

Mount Saint Vincent University

WOMS 3391/POLS 3391

Fall 2015

Gender and International Relations

Instructor: Dr. Maya Eichler
Seminars: Mon/Wed 1:30-2:45
Classroom: SAC 532
Office Hours: Wed 3:00-4:00 OR by appointment
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Course Description

The course investigates the central place of gender in international relations (IR) by asking Cynthia Enloe's question 'Where are the women?'. While the study of international relations has long focused on states and their political and economic power in the international system, this class moves from the centres of power to the margins of international politics to show how women and men, and notions of femininity and masculinity, are not only shaped by international relations but in many ways are central to sustaining international power relations. Some of the central questions we will examine and debate in this course are: What is a feminist perspective on international relations? How does intersectionality help us see how different men and women participate in international relations? And how are ideas about femininity and masculinity used to reproduce global political and economic relations of inequality?

Course Objectives

- illustrate how international relations – both in the security realm and the political economy realm – are gendered
- familiarize students with intersectionality as a tool of feminist analysis
- give students the opportunity to critically reflect on the readings, both through class discussion, group work, and written assignments
- support students to develop their own gender analysis of international relations by researching, analyzing, and presenting a particular case

Course Materials

Cynthia Enloe. 2015. *Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics*. 2nd edition. Berkeley: University of California Press.

* Available in MSVU bookstore or through amazon.ca

** Any additional course materials will be posted on moodle.

Evaluations and Term Work

1. Writing Assignments: 40%

Enloe Reflection Paper: 15% (Sept 30)

Based on Cynthia Enloe's keynote address at APPSA on September 26, 2015 and the class readings you will be asked to write a 750 word reflection piece on what it means to take women seriously in the analysis of international relations. A more detailed description of the assignment will be provided in class.

Research Paper/Creative Project: 25% (Dec 7)

In this *research paper* of 2,500 words you will be asked to use intersectionality to describe and analyze a particular 'case' of gender and IR that has some link to Canada. You can focus on one group of women or men in international relations who have historically been marginalized, or on a group that has taken up the cause against gender subordination globally, or on the gender effects of a particular global policy. For example, you might analyze temporary foreign workers in Canada; foreign sex workers in Canada or Canadians' participation in global sex tourism; Aboriginal women's responses to the UN special rapporteur's visit to Canada in October 2013; Canadian women's organizing around global violence against girls; or LGBTQ refugees seeking asylum in Canada. You may also present your findings as a *creative project* and thus utilize other formats such as a video, news article, blogpost, art piece, or other creative venture. Should you choose the latter option, please discuss with me before you finalize your topic to confirm my expectations of length, content etc. A more detailed description of the assignment will be provided in class.

2. Exams: 40%

Mid-term Exam: 15% (Oct 19)

The mid-term will consist of 3 short answers (out of a choice of 5) and one essay question (out of a choice of 2).

Final Take-Home: 25% (will be handed out Dec 7, due Dec 11)

The final exam will consist of 2 essay questions that probe your understanding of all course materials (readings, class lectures, and additional materials such as videos shown in class and additional materials handed out in class).

3. Participation: 20%

In-class participation/contribution: 10%

Regular attendance is expected, and attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. However, participation requires more than mere attendance. It is crucial that you come to class on time and well-prepared, having not only read the week's readings but also reflected upon them. Contributing items for discussion, joining in class discussions, and participating in group or other class activities will be taken as evidence for student participation.

Class facilitation in pairs: 5%

You will be asked to facilitate one class in pairs of two. Think of creative ways to engage fellow students in discussion of the week's readings.

Presentation of Research Paper/Creative Project: 5% (Nov 30)

You will be asked to share the main findings of your research project – whether you present it in standard academic format or as a creative venture – in a short 5 minute presentation.

