

POLS1360: Gender and Global Politics

Department of Political Science

Brown University, Fall 2010

Professor: Molly Wallace
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Course Meeting Time: MWF 2-2:50pm
Location: Smith-Buonanno 201
Office Hours: Wednesdays 3-5pm

Course Overview:

The field of International Relations (IR) is usually presented in gender-neutral terms as the study of the behavior of state (and non-state) actors in the context of an anarchical international system. What questions remain unasked, what explanations of global political practice remain uninvestigated, and what policy prescriptions remain unexplored, however, when IR is understood as such? This course aims to make our understanding of global politics more realistic, more nuanced, and more grounded by examining global politics from a feminist perspective—that is, by paying close attention to the lived experiences of women and to the workings of gendered systems of value in the practice of global politics (as well as in the discipline of IR).

The course will proceed in two parts. First, we will investigate what it means to do feminist IR and to look at global politics from a gender perspective, exploring different strands of feminist IR theory and their relation to mainstream IR theory. Second, we will look at feminist research contributions and policy practices in different substantive issue areas of IR: war, peace, and security; the international political economy, globalization, and development; human rights; the environment; and ethics. Questions we will continue to explore throughout the semester include: What normally counts as IR, and why? What is missing? What does it mean to adopt a “feminist curiosity” in the study of global politics? What is the purpose of feminist scholarship in IR? A better, more comprehensive account of global politics? Or, through the political impact of scholarship, greater security and empowerment for women in global politics? Or a safer, more just world for everyone? How are gender and power related? What gender work is necessary to keep certain global political practices in place and to make them seem natural? How can we resist given gendered systems of meaning while living within them at the same time? What are the implications of having male experience stand in for human experience in the frameworks we use for thinking about global politics? We will investigate these and other questions through readings, lectures, films, paper-writing, and class discussions/activities.

Course Goals and Objectives:

This course is intended to introduce students to feminist approaches to the study of global politics. At the end of the course, students should be able to critique IR texts, popular culture about global politics, and global political practices from a gender perspective; demonstrate their knowledge of current feminist scholarship on substantive issue areas in IR; and articulate some of the dilemmas central to feminist scholarship and politics.

Course Requirements:

To get the most out of this lecture/discussion course, you are expected to attend class regularly, participate actively in discussions (both in the context of the full class and in your weekly small-group discussions on Fridays), and keep up with the reading. (NB: Plan on completing the reading *by* the day it's assigned on the syllabus.) In addition, you are expected to:

- Write an exploratory paper (only 1-2 pages, single-spaced; I don't care how this paper in particular is structured) on the question: What is gender, how is it to be distinguished from sex, and how is it relevant to global politics? This paper will not be graded (there are no right or wrong responses), but you will receive credit for turning it in and for reflecting on this question. The only requirements are that you not read any sources for the purposes of the paper and that you really use the writing of this paper to think about what gender and sex mean and how you think gender might be relevant to global politics. ***Due Friday, September 3, in class.***
- Post questions and comments in response to the reading to your small group each week via MyCourses. (I'll create small groups by the second week of class that you will stay with for the rest of the semester.) More specifically, each week in your posting you should post two questions related to the readings that you would like to discuss on Friday and one comment/reflection (no more than a paragraph) sparked by one or more of the readings. These email postings are meant to facilitate active reading, to provide an additional forum for discussion, and to help you reflect on the reading before your small group discussions on Fridays. Your weekly posting is a place to make connections between this and past weeks' readings or between readings and other life experiences/reflections. It is also the place to bring up points in the readings that were new, interesting, confusing or troubling. Students who post later should feel free to respond to their colleagues' postings in their own. You should ***post by 9pm Thursday every week***, so your colleagues have a chance to read all the postings before class on Friday.
- Write a 3-5 page (double-spaced) paper reporting on one of your small group discussions. Here's how this will work: each Friday each small group will discuss the questions that have been submitted by its members the evening before. On a rotating basis (I will pass around a sign-up sheet), one group member will be the facilitator (responsible for compiling and prioritizing the submitted questions and making sure the group stays on topic discussing them, though there's no need to get through all of the questions) and one group member will be the reporter (responsible for "writing up" the discussion in paper format and submitting it to me and to the small group). This paper is ***due the following Thursday by noon*** (a printed copy in my mailbox at Prospect House and an electronic copy emailed to your group members) and should do the following: 1) report the substance of the discussion, the questions your group addressed, and some of the disagreements and/or conclusions that came out of it, and 2) comment critically from your own perspective on the substance of the discussion (i.e., come to some of your own conclusions about the questions that were addressed, and make some well-supported arguments). You should devote equal time/space (roughly) to each of these aspects of the paper.
- Write a 4-6 page (double-spaced) paper developing a gender-based critique of a piece of IR scholarship or of a film or news story that focuses on an event or issue in global

