

University of Alabama, Birmingham

Instructor: Dr. Lisa Sharlach

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Office Hours: MWF 1:15-2:15 in HH 404 (or by appointment)

## Women and War–W.S. 280 &

## PSC 295 – S '12

MWF 2:30 – 3:20 in EB 230

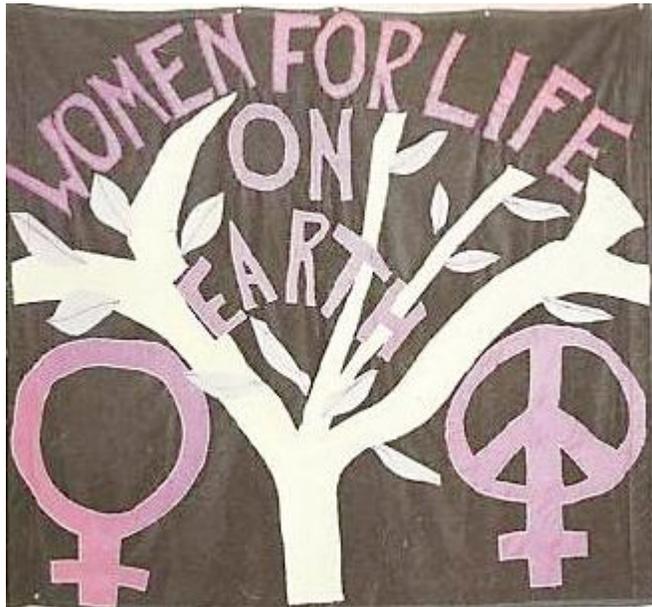
UPDATED APRIL 10, 2012

This course provides an overview of gender and armed conflict from a global perspective. In the first third of the class, we will learn about theories of gender and war. In the second third, we will apply these theories to case studies of women and war, particularly in African revolutions. We will also examine the roles of women in terrorism. The last third of the course concerns gender and conflict resolution.

**COURSE READINGS:** The one book required for this class is available for under \$30 from Barnes & Noble at UAB. It is W. Maloba's *African Women in Revolution*. The other required readings for this course must be accessed (for free!) online. Some are available through hyperlinks (if in underlined font) from this syllabus; others (marked "on BB") are uploaded to the "Readings" folder of the course Blackboard page (look under "Course Content" on the left index). Lastly, I have substituted short online documentary films (also hyperlinked to this syllabus) for readings for a few of the classes. You will be tested on the material in the films, so it would be a good idea to take notes as you

watch them. Students will take an exam after completing each third (see below).

GRADES: The term paper for the class is due Friday, April 27. Guidelines for the paper will be posted on Blackboard. There will be 15 quizzes (one each Friday), of which 13 will “count.” Your lowest scores will be dropped, so that in effect you can miss or fail two quizzes without penalty. Each quiz is worth 4 points, and it will cover the readings since the previous quiz. If for some reason class is canceled on a day a quiz is scheduled, then the quiz will take place the following class. You do *not* need to bring a Scantron for these quizzes. Please refer to the section below on



“Responsibilities of the Student” for the make-up policy.

|                               |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| QUIZZES – 13 at 4 points each | 52 points. |
| PAPER/PRESENTATION            | 25 points  |
| EXAMS – 3 at 11 points each   | 33 points  |
| Total                         | 100 points |

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT:

- ♀ If you miss class, contact another student for the notes. Powerpoint slides will *not* be made available online or by request.
- ♀ Asking questions is a key component of learning. However, please do not ask things, either in class or by e-mail, that can be answered by reading this syllabus.
- ♀ A student who arrives while a quiz is underway will not get extra time on it, nor will she or he have the opportunity to take it later. If you must come to class late, or must leave early, please try to do so with as little disruption as possible.
- ♀ You are to come to class having read the material assigned for the day. I do realize that sometimes life interferes with the best of intentions. Should you come to class without having done the reading, please do everyone a favor and confess rather than bluff.
- ♀ Just as you have the right to express your own opinion, so does every other member of the class.
- ♀ Please keep cell phones turned off (unless you are the parent of a small child). Texting has no place in this classroom. Students texting during class may be asked to leave.
- ♀ If you bring your laptop to class, please use it for class-related activities only. Students violating this policy may be asked to leave.
- ♀ In order to get accommodations, students with disabilities should submit to the instructor a letter from UAB's DSS.
- ♀ A student who makes an appointment outside of regular office hours to meet the instructor and does not show up or arrives more than 15 minutes late will not get another appointment.

