In this seminar we will analyze patterns of sexual violence in war. While sexual violence occurs to at least some degree in most wars, it occurs to sharply varying extent and in radically different patterns. We will study a number of cases, including Bosnia-Herzegovina where sexual violence accompanied ethnic cleansing, Darfur (Sudan) where it comprises a form of political terror, Sierra Leone where it included sexual slavery, Vietnam where it reflected declining morale and discipline among US troops and became a form of punishment, and Colombia and Sri Lanka where it is relatively limited. We will also examine a well-documented case of sexual violence in inter-state war, that carried out by the Soviet Army at the end of World War II. We will analyze how well the relevant literatures in sociology, political science, criminology, psychology, biology, and gender studies account for these patterns.

Class Meeting: Tuesday 7:00 - 8:50, 8 Prospect Place, Room 121.

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30 - 3:30 (sign up on office door), 8 Prospect Place, room 108.

Email: elisabeth.wood@yale.edu.

Course website: classesv2.yale.edu

**Course Pre-requisites:**
Undergraduate pre-requisites: senior year; political science or sociology major; Introduction to comparative politics (PLSC 116b) or more advanced course in comparative politics; and permission of instructor. Graduate students: social science PhD candidates and permission of instructor.

**Course Requirements:**
There will be two written assignments, a case-study (20% of the grade) and a final paper (60%). Each participant will also submit six one-page reviews (10%) of the weekly reading assignments. Participation in class discussion will also count toward the final grade (10%).

**Course Materials:**
Book available for purchase at Labyrinth Books:

Most assigned readings are on the course website; additional ones will be in a course reader.
Course reading

September 12. Introduction

September 19. Sexual violence in peace and war


Wood, Elisabeth Jean. 2006. Variation in Sexual Violence During War. Politics and Society 34, No. 3 (September)

Suggested:
Tobach, Ethel and Rachel Reed. 2003. Understanding rape. In Evolution Gender and Rape, ed. by Cheryl Brown Travis, 105-38. MIT. [discussion of different legal definitions of rape]

September 26. Opportunistic sexual violence and sexual slavery


October 3. Sexual violence as ethnic cleansing and political terror


Suggested:

October 10. Sexual violence as torture and punishment


October 17. The absence of sexual violence: organizations that do not engage in rape


Due Monday October 23 by 1:00 pm (post on course website): case-study memo.

October 24. Explaining sexual violence: perspectives from biology and cross-cultural anthropology


Coyne, Jerry A. 2003. Of Vice and Men: A Case study in evolutionary psychology. In Evolution Gender and Rape, ed. by Cheryl Brown Travis, 171-89. MIT.

October 31. Explaining sexual violence: perspectives from psychology and sociology of organizations


Suggested:


Due Monday November 6, 1:00 pm (post on course website): proposal for research paper including initial abstract and bibliography.

November 7. Explaining sexual violence: perspectives from gender studies

Goldstein, Joshua A. 2001. Chapters 5-7 of *War and Gender*. Cambridge


Suggested


For those presenting November 14: due on Monday November 13 by 1:00 pm (post on course website) first draft.

November 14. Student presentations of research paper drafts

Reading: first drafts
For those presenting on November 28: due by Monday November 27, 1:00 pm (post on course website): first draft

November 28. Student presentations of research paper drafts

Reading: first drafts

For those presenting on December 5: due by Monday December 4, 1:00 pm (post on course website): first draft

December 5. Student presentations (continued) and course conclusion

Reading: first drafts

Final paper deadline. Thursday December 14 by noon.