politics, drawing on relevant course readings, lectures, and discussions. (If the text you're examining is print-based, please attach it to your paper.) You may consider and critique your chosen text in one of two ways: as a text that illuminates some aspect of reality, or as a text that produces a certain reality. With the first approach, the questions you will address are the following: How does looking at this piece of scholarship or media through a gender lens change how you understand the phenomenon under consideration? What does a gender perspective reveal about what is missing from this analysis and about the different lines of inquiry that are needed to fully understand this phenomenon? With the second approach, the questions you will address are the following: What does a gender analysis reveal about the reality produced by this text? And what are the likely effects of the reality it produces? Be sure to develop a well-supported argument about how a gender perspective impacts your understanding of the topic and/or your reading of the text. ***Due Monday, November 1, in class.***

- Write a final paper (8-10 pages, double-spaced) in response to a prompt you will be given in class. The prompt will ask you to address one of the central tensions or themes in feminism as it relates to global politics and/or the discipline of IR. To develop and support your argument, you will need to draw on some of the literatures we will have explored throughout the semester. ***Final paper due by 5pm Friday, December 10 (one week after the last day of class), in my mailbox in Prospect House.***

Evaluation:

- Participation, which includes attendance, weekly online postings, active role as small-group member (and facilitator and reporter, as needed), and overall engagement in class discussions: 15%
- 1-2 page (single-spaced) gender paper: 5%
- 3-5 page discussion report paper: 20%
- 4-6 page critique paper: 25%
- 8-10 page final paper: 35%

Course Texts:

The following three textbooks will be available at the Brown Bookstore and will be referred to respectively as Shepherd, Anderlini, and Okin on the course topics and readings list below:

- Laura Shepherd, ed., *Gender Matters in Global Politics: A Feminist Introduction to International Relations*
- Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, *Women Building Peace: What They Do, Why It Matters*
- Susan Moller Okin, *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?*

All other readings (the majority of course readings) will be articles and book chapters accessible via OCRA. The OCRA password for our course is "gender". There will also be a link to these readings from our MyCourses site. These readings will be identified with (OCRA) on the list below, so you know where to look for them.

Other Notes and Policies:

Should you need accommodations related to a disability, please contact Disability Support Services at 401-863-9588 or dss@brown.edu, and please alert me if there is anything I should know with regards to these accommodations.

Please also feel free to come to my office hours to discuss the course material and/or future professional/academic endeavors, as well as any challenges you may be facing over the course of the semester.

Finally, policies on late papers and absences: Late papers will be graded down 1/3 grade per day they are late. (In other words, a B+ paper that is handed in two days late will be given a B-) The only absences that won't affect your participation grade for small group discussions are those due to sickness and family emergency. Please contact me if this is the case with documentation from Health Services and/or a dean. That said, if you are an otherwise active, involved participant, it is still possible to earn an A for participation with one unexcused absence over the course of the semester.