- ♀ The only reason a student can take a make-up exam is if there is a documented medical or family emergency. In such cases, please notify the instructor as soon as possible (preferably before the exam). Students who simply do not appear for an exam will receive a zero on it. The instructor will give make-up midterms during the week of finals.
- ♀ All of the work that you submit should be prepared by you alone, for this class only. The UAB definitions of and policies on violations of academic integrity can be found on in your student handbook. You must submit your paper electronically so that the instructor might run it through a plagiarism-detection software program. I will assign a failing grade for the course for any student caught plagiarizing.

## COURSE OUTLINE

### PART I – “BEFORE” (Theories)

W & F Jan 11 & 13 -- “MILITANT” FEMINISM. Begin Pankhurst’s [“Freedom or Death”](#) for W., and have finished it by F. By Friday, kindly have selected your three top choices from the list of books for your term paper (see the “Papers/Presentations” folder within the “Course Content” page on Blackboard). You should submit your choices online.

M Jan 16 – MLK HOLIDAY. No class.

W & F Jan 18 & 20 -- ESSENTIALIST FEMINISM. Have read: “Pacifying the Forces: Drafting Women in the Interests of Peace” (Ruddick, on BB) & “A Feminist

Ethical Perspective on Weapons of Mass Destruction” (Ruddick & Cohn, on BB).

M, W & F Jan 23, 25, 27 – “THREE GUINEAS.” Please read Woolf’s [“Three Guineas,”](#) beginning with the first chapter for Monday and the ~~third~~ **second** one for Friday.

M, W & F Jan 30, Feb 1 & 3 – CRITIQUES OF ESSENTIALISM. Have read: **Ch. 3** of [“Three Guineas,”](#) Hooks, “Feminism and Militarism: A Comment” & Fusco, “A Field Guide for Female Interrogators” **through page 29** (both on BB).

M, W & F Feb 6 - 10 — PACIFISM, NATIONALISM, RACISM, FEMINISM. Have read Cockburn’s [From Where We Stand: War, Women's Activism and Feminist Analysis](#), Ch. 7 – 9.

M Feb 13 – TEST 1

## PART II – “DURING” (Women in War)

W & F Feb 15 & 17 -- WOMEN & WAR OVERVIEW. Have watched [“War Redefined”](#) (PBS).

M, W & F Feb 20 - 24 -- RAPE, AGENCY, & WAR. Have read: Inger Skjelsbæk, “The Elephant in the Room: An Overview of How Sexual Violence came to be Seen as a Weapon of War” & Sharlach, “Gender & Genocide in Rwanda” (both on BB).

M, W & F Feb 27 - Mar 2 – WOMEN WARRIORS - ALGERIA. Please read: *AW & R* (p 1-68, up to “Kenya”).

M, W & F Mar 5 - 9 -- WOMEN WARRIORS -- KENYA AND LUSOPHONE AFRICA. Have read: *AW & R*, 69 – 141.

M & W Mar 12 -14 – WOMEN WARRIORS -- SOUTHERN AFRICA. Have read: *AW & R*, 143-176.

F Mar 16 – WOMEN WARRIORS -- UGANDA. Have read: Blattman et al, ["Women and Girls at War: 'Wives', Mothers, and Fighters in the Lord's Resistance Army"](#) (on BB).

Mar 18-24 -- SPRING BREAK.

M Mar 26, 28, 30 – WOMEN & TERROR. Have read: Bloom's "Female Suicide Bombers: A Global Trend" (on BB) & "Birds of Freedom? Perspectives on Female Emancipation and Sri Lanka's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam" (Jordan & Denov, on BB). Also watch ["The War We Are Living"](#) (PBS).

M April 2 – TEST II.

### PART III -- "AFTER" (Peace)

W & F April 4– 6 GENDER & PEACEKEEPING. Have read: Jennings, ["Women's Participation in U.N. Peacekeeping Operations"](#) (p. 2-11); & Whitworth, "Militarized Masculinities and the Politics of Peacekeeping: The Canadian Case" (both on BB).

M, W & F April 9-13 – ORGANIZING FOR PEACE. Have read: WWP, Ch. 6 (on BB). Have watched: ["Pray the Devil Back to Hell"](#) & ["Peace Unveiled"](#) (PBS).

M, W & F April 20 – JUSTICE. Have read: Ch. 4 of “Progress of the World's Women 2011-2012: In Pursuit of Justice” (UN Women, also on BB); have watched “I CAME TO TESTIFY” (PBS).

M & W April 23 & 25 -- PREVENTION & RECONSTRUCTION. Have read: WWP, chs. 9 & 10 (on BB).

F April 27 – Paper due electronically at the start of class, and yes, there will be a quiz. Student Presentations.

M April 30 – Student Presentations, con't.

**Wednesday, May 9 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM. Test III.**