Gender and International Affairs

IA039 - Spring - 6 ECTS

Course Description

This course interrogates international policy problems from a gender perspective, taking into consideration intersecting axes of power such as race, sexuality, and class. It surveys feminist movement activism at the international level, introduces key concepts and framings, and critically examines how policy actors have mainstreamed gender considerations in different issue areas. The focus is on states and international organizations, experts and activists. Students are introduced to feminist and intersectional theorizing to provide them the tools to critically assess policy problems and the way gender is currently being governed at the international level.

The course combines lecturing and discussion to achieve the following learning goals: First, it aims to (re-)introduce students to major topics in International Affairs by having them look at the world from a feminist perspective. Second, it seeks to help students hone their critical thinking skills by developing the ability to interpret, analyze, and assess international issues from this perspective. Finally, students will develop their policy-oriented research and writing skills.

Requirements

1. Students are expected to read assigned materials and be prepared to discuss them in class.

2. Each week, they will post at least one message or a response to someone else’s message regarding readings assigned for the week in the Moodle Forum of this course. These posts need to happen before the respective class and will be graded pass/fail.

3. Students will develop a policy brief on how to mainstream gender in a contemporary international policy problem. This will entail two deliverables:
a. An extensive review of academic and policy literature (3000-4000 words); the review is due on April 11

b. A six-page policy brief, due on June 8, that summarizes the main points of the literature review and identifies takeaways.

Your final grade will consist of the following:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forum posts</td>
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<td>Class participation</td>
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<td>Literature review</td>
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<td>Policy brief</td>
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Course Outline

Feb. 21 – Introductions: International Feminist Politics


Recommended:


HISTORY/THEORY/METHOD

Feb. 28 – Feminist Movements and the UN


Recommended:


March 7 – Feminist Theory

Submit topic for policy brief


Recommended:


**March 14 – Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Expertise**


**Recommended:**


SECURITY

March 21 – Militarism and Masculinity


Recommended:


March 28 – Gendering Security Governance: SCR 1325


Recommended:


**April 4 – Easter Break**

**April 11 – Conflict-related Sexual Violence**

**Literature Review due**


Recommended:


April 18 – Violence against Women


Recommended:


POLITICAL ECONOMY

April 25 – Gendering Development


Recommended:


Teri L. Caraway, The Political Economy of Feminization: From ‘Cheap Labor’ to Gendered Discourses of Work. Politics & Gender 1, no. 3 (September 2005).


May 2 – Gendering Migration


Recommended:


**May 10 – Gendering Finance**


Recommended:


**May 17 – Gendering Agriculture and Food Security**


**Recommended:**


Park, Clara Mi Young, Ben White, and Julia. “We Are Not All the Same: Taking Gender Seriously in Food Sovereignty Discourse.” *Third World Quarterly* 36, no. 3 (March 4, 2015): 584–99.


**May 24 – Gendering Environmental Sustainability**


**Recommended:**


May 31 – Gender and Health

*Review for policy brief*


*Recommended:*


Anne Fausto-Sterling, ‘Do hormones really exist’ in her Sexing the Body; Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality, Basic Books, 2000