Course Topics and Readings:

PART I: FEMINISMS AND IR

Wed., September 1: Introduction

Fri., Sept. 3: Sex, Gender, and Global Politics

Gender paper due in class.

Readings:

- *Read *after* you've written your paper:* Peterson & Runyon, "Gender as a Lens on World Politics," *Global Gender Issues* (OCRA)

Mon., Sept. 6: HOLIDAY—NO CLASS

Wed., Sept. 8: Feminisms and Feminist Questions

Readings:

- Shepherd, "Sex or Gender? Bodies in World Politics and Why Gender Matters" (Shepherd)
- Enloe, "Introduction: Being Curious about Our Lack of Feminist Curiosity," *The Curious Feminist: Searching for Women in a New Age of Empire* (OCRA)
- Tong, "Introduction," *Feminist Thought* (OCRA)

Fri., Sept. 10: Small group discussions

Mon., Sept. 13: What's at Stake? Feminist Encounters with IR

Readings:

- Zalewski, "Feminist International Relations: Making Sense..." (Shepherd)
- Tickner, "You Just Don't Understand: Troubled Engagements Between Feminists and IR Theorists," *International Studies Quarterly*, 41(4), 1997 (OCRA)
- Keohane, "Beyond Dichotomy: Conversations Between International Relations and Feminist Theory," *International Studies Quarterly*, 42(1), 1998 (OCRA)

Wed., Sept. 15: Epistemological and Methodological Questions

Readings:

- Hansen, "Ontologies, Epistemologies, Methodologies" (Shepherd)
- Tickner, "What is Your Research Program? Some Feminist Answers to International Relations Methodological Questions," *International Studies Quarterly*, 49(1), 2005 (OCRA)

Fri., Sept. 17: Small group discussions

PART II: FEMINIST RESEARCH ON GLOBAL POLITICS

War, Peace, and Security

Mon., Sept. 20: Gender Critiques of the State and Nationalism

Readings:

- Peterson, "Security and Sovereign States: What Is at Stake in Taking Feminism Seriously?" Peterson, ed., *Gendered States: Feminist (Re)visions of International Relations* (OCRA)
- Young, "The Logic of Masculinist Protection: Reflections on the Current Security State," *Signs*, 29(1), 2003 (OCRA)
- Anand, "Nationalism" (Shepherd)

Wed., Sept. 22: Gender Critiques of Security and Warfare

Readings:

- Cohn, "Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defence Intellectuals," *Signs*, 12(4) 1987 (OCRA)
- Cohn, "War, Wimps, and Women: Talking Gender and Thinking War," in Cooke and Woollacott, eds., *Gendering War Talk* (OCRA)
- Tickner, "Feminist Perspectives on 9/11," *International Studies Perspectives*, 3(4), 2003 (OCRA)

Fri., Sept. 24: Small group discussions

Mon., Sept. 27: Women in War: Victims and Perpetrators

Readings:

- Pankhurst, "Sexual Violence in War" (Shepherd)
- Sjoberg and Gentry, "Introduction," and "Triple Transgressions at Abu Ghraib," *Mothers, Monsters, Whores: Women's Violence in Global Politics* (OCRA)

Wed., Sept. 29: The Impact of Gender on the Practice of Warfare

- Kinsella, "Securing the Civilian: Sex and Gender in the Laws of War," *Boston Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights*, Working Paper No. 201 (OCRA)
- Carpenter, "'Women and Children First': Gender, Norms, and Humanitarian Evacuation in the Balkans 1991-1995," *International Organization*, 57(4), 2003 (OCRA)
- Caprioli, "Primed for Violence: The Role of Gender Inequality in Predicting Internal Conflict," *International Studies Quarterly*, 49(2), 2005 (OCRA)

Fri., Oct. 1: Small group discussions

Mon., Oct. 4: Women and Gender in Peacekeeping and Peacemaking

Readings:

