# WS 3250: WOMEN, PEACE AND WAR Spring 2006

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# **Course Objectives:**

This course came into being in the weeks following the September 11th bombing of the World Trade Center in New York City. Since that time, the U.S. has gone to war against Afghanistan and Iraq. Many other wars are also raging around the world. The world as a whole would benefit from a feminist understanding of the forces that lead to war and militarism, and those that foster peace. Much of the course will be devoted to that understanding. We will also examine the effects of war and militarism on women's lives, as well as on the gendered concepts of masculinity and femininity. We will also examine women's roles as actors within the military complex as munitions makers, wives, mothers, nurses, and soldiers. Finally, we will examine feminist efforts toward creating a politics of peace.

#### **Texts:**

Cynthia Enloe, Maneuvers: The International Politics of Militarizing Women's Lives
Elizabeth Rehn and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Women, War, Peace: The Independent Experts'
Assessment

Lois Ann Lorentzen and Jennifer Turpin, eds., *The Women and War Reader* Susan Griffin, *A Chorus of Stones: The Private Life of War* Virginia Woolf, *Three Guineas Women's Review of Books*, Vol. XXI, #5 and #12 *Ms.*, Winter 2006 (recommended for most current articles) Other Readings on Electronic Reserve in the Library

#### **Course Evaluation:**

# 1) Class Participation (50 points possible)

Part of this class will consist of my passing on knowledge and information to you, but I envision most of it as a collective endeavor. We are co-creators in this class. Thus, I value your participation and encourage it. This course is very much what we all make it. Thus, part of your participation grade will be based on your regularly being here, being prepared to discuss the readings, and your willingness to share your questions, insights, and ideas. Just as important as your speaking is your help in creating a climate in which speech and hearing are possible. To facilitate this, I ask that you keep in mind the following rules of discourse: 1) Treat each other with respect. If you disagree with someone's ideas, tell why you disagree with the **idea**. Personal attacks and derision, verbal and nonverbal, are unacceptable. This carries outside the classroom too. 2) Recognize others' desires to speak. Don't hog the floor. 3) Help each other speak. Don't always rely on me. Feel free to engage other people in the class in the conversation.

# 2) Reflection Papers (40 pts. each; 200 pts. total)

You are to write five short (about 3 pages) reflective essays on specific topics: See separate handout.

# 3) Research Paper(s) (100 pts)

You are to write a 7-8 page research paper. The paper should address some specific aspect of: a) how women's lives have been affected by war and militarism in the present or the past (as victim, participant, supporter, etc.); and/or b) women's/feminist peace activism. The paper should go beyond simple narrative, and provide an analysis of the issue based on the readings and discussions from class.

Due Date: 4/20

# 4) Final Project or Exam (100 pts.)

You may either write a take-home exam or do a creative project. The exam will be comprehensive and you will have one week to complete it. If you choose the creative project, it should tie together ideas, concepts, and knowledge gained from the entire course. While it cannot touch on everything, the project should show how various aspects of the course inform others. It should be grounded in the conceptual information from the beginning of the course and feminist perspectives. This project might be a video production; a photographic or artistic exhibit; a reader's theatre; a piece of performance art; a multimedia production weaving together music, poetry, and prose -- use your imaginations. This project may be a collaborative one. If you choose to do the project, you will need to start early and discuss it with me in advance and along the way.

Due Dates: Creative Projects: May 4; Final Exams: May 11, noon

# **Summary of Grading**

Class Participation 50 points
Responsive Essays 200 points
Research Paper 100 points
Course Project or Final 100 points

Total 450 points

Grades will range approximately as:

A range: 450-405 B range: 404-360 C range: 359-315 D range: 314-284

I am open to your input on any and all components of your grade.

If you have any disability or concerns about your ability to perform the course requirements, or if you have any thoughts about ways I can enhance this course for you, or if you have special gifts you would like to share, please inform me as soon as possible. I will be glad to adopt methods or materials for your full inclusion in and contribution to the course.

#### **COURSE OUTLINE**

# **Core Issues and Ideas**

- 1/17 Introduction
- 1/19 Women, War, and Peace: Central Issues and Questions Reading: *Women and War Reader (WW)*, Chs. 1 & 2

# The Context: Militarism, The Militarization of Society, and the Privileging of Masculinity: A Feminist Analysis

1/24 Three Guineas

Reading: *Three Guineas*, Ch. 1: 3 (Par. 1&2); 6-11 (first full Par.); 18-21; 29 (bottom Par.) -30, 33 (bottom Par.) - 35; 38 (bottom Par.) - 39 (through"our splendid war") Ch. 2: 57-63 (to first full paragraph); 66 (first full paragraph) - 80

Ch. 3: 90 ("And now, clearly,...) - 97 ("...to prevent war.")

