Syllabus: Conf. 723 ~ Conflict and Gender

Fall 2007: Tuesdays, 1:30-4:10 pm
Truland Building Room 666B
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Introduction

In this course we will consider gender as a powerful idea that shapes the way we see others and others see us. Social and cultural conceptions of gender—at home and around the world—has led to significant disparities in economic status, education, health, legal rights and other cultural indices of success. It has been used to justify such violence as sexual and physical abuse, rape, mutilation, imprisonment and killing. We will consider many implications of the social construction of gender including the way language both shapes and reflects gendered attitudes, behaviors, expectations, and norms. We will examine our own relationships to gender at the micro, meso and macro levels including individual, interactional and structural analyses. Themes of power, performance and privilege—and their implications—will be woven throughout the course.

Course Requirements, Assignments and Required Readings

1. **This course will be conducted as a learning community seminar.** Each week we will discuss, as a group, the assigned readings, exploring the implications for the field of conflict analysis and resolution. Some weeks we will integrate field research results from class assignments. Along with class attendance, students are expected to participate fully in all discussions and complete all weekly required readings in preparation for class. Throughout the course there will be various learning experiences. Mediums will include videos, lectures, role-plays, class exercises and discussions. Students will also be asked to conduct interviews on various themes—from family, friends, and “experts” in the field throughout the semester. Results of the interviews will be discussed with the readings. (20%)

2. **Students will select one topic and conduct in-depth research.** Within the following six themes, students will pursue at greater depth—with no more than two other colleagues—current and engaging research and present their findings to the class on the date(s) indicated below.

   • Gender and sexuality: the marketplace (9.25.07)
• Gender and the law (10.02.07)
• Gender and health (10.09.07)
• Gender and conflict in groups, organizations and work (10.16.07)
• Gender and violence – domestic and international conditions of war (10.23.07, terrorism and small arms 10.30.07, and globalization, 11.06.07)
• Prevention, resolution, post-war construction (11.13.07)

Students will present your research on the day that topic is proposed in the syllabus. The specifics of the requirements for presentations will be discussed in class. The paper for your presentation is due one week prior to your presentation (but the final copy will be accepted no later than the day of your presentation). Creativity is encouraged! (30%)

3. Drawing on all class discussions, readings, presentations and other activities, teams of students will develop their own theory of gender and conflict and present their theory as a capstone product. Students should be able to clearly articulate existing theory, research and practice from which their proposed theory is built. Additionally, students should explain the contribution their theory makes to current understanding of gender and conflict and its implications for constructive change. Students are required to submit a hard copy of their presentation scripts, materials, notes, etc. at the time of their presentation. (30%)

4. The following books are required and available in the Arlington campus bookstore.


In addition to the required books, there is a collection of articles, chapters and suggested other books for you to consider as you develop your presentations and papers. Be sure to read and be prepared to discuss those that are required the week the topic will be considered in class. The week-by-week schedule, below, includes all required readings from the collection of articles and books. I have also included a list of suggested readings, particularly for students who want to pursue particular themes or topics. (20%)
Electronic Reserves
Adobe Acrobat must be installed on your computer to view and print some E-Reserves Readings. E-Reserves permits students to access Course Readings remotely from home or office, and allows students to view and print materials using Adobe Acrobat Reader. All users of the E-Reserves must comply with the University Policy and Copy Right Law (Title 17, United States Code)

Accessing E-Reserves:
1. Go to http://oscr.gmu.edu
2. Click on the magnifying glass (Search electronic reserves)
3. Using the drop-down boxes, select the course [Conf 723-001] and instructor [Cheldelin]
   a. The section and faculty are opposite of what is on the schedule
   b. Be sure it says “Fall 2007”
4. Enter in the password (women) and click submit to view the item
5. To view and print an article click on the small PDF button or the Link button if available

If you experience problems with an electronic reserve item or need additional help please contact the E-Reserves Coordinator at 993-9043. If you need additional assistance please e-mail ereserves@gmu.edu.

Articles and Chapters Available on E-Reserve

Agger, The blue room. Trauma and testimony among refugee women: a psycho-social exploration Chapter 1 In the Blue Room (pp 1-19) and Chapter 2 The Daughter’s Room (pp 20-39) New Jersey and London: Zed Books, Ltd.


Ashwini Tanabej (2000) The globalization syndrome: transformation and resistance, Chapter 4, Global poverty and gender, (pp. 74-89)


Cunningham, Karla J. (2003) Cross-Regional Trends in Female Terrorism” In Studies in Conflict and Terrorism, 26, (pp 171-195)


Fletcher, Joyce K. (2001) Disappearing acts: Gender and power at work, Chapter 5 in : Gender, power, and relational practice at work, Cambridge: MIT Press, (pp 89-112)


Minow, Martha (1998) *Vengeance and forgiveness*, Chapter 2 in *Between vengeance and forgiveness*, Boston: Beacon Press (pp. 9-24)


True, Jacqui (2005) *Gender mainstreaming and regional trade organization*. Paper read at the 46th International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii. [SD 18]

Weekly Class Schedule

THEME 1: PROLOGUE
IMAGES OF GENDER & THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIONIST DEBATE

Week 1: 8.28.07 ~ introductions ~

Topics:
Introduction to gender and conflict: power, performance and privilege
Overview of course and syllabus
Presentation and discussion of gender and conflict graphic
Discussion of student presentation topics
Gender lifelines