Recommended Background Readings

- Runyan, Anne and V. Spike Peterson. 2013. *Global Gender Issues in the New Millennium*. Boulder: Westview Press.
- Shepherd, Laura J., ed. 2010. *Gender Matters in Global Politics: A Feminist Introduction to International Relations*. London: Routledge.
- Steans, Jill. 2013. *Gender and International Relations*. New York: Polity.
- Tickner, Ann J. 2001. *Gendering World Politics: Issues and Approaches in the Post-Cold War Era*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Selection of Relevant Journals

- International Feminist Journal of Politics*
- Women's International Studies Forum*
- Signs: Journal of Women in Society and Culture*
- Atlantis: Critical Studies in Gender, Culture, and Social Justice*

Selection of Relevant Newspapers

- New York Times*
- Al Jazeera English*
- Le Monde diplomatique—English edition*
- The Guardian, UK*

Selection of Relevant Blogs

- E-International Relations: www.e-ir.info
- Duck of Minerva: <http://duckofminerva.com/>

Course Policies

- 1) Late Assignments: All assignments must be handed in on the due date, unless accompanied by a doctor's note or other form of documentation. Late assignments will be penalized 2% per day, including on week-ends.
- 2) Handing in Assignments: Assignments should be handed in in printed form during class. If you require another arrangement, please let me know in advance.
- 3) Electronic Devices: Please use electronic devices only for activities related to the course. Engaging in other activities is distracting and disrespectful, and will be taken as a sign of lacking participation in the class.
- 4) Absence: Missed tests and late assignments require documentation. Alternative arrangements need to be made well in advance of the relevant deadline.
- 5) E-mail and Phone: I encourage you to come see me during my office hours for any help you require with course materials and assignments. If you are unable to come to my office, I will respond to your email within 2 days. I only check my phone messages during office hours, and will not receive message left at other times. Students are required to use their MSVU e-mail account for course-related correspondence. Please do not e-mail me via Moodle.

6) Moodle: Moodle will be used only to post the course outline and any additional reading or discussion materials. Class notes will not be posted on Moodle. Moodle e-mail will not be used.

7) Correct Use of Language: Correct use of language is one of the criteria included in the evaluation of all written assignments.

Academic Accommodations

Students who have a disability and who require academic accommodations must register with Disability Services as early as possible in order to receive accommodations. Information can be found at: <http://www.msvu.ca/disabilityservices>

Requests for accommodation of specific religious or spiritual observance must be presented in writing to the instructor within the first two weeks of class.

Right Start Program

At the Mount, student academic success is a priority. The University is offering a program called the Right Start Program which will provide students with the opportunity to receive assistance and support early in the term. If a professor feels that a student might benefit from the support services, he/she may refer the student to the Right Start Program. Faculty will be evaluating a number of criteria such as class participation, attendance, completion of assignments, grades, and quality of written and oral work in order to determine if a student might benefit from the Right Start Program. Once a referral is made by a professor, the student will be contacted by an Academic Advisor in the Right Start Program to begin the process.

Plagiarism and Cheating

MSVU takes intellectual honesty and academic integrity very seriously and has policies and procedures in place to deal with such offences. These offences include cheating, misrepresenting work, and plagiarism. University regulations on plagiarism and cheating and other academic offenses will be strictly enforced. These regulations including applicable procedures and penalties are detailed in the University Calendar and are posted on department notice boards and on the website at:

<http://www.msvu.ca/en/home/programsdepartments/undergradprograms/regulations/academicoffenses.aspx>

The University defines plagiarism as the following:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's words or ideas obtained from any source, including the Internet, as though they were one's own. Specific offences include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Using copied material without enclosing that material in quotation marks
- and/or without appropriately acknowledging its source;
- Paraphrasing or summarizing the original wording too closely;
- Omitting acknowledgment of the source of paraphrases and summaries;
- Submitting work that has been written in full or in part by someone else (MSVU 2010).

Plagiarism detection software may be used in this course at the discretion of the professor. Any questions regarding plagiarism should be directed to the professor.

Research Ethics

Students who conduct research involving human participants must have their research reviewed in accordance with the MSVU Policies and Procedures for Ethics Review of Research Involving Humans before starting the research. Check with your course professor or Chair of the department about proper procedure.

APPSA

There will be a major political science conference held at MSVU this fall. The Department of Political and Canadian Studies will be hosting the annual gathering of the Atlantic Provinces Political Science Association (APPSA), Sept 25-27, 2015. APPSA is the regional professional organization of political scientists, and its location alternates among the various universities in Atlantic Canada. It regularly attracts 70-100 academic and community-based researchers, politicians and government officials not only from the region, but also nationally and internationally to share research, ideas, and strategies about politics. APPSA 2015's theme is "Political Science in Action: Research for Social Change," and it will feature an internationally distinguished scholar and activist in feminist international relations, Dr. Cynthia Enloe. Students are encouraged to attend the conference and if you are interested in volunteering to help with the organizing, please let Dr. Findlay know.

