

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Department of International Relations

GENDER, WAR AND PEACE

Prof J. Ann Tickner
Spring 2013: April 22 – May 2
Mondays 16:30 – 19:30
Tuesdays 18:30 – 20:00
Thursdays 16:30 – 19:30

Seminar Description

Since its founding at the beginning of the twentieth century, the discipline of International Relations has been centrally concerned with studying the causes and consequences of war and the prospects for peace. Yet rarely has the question been asked as to why, throughout history, it has been mostly men who were the planners and fighters of wars as well as the architects of peace. Women, traditionally have been portrayed as innocent civilians or victims. This course will examine the extent to which the waging of war and the making of peace has depended on maintaining these gendered dichotomies. Recent feminist scholarship has made explicit the masculinity of war and militarism. It has documented the many ways in which women participate in wars – as soldiers in state militaries, fighters in national liberation movements, and as suicide bombers. Yet women and children are disproportionately also war's victims – as refugees and victims of sexual violence. Wars are rarely over when peace treaties are signed. After the conflict is over, it is often women who must bear the burdens of providing care for war-torn families and victims of war. Women have always been centrally engaged in peace-building also – often behind the scenes and outside formal negotiations. Concerned with what goes on during wars, as well as their causes and consequences, feminists have also brought to light the myriad ways in which conflict and violence impacts the lives of ordinary people – both women and men. Using a feminist lens, this course will examine these issues.

Readings

Most of the readings will be from the following three books. Only selected chapters are required but, for students who want to explore the topic in more depth, all are recommended.

Carol Cohn, ed., *Women and Wars*, Polity Press, 2012

Laura Sjoberg ed., *Gender and International Security: Feminist Perspectives*, Routledge, 2010

J. Ann Tickner and Laura Sjoberg, eds., *Feminism and International Relations: Conversations about the Past, Present and Future*, Routledge, 2011

Requirements

There will be one final exam consisting of essay questions based on class readings and discussions.

Students are encouraged to read the material before each class meeting and participate in discussion. Different students will be assigned to lead class discussions.

The course will be conducted in English.

Seminar Outline

The aim of the course is to demonstrate that using a gender lens to analyze national security, war, and peace gives us a fuller understanding of issues that have been central to security studies as well as to security issues that have not previously been explored. Although it is impossible to draw a line between the two, the first week will focus mainly on war and the second on peace. Please note that the Monday and Thursday classes are three hours long and will count as two sessions

I. Gendering war and international security: April 22

April 22. (Session 1)

An introduction to the concept of gender as a social construction and to a feminist analysis of conflict, focusing on the ways that gender has been used to legitimate wars and in the discourse of national security more generally.

Readings:

Carol Cohn, "Women and Wars: Towards a Conceptual Framework," chap 1 in Cohn. (required)

Angela Raven-Roberts, "Women and the Political Economy of War," chap. 2 in Cohn. (recommended)

April 22. (Session 2)

Since it has been mostly (but not only) men who fight wars, wars have been associated with masculinity. We will examine the association of war with masculinity. What are the consequences of this for both women and men and for the discourse of war more generally? Does this affect the range of options that are considered legitimate for national security provision?

Readings:

Jonathan Wadley, "Gendering the State," chap. 3 in Sjoberg (required)

Jennifer Maruska, "When are States Hypermasculine?" chap. 12 in Sjoberg (recommended)

II. Where are the women? Women as soldiers and civilians: April 23 and 25

April 23.

Even though war has been considered a "masculine" activity, women have always been present in wars as fighters in both state wars and non-state conflicts even though they often remain invisible. What are the consequences of this invisibility?

Readings:

Jennifer Mathers, "Women and State Military Forces," chap. 6 in Cohn
 Dyan Mazurana, "Women, Girls and Non-State Armed Opposition Groups," chap. 7 in Cohn

April 25 (Sessions 1 and 2)

Modern wars are impacting civilians in ever-larger numbers. While both men and women suffer the tragic consequences of war, war impacts civilian women in particular ways, as refugees, as victims of sexual violence and as caregivers.

Readings:

Pamela DeLargy, "Sexual Violence and Women's Health in War," chap. 3 in Cohn
 Wenona Giles, "Women Forced to Flee: Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons," chap. 4 in Cohn

III. When wars are over: Incorporating gender issues into peace-making and peace-building: April 29 and 30

April 29 (Session 1)

Whereas war has typically been associated with men and masculinity, peace has been association with women (and motherhood). Some women have used maternalism to their advantage although many feminists believe that the association is disempowering to both women and peace.

Reading:

Carol Cohn and Ruth Jacobsen, "Women and Political Activism in the Face of War and Militarization," chap. 5 in Cohn

April 29 (Session 2)

Times of transition when wars are over affect women and men differently. Issues of disarmament and demobilization of women soldiers present particular problems.

Readings:

Dyan Mazurana and Linda Eckerbom Cole, "Women, Girls and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)," chap. 9 in Cohn (required)
 Megan Mackenzie, "Securitization and de-Securitization: Female Soldiers and the Reconstruction of Women in Post-Conflict Sierra Leone," chap 8 in Sjoberg (recommended)

April 30

In 2000, the UN Security Council adopted resolution UNSC 1325. This was the first time that the UNSC addressed gender issues. One of its provisions was that women should be involved in all stages of peace processes. Yet, while women have played a variety of informal roles in peace-building, they are rarely part of formal negotiations.

Readings:

Malathi de Alwis, Julie Mertus and Tazreena Sajjad, "Women and Peace Processes," chap. 8 in Cohn

Sarai Aharoni, "Gender and 'Peace Work': An Unofficial History of Israeli-Palestinian Peace Negotiations," *Politics and Gender* 7 (2011), 391-416.

IV. Women building peace. May 2

May 2 (Session 1)

Although women are not always represented at negotiating tables, women have had an important presence in peace movements.

Reading:

Catia Confortini, "Reclaiming Agency for Social Change: Feminist International Relations and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom," chap. 2 in Tickner and Sjoberg

V. Envisaging a more secure world:

May 2 (Session 2)

When defining and analyzing security, IR feminists have tended to use a "bottom-up" approach that is people-centered rather than state-centered. We will conclude with some observations on IR feminist perspectives on security

Reading:

Somita Basu, "Security as Emancipation," chap. 5 in Tickner and Sjoberg