- Puechguirbal, "Peacekeeping, Peacebuilding and Post-conflict Reconstruction" (Shepherd)
- Whitworth, "Militarized Masculinities and Blue Berets," *Men, Militarism, and UN Peacekeeping: A Gendered Analysis* (OCRA)
- Anderlini, "Ch. 1: Introduction" and "Ch. 3: Getting to the Peace Table" (Anderlini)

Wed., Oct. 6: Women and Gender in Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Reintegration

Readings:

- Anderlini, "Ch. 4: Disarming, Demobilizing, and Reintegrating Fighters," and "Ch. 6: Transitional Justice and Reconciliation" (Anderlini)

Fri., Oct. 8: Small group discussions

Mon., Oct. 11: HOLIDAY—NO CLASS

Wed., Oct. 13: Feminist Re-workings of Security

Readings:

- Truong, Wieringa, and Chhachhi, eds., "Introduction," *Engendering Human Security: Feminist Perspectives* (OCRA)
- Hoogensen and Rottem, "Gender Identity and the Subject of Security," in *Security Dialogue*, 35(2), 2004 (OCRA)
- Hudson, "'Doing' Security as Though Humans Matter: A Feminist Perspective on Gender and the Politics of Human Security," *Security Dialogue*, 36(2), 2005 (OCRA)

Fri., Oct. 15: Small group discussions

IPE, Globalization, and Development

Mon., Oct. 18: Film on Women in the Global Economy

Wed., Oct. 20: Global Gendered Division of Labor

Readings:

- Beneria, "Paid and Unpaid Labor: Meanings and Debates," *Gender, Development, and Globalization: Economics as if All People Mattered* (OCRA)
- Peterson, "International/Global Political Economy" (Shepherd)
- Enloe, "Tracking the Militarized Global Sneaker," in *Globalization and Militarism: Feminists Make the Link* (OCRA)

Fri., Oct. 22: Small group discussions

Mon., Oct. 25: Gender and Development

- Beneria, "Ch. 1: On Development, Gender, and Economics," *Gender, Development, and Globalization: Economics as if All People Mattered* (OCRA)
- **EITHER** Maclean, "Capitalizing on Women's Social Capital? Women-Targeted Microfinance in Bolivia," *Development and Change*, 41(3), 2010 (OCRA) **OR** Kim et al, "Understanding the Impact of Microfinance-Based Intervention on Women's Empowerment and the Reduction of Intimate Partner Violence in South Africa," *American Journal of Public Health*, 97(10), 2007 (OCRA)

Wed., Oct. 27: Gendering International Institutions

Readings:

- True, "Mainstreaming Gender in International Institutions" (Shepherd)
- Mukhopadhyay, "Mainstreaming Gender or 'Streaming' Gender Away: Feminists Marooned in the Development Business," *IDS Bulletin*, 35(4) (OCRA)
- Schech and Vas Dev, "Gender Justice: The World Bank's New Approach to the Poor?" *Development in Practice*, 17(1), 2007 (OCRA)

Fri., Oct. 29: Small group discussions

Environment

Mon., Nov. 1: Ecofeminism

Critique paper due.

Readings:

- Gaard, "Ch. 1: Living Interconnections with Animals and Nature," *Ecofeminism: Women, Animals, Nature* (OCRA)
- Shiva, "Introduction," *Close to Home: Women Reconnecting Ecology, Health and Development* (OCRA)
- Moore, "Eco/Feminism, Non-Violence and the Future of Feminism," *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, 10(3), 2008 (OCRA)

Wed., Nov. 3: Environmental Security

Readings:

- Detraz, "Environmental Security and Gender: Necessary Shifts in an Evolving Debate," *Security Studies*, 18(2), 2009 (OCRA)
- **EITHER** Demetriades and Esplen, "The Gender Dimensions of Poverty and Climate Change Adaptation," *IDS Bulletin*, 39(4), 2008 (OCRA)
- **OR** Shiva, "Special Report: Golden Rice and Neem: Biopatents and the Appropriation of Women's Environmental Knowledge," *Women's Studies Quarterly*, 29(1/2), 2001 (OCRA)
- **OPTIONAL:** Taylor, "Ch. 3: Women of Color, Environmental Justice, and Ecofeminism," *Ecofeminism: Women, Culture, Nature* (OCRA)

