Florida International University
Department of International Relations and Geography

Feminism and International Relations

INR 5088
Fall 2006
Thu 14:00-16:45
PC 214

Instructor: Elisabeth Prügl, Ph.D.
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Around the world men predominate in international security apparatuses and in the conduct of war. In the global economy, despite inroads from women, there continues a relatively rigid gender division of labor, between paid and unpaid work, according to economic sectors, and along hierarchies. Although women have gained the vote in most countries, they continue to be underrepresented in governments and parliaments. Indeed, some have argued that gender is a constitutive force enabling security practices, global capitalism, and power politics. In other words, gender makes possible international politics and economics in their current form.

Despite the salience of gender in international politics and economics, studies of gender relations have entered the field of International Relations relatively recently. Feminist approaches are offering new views of a field previously defined as devoid of gender politics. This graduate seminar introduces contemporary feminist approaches to the field. It familiarizes students with major theoretical strands of feminist thinking and surveys contemporary literature in the sub-fields of political economy, global governance, and security studies. It seeks to enable students to look at International Relations through a feminist lens, and trains them to utilize feminist approaches in empirical studies.

Requirements

All students are expected to read assigned materials, attend class and actively participate in class discussions. Every student will serve as discussion leader twice, summarizing the readings assigned for a particular session and preparing discussion questions. All students will write a research paper on a topic of their choice developed in consultation with the instructor.

The final grade will be composed of the following:

Participation and preparation 20%
Paper 50%
Class Presentation 30%
Required Readings


Course Schedule

Aug. 31 Introductions

Feminist Thought

Sept. 7 Liberal/Radical/ Marxist
Tong, Chapters 1, 2, 3

Recommended:
Sept. 14  **Psychoanalytic/Existentialist/Postmodern**  
Butler, *Gender Trouble*  
OR  
Tong, Chapters 4, 5, 6  

*Recommended:*

Sept. 21  **Global Feminism/Ecofeminism**  
Tong, Chapters 7, 8, Conclusion  

**Feminist International Relations – Methodologies and Methods**

Sept. 28  **Methodologies**  
Enloe, Part I  
Ackerly et al., Chapters 1-4  
Tickner, Introduction, Chapter 1, and Conclusion  

*Recommended:*  

Oct. 5  **Methods**  
Ackerly et al., Chapters 5-12
Women, War, Security

Oct. 12

**War and Gender**

Tickner, Chapter 2

Enloe, Part II


Recommended:


Oct. 19

**Feminism Goes to War**

Sjoberg, whole book

Recommended:


Democracy and Gender

Oct. 26  **Political Theory and Feminist Social Criticism**  
Ackerly, whole book

*Recommended:

Nov. 2  **Political Participation**  
Inglehart and Norris, whole book

*Recommended:
Gender Quotas I. In *Politics and Gender* 1, 4 (December 2005).

The Gendered Political Economy

Nov. 9  **Gender and Development**  
Benería, whole book

*Recommended:

Nov. 16  **The Biases of Economics**  
Tickner, chapter 3  

*Recommended:

Nov. 23    THANKSGIVING

**Global Governance**

Nov. 30    **Feminist Movements and the UN**
Hawkesworth, whole book

Recommended:

Dec. 7     **Mainstreaming Gender/Theorizing the State**
Tickner, chapter 4
Prügl, From Equal Rights to Gender Mainstreaming

Recommended:
Special Issue on Gender Mainstreaming. *Social Politics* 12, 3 (Fall 2005).