, Militarism, and the Politics of Violence

Oct. 10 Rape as a Weapon of War

Read:

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 -- Annotated
http://womenwarpeace.org/toolbox/Annotated_1325.pdf

Oct. 12 – NO CLASS Mid-term break

Week 8 The Aftermath of War: Sexism, Militarism, and the Politics of Violence

Oct. 17 Domestic Violence

Read:

Simona Sharoni, HOMEFRONT AS BATTLEFIELD: Gender, Military Occupation and Violence Against Women In Tamar Mayer (ed.) Women and the Israeli Occupation: The Politics of Change, London: Routledge, 1994.

<http://simonasharoni.com/Docs/HomefrontAsBattlefield.pdf>

Oct. 19 Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and the Prospects of De-militarizing Masculinities

Read:

Simona Sharoni, De-Militarizing Masculinities in the Age of Empire (reading packet)

Week 9 Gender, Conflict and Change in Comparative Perspective: Insights from Israel-Palestine and the North of Ireland

Oct. 24 Beyond Stereotypical representations of women, men, war & peace

Read:

Simona Sharoni, Gender and Political Change in Israel, Palestine, and the North of Ireland May 2006

http://www.glow-boell.de/media/de/txt_rubrik_2/Sharoni.pdf

Due:

Synthesis essay 2

Oct. 26 Gender and the Politics of Change

Read:

Simona Sharoni and Laurence McKeown, "Formations and Transformations of Masculinity in the North of Ireland and in Israel-Palestine

<http://simonasharoni.com/Docs/MasculinityUnpublished.pdf>

Week 10 Gender and Conflict in the Age of Empire: The Case of Afghanistan

Oct. 31

Read:

Eisenstein pp. 148-180

Nov. 2

Read:

Seierstad, pp. ix-104

Week 11 Gender and Conflict in the Age of Empire: The Case of Afghanistan (continued)

Nov. 7 The human face of conflict

Read:

Seierstad, pp. 105-193

Due:

Review of film/novel

Nov. 9 Gender oppression in context

Read:

Seierstad, pp. 194—the end

Week 12 Gender and Conflict in the Age of Empire: The Case of Iraq

Nov. 14

Read:

Women's Role in Post-Conflict Iraq, Conference Report, April 2003

<http://www.womenwagingpeace.net/content/articles/WinningThePeaceReport.pdf>

Nov 16

Read:

Conference Report: Building a New Iraq: Women's Role in Reconstruction, Women's Role in Economic Rights and Empowerment Findings and Conclusions

November 19, 2003

<http://www.womenwagingpeace.net/content/articles/BuildingNewIraq.pdf>

Week 13 Gender and Conflict in the Age of Empire: The Case of Iraq

Nov 21 Towards a new US foreign policy in the Middle East: Insights from the study of gender in war and peace

Due:

Media and popular culture summary 2

Nov 23 – NO CLASS thanksgiving break

Week 14 Gender and the Political Economy of Globalization

Nov. 28

Read:

Dubravka Zarkov, On Militarism, Economy and Gender: Working in a Global Context

May 2006

http://www.glow-boell.de/media/de/txt_rubrik_2/DubravkaZarkov_FGmai06.pdf

Nov. 30

Due:

Synthesis essay 3

Week 15 Another World is Possible: Feminist Visions for Social and Political Change

Dec. 5 New directions in women and gender studies

Read:

Eisenstein pp. 181-219

Simona Sharoni, "Compassionate Resistance: A Personal/Political Journey to Israel/Palestine" (reading packet)

Due:

Reflective essay

Dec. 7 Reflections, evaluation & celebration