1/26 *Three Guineas:* Ch. 2: 51 (line 2: "Let us turn to the public press...")-53 Ch. 3: 102 (middle of page "The daughters of educated men..." - 103 ("...tyrant and dictator shall be obsolete."); 141 (last line) to end of chapter *Maneuvers (M)*: Ch. 1: 1-14, 32-34; Conclusion

# Making Connections: Patriarchy, Militarism, Masculinism, Misogyny, and War

1/31 Masculinism and War

Reading: bell hooks, "Feminism and Militarism" (Reserve)
Nancy Hartsock, "Masculinity, Heroism, and the Making of War" (Reserve)
Carol Burke, "From Recruit to Soldier," *WRB* (12): 6-7

Cynthia Enloe, "Dualing Masculinities," WRB (12): 10

1st Reflection Paper Due

#### Women, Militarism, and War

2/2 Overview

Reading: Women War Peace (WWP), Introduction

Video: Women and War (in class)

2/7 Violence Against Women in War: Rape

Reading: "Women Speak: Former Yugoslavia; Rwanda; Nicaragua"

WWP, Ch. 1: 11-14, 17-18

Cynthia Enloe, "Crucial Reporting," WRB (5): 21-23

Recommended: WW: Ch. 8

"The Agony of Darfur," Ms., Winter 2006: 24-26

Video: War Babies (in class)

2/9 Militarism and Rape

Reading: M, Ch. 4

WW, Chs. 3, 6, 10: 104-108 only, 20

# 2/14 Trafficking and Prostitution

Reading: M, Ch. 3

WWP, Ch. 1, section on "Trafficking, Sexual Slavery and Exploitation": 14-16

### 2/16 Refugees

Reading: WWP, Ch. 2

Lisa Suhair Majaj, "The Road from Beirut," WRB (5): 11-12

#### 2/21 Women's Health Issues

Reading: WWP, Chs. 4

Ryn Glyckman et. al, "Pro-Whose-Life?," WRB (12): 12-13

#### 2/23 Justice, Protection, and an End to Violence

Reading: WWP, Ch. 7 & ch. 5

WW, Ch. 7

Mary Zeiss Stange, "No More Raping," WRB (5): 12-13

2nd Reflection Paper Due

# Women in the Military Complex

#### 2/28 Overview

Recommended: M, Ch. 2

**Munitions Makers** 

Reading: WW, Ch. 13

Robin Riley, "Hidden Soldiers," WRB (12): 22-23

Video: Rosie the Riveter (in class)

#### 3/2 Wives and Girlfriends

Reading: M, Ch. 5

Catherine Lutz, "Living Room Terrorists," WRB (5): 17-18

WWP: Ch. 1: section on "Domestic Violence": 16-17

# 3/7 Women Combatants: Rebel Armies to Military Establishments

Reading: WW, Ch. 17: 158-160; Ch.18: 164-171

Reading: Lory Manning, "Military Women," WRB (5): 7-8

# 3/9 Feminist Debate: Women in the Military: Pro and Con

Reading: WW Chs. 12, 14

Barbara Ehrenreich, "Barnard Commencement Address"

**3rd Reflection Paper Due** 

#### **SPRING BREAK**

#### 3/21 Mothers

Reading: *M*, pp. 244-260 *WW*, Chs. 24-26, 28

Recommended: WW, Ch. 27

3/23 The Private Life of War

Reading: A Chorus of Stones (Stones), Chs. 1 & 2

Assignment throughout: come prepared with notes, reflections, thoughts on the reading -- the class discussion will focus wherever you all want to take it

- 3/28 *Stones*, Chs. 3
- 3/30 *Stones*, Ch. 4
- 4/4 *Stones*, Ch. 5
- 4/6 *Stones*, Ch. 6

4th Reflection Paper Due

#### **Feminism and Peace**

4/11 Feminism and Peace: Making Connections

Reading: Three Guineas, p. 103 ("That request...") to 120 (first line)

Ruddick, "Notes Toward a Feminist Maternal Peace Politics" (Reserve)

Ynestra King, "If I Can't Dance in Your Revolution..." (Reserve - recommended, last 4 pages highly recommended)

4/18 Women and Peace Activism

Reading: Brock-Utne, "Peace Activities Started and Led by Women" (Reserve)

WW, Ch. 34 (Ch. 35 recommended)

Frieda Gardner, "Anti-War in the Heartland," WRB (5): 4-6

Liza Featherstone, "Pink Thongs and Patriarchy," WRB (12): 11-12

Cook, Blanche Wiesen "Women and Peace: The Legacy," Ms. Winter 2006: 40-43

Gray, Katti, "Silence=War," Ms. Winter 2006: 44-47

4/20 Guest Speaker

**Research Papers Due** 

# 4/25 Feminist Peacemaking

Reading: Carol Cohn, "Feminist Peacemaking," WRB (5): 8-9 WWP, Chs. 6 & 9

Feminist Solidarity Across the Lines Reading: Ayse Gul Altinay, "Beyond Fears and Tears," *WRB* (5): 10 Gila Svirsky, "Organizing for Peace in Israel," *WRB* (12): 25-26

Ayse Gul Altinay, "Erasing the Line," WRB (12): 2-3

# 4/25 Guest Speakers

# 5/2 Feminist Visions of Peace

Reading: Betty Reardon, "Women's Visions of Peace" (Reserve) Poetry by Sonia Sanchez, *WRB* (5): 14-15 *WWP*, Ch. 10

5th Reflection Paper Due

# 5/4 Celebration of Peace

Celebration and Presentation of Creative Projects

**Creative Projects Due** 

#### 5/11 Final Exam Due -- noon

NOTE: Some readings may be changed or dates adjusted as needed during the semester. We will follow this schedule as best we can, though some adjustments may be necessary. Readings may be added or deleted. Dates for readings and speakers may be changed, but due dates for assignments will not (the only exception being to give you more time, especially if unusual circumstances arise during the course of the semester.)