**IAFF 6118.11: Gender, War and Peace**  
Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University

Dr. Aisling Swaine

*The syllabus and readings are subject to revision at any point at the discretion of the Professor.*

1. **Course Description**

This course offers a theoretical, as well as a practical and thematic examination of the relevance of the concepts of gender and gender equality to understanding peace, armed conflict, international security and peace-building. Feminist theory is the critical frame for the class, with substantive coverage of masculinities theory and approaches. The seminar thematically covers issues such as: gendered conceptions of nationhood; militarization, combatancy and demobilization of armed actors; wartime violence and harm; peace processes; post-war reconstruction and transitional justice. Classes will also cover the emergence of legal and normative frameworks adopted by the UN system to address these issues. A number of case study contexts globally will feature in thematic classes. Classes are run on an active discussion-basis and full participation of students is expected.

2. **Goals of the Course**

This course aims to

- equip students with an understanding of the conceptual lens of gender and gender equality and their relevance to war, peace and approaches to international security;
- introduce students to feminist and masculinities theory, and broadly examine their relevance to international relations, politics, war-making and peace-making;
- examine key thematic issues related to war and peace from a gender theoretical and practical perspective.

3. **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, participants will

- be able to critically examine issues related to war and peacemaking from a gender perspective;
- garner skills in how to ask feminist questions of international relations writ-large;
- apply critical thinking to up-to-date research analyzing and understanding armed conflict from a multi-disciplinary feminist perspective;
- be familiar with key international instruments and policy documents that address the intersection of gender and international peace and security concerns.
4. **Readings**

A set of readings is provided for each week which include and cover:

i. Up-to-date multidisciplinary critical scholarly research
ii. Major developments at global policy levels
iii. Grey literature on policy and programming in practice - where possible, a country-focus is provided to examine thematic issues in context.

The following core readings will be used:


- (Anonymous) *A Woman in Berlin*. Picador. 2006. Reading of this entire book is structured to accompany the scholarship framing the course. There is one copy in Gelman OR please purchase a copy (cheaply available second-hand on Amazon).

For some weeks, additional “Optional Resources” are provided. These are *not required reading* but provide guidance for those who wish to read a little deeper.

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**COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS**

**PART I: FOUNDATIONS: THEORY AND CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL FRAMES**

**Week 1, January 12th:** Introduction

- Cynthia Enloe. *Chapter one: Gender Makes the World Go Around: Where are the women?* Bananas, Beaches and Bases, California University Press, 2013

**Week 2, January 19th:** Why Gender, War, Peace? How and why do these issues intersect?

- Carol Cohn. *Ch. 1: Women and Wars: Towards a Conceptual Framework* in *Women and Wars*
- Angela Raven-Roberts. *Ch. 2: Women and the Political Economy of War* in *Women and Wars*
• Laura J. Shepherd, Laura Sjoberg. **trans- bodies in/of war(s): cisprivilege and contemporary security strategy.** Feminist Review, Vol. 5, No. 23, 2012

**Week 3, January 26th:** Gendered Nationhood – where are the women and where are the men?

**READ**

• Nira Yuval-Davis. **Gender and Nation.** Ethnic and Racial Studies, Vol. 16, No. 4, 1993
• Terrell Carver. **Men and Masculinities in International Relations Research.** Brown Journal of World Affairs, Vol. xxi, No.1, 2014
• R.W.Connell. **Understanding Men: Gender Sociology And The New International Research On Masculinities.** Clark Lecture, Department of Sociology, University of Kansas, 19 September 2000

**Accompanying Text:**

• Foreword, Introduction and Pgs. 1-30 of A Woman in Berlin

**Optional Resources**


**Week 4, February 2nd:** International Political Frames – Waging War or Waging Peace Through Gendered Responses?

**READ**

• Natalie Florea Hudson. **Securitizing Women’s Rights and Gender Equality.** Journal of Human Rights, 8:1
**Relevant Policy Documents** - Skim through and become familiar with the general content and structure of the following Security Council Women, Peace and Security Resolutions (available here: [http://www.peacewomen.org/security_council_monitor/](http://www.peacewomen.org/security_council_monitor/)):

- UN Security Council Resolution 2122 (2013)
- Strategic Objective E, Women and Armed Conflict in *The Beijing Platform for Action*, The United Nations World Conference on Women, Beijing, China, September 1995

**Accompanying Text:**
- Pgs. 30-61 of *A Woman in Berlin*

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**PART II: THEMATIC CONSIDERATIONS**