Marial Mosher Canadian Studies Scholarships

As a result of the generous donation from the late Dr. Marial Mosher, students taking Canadian Studies at MSVU are now eligible for three new scholarship opportunities: the Marial Mosher Canadian Studies Scholarship; the Marial Mosher Canadian Studies Travel Award; and the Marial Mosher Canadian Studies Award. Awarded on the recommendation of the Department of Political and Canadian Studies, first preference is to students majoring in Canadian Studies (CANA); next preference is to students with a Canadian Studies (CANA) Concentration; third preference is students with a Canadian Studies (CANA) minor and fourth preference to students with a minimum of two units of study in courses with a CANA designation. There may be more than one recipient. Full descriptions of each award will be posted on Moodle.

Bronfman Award

Through the support of the Bronfman family, this award provides partial course tuition and full travel costs for a one week in Ottawa, for a student taking Canadian Studies. It is designed to promote Canadian understanding by providing the recipients with the opportunity to realize, physically and academically, exposure to a wider experience and knowledge of Canadian life and to share that knowledge with others. This scholarship is open to all current students who have taken, or are currently enrolled in CANA 1101, 1102, 3301, 3305, or 4000.

The week in Ottawa is taken during the February break period. Recipients not only get to enjoy the activities of Winterlude, the exhibitions at the National Gallery, Museum of Civilization and Museum of Science and Technology, they also spend a day shadowing a Member of Parliament, another day following the activities of the Senate and a third day visiting the Supreme Court and observing the court in session. The activities for the week are organized by the co-ordinator of the Canadian Studies program, Dr. Tammy Findlay, with an eye to the particular interests of the award recipient. The deadline for applications is October 15.

Topics and Weekly Readings

1. A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE ON GENDER AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Sept 9 Introduction: Explain the course plan, objectives, and assignments. Answer student questions.

Sept 14 & 16 Enloe, ch. 1 “Gender Makes the World Go Round: Where are the Women?”

* **Sept 17-18** PeacemakHers Camp, Pugwash, NS

Sept 21 & 23 Enloe, ch. 2. “Lady Travelers, Beauty Queens, Stewardesses, and Chamber Maids: The International Gendered Politics of Tourism”

* **Sept 25-27** Atlantic Provinces Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Cynthia Enloe’s Keynote Address is scheduled for Sept 26

2. GENDERED NATIONALISM, MILITARISM, AND DIPLOMACY

Sept 28 & 30 Enloe, ch. 3 “Nationalism and Masculinity: The Nationalist Story Is Not Over—and It Is Not a Simple Story”

*** **Sept 30** **Enloe Reflection Paper due**

Oct 5 & 7 Enloe, ch. 4 “Base Women”

Oct 12 Thanksgiving – no class

Oct 14 Enloe, ch. 5 “Diplomatic and Undiplomatic Wives”

*** **Oct 19** **Mid-term exam in class**

Oct 21 Details of research paper/creative project assignment, reflection on course so far, and discussion of election results and what they mean for gender and IR.

3. THE GENDERED GLOBAL ECONOMY

Oct 26 & 28 Enloe, ch. 6 “Going Bananas! Where Are Women in the International Politics of Bananas?”

Nov 2 & 4 Enloe, ch. 7 “Women’s Labor Is Never Cheap: Gendering Global Blue Jeans and Bankers”

Nov 9 Discussion of ideas for research paper/creative project

Nov 11 Remembrance Day – no class

Nov 16 & 18 Enloe, ch. 8 “Scrubbing the Globalized Tub: Domestic Servants in World Politics”

4. PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH PAPERS/CREATIVE PROJECTS AND CONCLUSION

Nov 23 & 25 Professor away at CIMVHR – Watch movie “Whistleblower” and read “The Whistleblower: An Interview with Kathryn Bolkovac and Madeleine Reese,” *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, 2013, 15(1):102-109

***** Nov 30 Presentation of Research Paper/Creative Project in class**

Dec 2: Enloe, “Conclusion: The Personal Is International; the International Is Personal”

Dec 7 Conclusion: The future of gender and IR

***** Research Paper or Creative Project Due in class**

***** Take-home exams will be distributed**