Fri., Nov. 5: Small group discussions

Human Rights, Difference, and Activism

Mon., Nov. 8: Women's Rights as Human Rights

Readings:

- Bunch, "Women's Rights as Human Rights," *Human Rights Quarterly*, 12(4), 1990 (OCRA)
- Sullivan, "Trafficking in Human Beings" (Shepherd)
- **EITHER** Kalev, "Cultural Rights or Human Rights: The Case of Female Genital Mutilation," *Sex Roles*, 51(5/6), 2004, **OR** Shell-Duncan, "From Health to Human Rights: Female Genital Cutting and the Politics of Intervention," *American Anthropologist*, 110(2), 2008. (OCRA)

Wed., Nov. 10: Difference and Postcolonial/Third World Feminism

Readings:

- Mohanty, "Introduction: Cartographies of Struggle: Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism," *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism* (OCRA)
- De Alwis, "Critical Costs: Negotiating Feminism 'At Home'," *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*, 3(3), 2002 (OCRA)

Fri., Nov. 12: Small group discussions

Mon., Nov. 15: Women's Transnational Activism

Readings:

- Moghadam, "Transnational Activism" (Shepherd)
- Cagatay, Grown, and Santiago, "The Nairobi Women's Conference: Towards a Global Feminism?" *Feminist Studies*, 12(2), 1986 (OCRA)
- **EITHER** Turner and Brownhill, "The Curse of Nakedness: Nigerian Women in the Oil War," *Feminist Politics, Activism, and Vision: Local and Global Challenges* (OCRA)
OR Ackerly, "Women's Human Rights Activists as Political Theorists," *Feminist Politics, Activism, and Vision: Local and Global Challenges* (OCRA)

Wed., Nov. 17: Women and Nonviolent Resistance

Readings:

- McAllister, "You Can't Kill the Spirit: Women and Nonviolent Action," in Zunes, Kurtz, and Asher, eds., *Nonviolent Social Movements: A Geographical Perspective* (OCRA)
- Anderlini, "Ch. 2: Preventing and Transforming Conflict Nonviolently" (Anderlini)

Fri., Nov. 19: Small group discussions

Feminist Ethics

Mon. Nov. 22: Feminist Ethics and Poverty/Distributive Justice

Readings:

- Hutchings, "Ethics" (Shepherd)
- Chapters 2 and 7 from Robinson, *Globalizing Care: Ethics, Feminist Theory, and International Relations* (OCRA)

Wed., Nov. 24, and Fri., Nov. 26: THANKSGIVING BREAK—NO CLASS

Mon., Nov. 29: Feminist Ethics and War

Readings:

- Chapters 4, 5, and 6 from Sjoberg, *Gender, Justice, and the Wars in Iraq: A Feminist Reformulation of Just War Theory* (OCRA)
- Cohn and Ruddick, "A Feminist Ethical Perspective on Weapons of Mass Destruction," *Boston Consortium on Gender, Security, and Human Rights*, Working Paper 104 (OCRA)

Wed. Dec. 1: Feminist Ethics and Human Rights

Readings:

- Okin, "Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?" (Okin)
- Kymlicka, "Liberal Complacencies" (Okin)
- Honig, "My Culture Made Me Do It" (Okin)
- Al-Hibri, "Is Western Patriarchal Feminism Good for Third World/Minority Women?" (Okin)

Fri., Dec. 3: Last Class – Final Reflections on Feminist IR

- Tickner, "Some Pathways for IR Feminist Futures," *Gendering World Politics* (OCRA)

Friday, December 10: Final paper due by 5pm in my mailbox in Prospect House.