Week 2: 9.04.07 ~ social constructionism and language ~

Topics:
Social constructionist debate—nature vs. nurture
Gender as difference
Gender and language
Gender lifelines
Finalize student presentation schedule

Readings (please read prior to attending class and be prepared to discuss):
  • Crawford, Chapters 1 & 2 (Talking across the gender gap; Search for a woman’s language)

Week 3: 9.11.07 ~ gender and sexism ~

Topics:
Gender and language
Living with gender and sexism

[Discussion of assignment: conduct gender interview with family member; be prepared to report Week 4]

Readings:
  • Chesler, Chapter 3 (Woman’s sexism)
  • Crawford, Chapters 3 and 4 (assertiveness training; sex and culture)

**THEME 2: GENDER AND THE FAMILY AND RELATIONSHIPS**

**Week 4: 9.18.07 ~ psychological development of gender ~**

**Topics:**
Report results of family gender interviews  
Psychoanalytic theories of gender  
Gender and sexual identity  
Role of schools in gender construction  
Relationship aggression  
Issues across cultures

**Required Readings:**
• Chesler, Chapter 2, 5, 6 and 7 (Indirect aggression, psychoanalytic views, ‘good-enough’ mothers and daughters and sisters and best friends)

[Discussion of assignment: be prepared to identify issues of gender and conflict in literature, media, movies or plays; report on Week 5]

**THEME 3: GENDER AND SEXUALITY – THE MARKETPLACE**

**Week 5: 9.25.07 ~ gender in the media and arts ~**

**Topics:**
Media, literature, film, television  
Report examples of gender and conflict in news, media, literature, arts
Required Readings:
• Chesler, Chapter 4 (mother-daughter in fairy tales and myths)
• Nafisi, Reading Lolita in Tehran, (please have read entire book)
• Tannen, Deborah (1998) The argument culture: moving from debate to dialogue, New York: Random House Chapters 2 and 3

Student Presentation: Manar Fawakhry and Maria Jan

THEME 4:
GENDER AND THE LAW

Week 6: 10.02.07 ~ gender and the law ~

Topics:
Law and gender
Women’s rights

Required Readings
• Minow, Martha (1998) Vengeance and forgiveness, Chapter 2 in Between Vengeance and forgiveness, Boston: Beacon Press (pp. 9-24)

Student Presentation: Michelle Morgan

Week 7: 10.09.07 ~ no class; Monday classes meet on Tuesday ~

THEME 5:
GENDER AND HEALTH

Week 8: 10.16.07 ~ gender and health ~

Topics:
Who am I?
Who gets to say?
Epidemiology

Required Readings:
• Agger, The blue room. Trauma and testimony among refugee women: a psycho-social exploration Chapter 1 “In the Blue Room” (pp 1-19) and Chapter 2


**Student Presentation: Carolyn Taylor and Saira Yamin**

**THEME 6:**
**GENDER AND CONFLICT –GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS AND WORK**

**Week 9: 10.23.07 ~ gender and leadership ~**

**Topics:**
- Gender and leadership
- Impact of ideology
- Gender and conflict in groups and organizations

**Required Readings:**
- Stinson, Kate (2005) *Freedom fighters: women terrorists and the battle for female liberation*. Paper read at the 46th International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii. SB 20 (e-reserve)

**Student Presentation: Rachael Muth and Seamus Tuohy** (Transgender rejection from sex based groups.)
THEME 7:
GENDER AND VIOLENCE—DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL CONDITIONS OF WAR

Week 10:  10.30.07 ~ war and violence ~

Topics:
War and violence
Victims of war
Rape and genocide

Required Readings:
• Anonymous (2005) A Woman in Berlin (all)
• Mawhinney, Emily B. (2005). Eyewitness to gendercide: a critical feminist analysis of rape as a tool of war in Bosnia and Rwanda. Paper read at the 46th International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii. (e-reserve)

Student Presentation: Becca Ripley and Sanya Younossi

Week 11:  11.06.07 ~ war and violence: small arms in conflict; terrorism ~

Topics:
Small arms
Case studies
Terrorist activities

Required Reading:
• Cunningham, Karla J. (2003) Cross-Regional Trends in Female Terrorism” In Studies in Conflict and Terrorism, 26, (pp 171-195) (e-reserve)

Student Presentation: Priscillar Ateyo and Helen Hagos

THEME 8:
GLOBALIZATION, PREVENTION, RESOLUTION, POST-WAR CONSTRUCTION

Week 12:  11.13.07 ~ globalization, prevention and post-war activities ~

Topics:
Globalization
Humanitarian work
Prevention

Required Readings:
• Hoogensen, Gunhild (2005) *Gender and human security: transcending the North/South divide*. Paper read at the 46th International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii. [SB 28] (e-reserve)
• True, Jacqui (2005) *Gender mainstreaming and regional trade organization*. Paper read at the 46th International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii. [SD 18] (e-reserve)

Students Presentation: Lindsey Jones and Pavithra Banavar

Week 13: 11.22.06 ~ Thanksgiving Holiday — No Class ~

Week 14 11.27.07 ~ No Class: I am in India ~

Week 15: 12.04.07 (begins at 11:00 am) ~ Presentation of Conflict and Gender Theories ~

Topics:
Post-war construction
Peace-building
Mainstreaming
Capstone: towards a theory of gender-based conflict analysis and resolution
Evaluation
Celebration

Required Readings:

Student Presentations on your theories of Conflict and Gender