**Week 5, February 9th: Navigating Conflict – Strategy, Vulnerability and Resilience**

**Read**
- Wenona Giles. Ch. 4: *Women Forced to Flee* in *Women and Wars*

**Accompanying Text:**
- Pgs. 61-82 of *A Woman in Berlin*

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**Week 6, February 16th: Terrorism and Violent Extremism**

**Read**
• Laura Sjoberg, Grace D. Cooke, and Stacy Reiter Neal. **Introduction: Women, Gender and Terrorism** in Laura Sjoberg, Caron E. Gentry (eds.) Women, Gender and Terrorism, Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2011. [Read to section end on pg. 15]


**Accompanying Text:**

• Pgs. 83-112 of *A Woman in Berlin*

**Optional Resources**


• Laura Sjoberg, Caron E. Gentry. (2008) *Reduced to Bad Sex: Narratives of Violent Women from the Bible to the War on Terror*, *International Relations* 22: 5

• Catherine MacKinnon. Women’s September 11th: Rethinking the International Law of Conflict, Harvard International Law Journal, Volume 47, Number 1, 2006

**Week 7, February 23rd: Combatancy: Femininities, Masculinities and Military Forces**

• Jennifer G. Mathers. Ch. 6: *Women and State Military Forces* in *Women and Wars*

• Dyan Mazurana. Ch. 7: *Women, Girls and Non-State Armed Opposition Groups* in *Women and Wars*

**To Do**: *Relevant Policy Documents* - Skim through and become familiar with the general content and structure of the following: *Irish Defence Forces Gender Action Plan 2013*

**Accompanying Text:**

• Pgs. 112 - 133 of *A Woman in Berlin*

**Optional Resources**

Week 8, March 1st: Conflict-Related Harm


*Accompanying Text:*
- Pgs. 133-145 of *A Woman in Berlin*

Week 9, March 8th: Sexualized Violence in War – Weapon, Tactic and/or Sexualized Assault?


*Accompanying Text:*
- Pgs. 145 - 167 of *A Woman in Berlin*

**To Do:**

*Relevant Policy Documents* - Skim through and become familiar with the general content and structure of the following Security Council Resolutions on women, peace and security specifically related to sexual violence (available here: [http://www.peacewomen.org/security_council_monitor/](http://www.peacewomen.org/security_council_monitor/)):


*Optional Resources*

Week 10, March 22nd: The Gendered Exclusions of Mediating and Making Peace

- Malathi de Alwis, Julie Mertus and Tazreena Sajjad. Ch. 8: Women and Peace Processes in *Women and Wars*

**Accompanying Text:**
- Pgs. 168-182 of *A Woman in Berlin*

**Optional Resources**
- Christine Chinkin, Peace Agreements as a Means for Promoting Gender Equality and Ensuring Participation of Women, EGM/PEACE/2003/BP .1, UN Division for the Advancement of Women, 31 October 2003

Week 11, March 29th: Post-Conflict Reconstruction

- Ruth Jacobson. Ch. 10: *Women ‘After’ Wars* in *Women and Wars*
- Dyan Mazurana and Linda Eckerbom Cole. Ch. 9: *Women, Girls and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)* in *Women and Wars*

**Accompanying Text:**
- Pgs. 182 - 200 of *A Woman in Berlin*

**Optional Resources**
- Saferworld. Masculinities, Conflict and Peacebuilding: Perspectives on men through a gender lens. 2014
Week 12, April 5th: Dealing with the Past: Justice and Accountability Post-Conflict

- UN. What is Transitional Justice, A Backgrounder. 2008

Accompanying Text:

- Pgs. 200 – 224 of A Woman in Berlin

Optional Resources


Week 13, April 12th: Dealing with the Past: Topical Focus on Redress, Repair and Reparation


Accompanying Text:

- Pgs. 224 - 245 of A Woman in Berlin

To Do:

- Relevant Policy Documents – please skim through:
• The Nairobi Declaration On Women’s And Girls’ Right To A Remedy And Reparation, Nairobi, 2007
• United Nations, Guidance Note of the Secretary-General: Reparation for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, June 2014
• Website of Trust Fund for Victims of the International Criminal Court – provision of reparation to victims. Annual reports and ‘projects’ section provides overview of reparations delivery to date: http://www.trustfundforvictims.org/homepage

Week 14, April 19th: Concluding Discussion - The Complexity of War and its Aftermath


Accompanying Text:

• Pgs. 245 - 261 of A Woman in Berlin