

WOMEN AND WAR

Fall 2007
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Office hours: M/W, 1;30-2:30; ICC 587. drbon@gwu.edu

Welcome! This course examines the effects of war and militarization on women's lives, with an emphasis on U.S. history. Topics will include women's roles as soldiers, as wives and mothers of servicemen, industrial war workers, revolutionaries and guerrillas, spies and traitors, heroines and martyrs, prostitutes and "comfort women." You will be asked to critique the functions assigned to women in wartime, and to analyze different contexts of female patriotism. We'll also debate current issues concerning women in combat, the ban on lesbian and gay soldiers, rape as a war crime, women and torture, and the media's coverage of women involved in peace activism and security work.

Requirements:

You must arrive in class *on time* and prepared to discuss the readings assigned for that day. Written work includes 1) a four-page reaction paper to news coverage of war issues, due in class on October 3; a midterm in class on October 24; and a final paper due on our last day of class, December 5. [There will be no additional final exam.] Grades are based on these three assignments plus attendance, and will be weighted toward your best work. Consistent lateness, overdue work, plagiarism and other evils will, needless to say, hurt your grade. NO late papers will be accepted. Please be respectful of your classmates' viewpoints; we will be discussing highly controversial and often painful material, and a mature attitude is absolutely essential—thanks! And, as a final note of etiquette: do not bring in food or coffee...

Course textbooks:

Ayala Emmett, Our Sisters' Promised Land.
Cynthia Enloe, Maneuvers.
Leisa Meyer, Creating G.I Jane.
Mine Okubo, Citizen 13660.
Marjane Satrapi, Persepolis.
Margaret Stetz & Bonnie Oh, Legacies of the Comfort Women.
Matthew Stibbe, Women in the Third Reich
Philippa Strum, Women in the Barracks.

W, 8/29: First class: introduction. Discussion of course requirements, and an overview of current issues and stereotypes concerning women and war.

M, 9/3; LABOR DAY holiday; no class.

“THE PAST”

W, 9/5: Women warriors, queens, pirates, strategists, crusaders, captives and Amazons. READ: Cynthia Enloe, Maneuvers, preface and ch. 1; and handouts: “Women Can’t Fight,” “On Being a Warrior,” “War Dames.”

M, 9/10: Women as future citizens: issues of the American Revolution. READ: Maneuvers, ch. 2.

W, 9/12: Legacies of distrust, widowhood and chivalry: black and white women in the American Civil War. No assigned readings.

M, 9/17: Empire-building and the role of race: from the defeat of Hawaii’s Queen to Roosevelt. READ: Maneuvers, ch. 3.

W, 9/19: World War I: causes, mothers’ resistance and feminist pacifism. READ: handouts--Emmeline Pankhurst, “Votes For Women,” Lida Heymann, “An Appeal to Women,” and Jane Addams, “Women and Internationalism.”

M, 9/24: World War I: women’s participation as patriots, ambulance drivers, etc.; and suffragists’ protests. READ: handouts—Bessie Beatty, “The Battalion of Death,” Maria Botchkareva, “Introduced to No Man’s Land,” and Katherine North, “A Driver at the Front.”

W, 9/26: World War I: the Russian Revolution and its impact on foreign policy and feminism. READ: handouts—“Organization of Women Workers,” and Alexandra Kollontai, “Who Needs the War?”

M, 10/1: World War II: the formation of women’s military units. READ: Creating G.I. Jane, Prologue through ch. 6.

W, 10/3: First paper due. Film in class; “The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter.” Handout in class, “It Wasn’t Always Rosie.”

M, 10/8: COLUMBUS DAY holiday; no class.

W, 10/10: World War II: theories and realities of Nazi Germany. READ: Women in the Third Reich.

M, 10/15: World War II: the internment of Japanese Americans. READ: Mine Okubo, Citizen 13660.

W, 10/17: The postwar atomic era and anxiety about World War III. Film: “Atomic Café.” No readings.

M, 10/22: Vietnam and the anti-war movement of the 1960s: shifting gender roles for mothers and girlfriends. READ: Manuevers, ch. 6.

W, 10/24: MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS.

M, 10/29: Vietnamese and American women widowed by wartime. Film: “Regret to Inform.” No readings.

“RELATIONSHIP & ROLES”

W, 10/31: Wives, families, motherhood, childrearing and distrusts in military life. READ: Manuevers, ch. 4, 5 and 7.

M, 11/5: “Comfort women” and the legacy of wartime sexual slavery, including the infamous Serbian rape camps. READ: Legacies of the Comfort Women, ch. 1, 4, 5, 7.

W, 11/7: Changing roles for women soldiers today; women in military academies and leadership. READ: Women in the Barracks.

M, 11/12: Lesbians in the military: the ban on gay soldiers. READ: Creating G.I. Jane, ch. 7.

“SECURITY AND THE MIDDLE EAST”

W, 11/14: Religious warfare and the conflict over the modern state of Israel. READ: My Sisters’ Promised Land, ch. 1-3.

M, 11/19: Continuing discussion of the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians; READ: My Sisters’ Promised Land, ch. 4-6 and conclusion.

W, 11/21: NO CLASS—Thanksgiving break begins.

M, 11/26: War and Islamic revolution through a child’s eyes: the graphic novel Persepolis.

W, 11/28: Terrorism, 9/11, and the American response. Who are the new female terrorists; the new “security moms”? How have women’s lives been altered by changing security measures? READ: handouts.

M, 12/3: Women and the war in Iraq. READ: handouts.

W, 12/5: LAST CLASS. Torture and diplomacy: are women really less violent than men and/or uniquely suited to peacemaking? Can aid groups such as Women for Women International change the course of wartime abuses of women and girls in Sudan, Rwanda, Afghanistan? READ: handouts.

***** Your long paper is due today. All papers will be graded and ready to return to you by next Monday, December 10th. There is no additional final exam. *****

