

**Politics 163b: Gender in International Relations**

Monday and Wednesday, 5:00-6:30 PM

Spring 2005

Dr. Laura Sjoberg

Office Hours Tuesday and Thursday, 4:00-5:00 PM

Office: Olin-Sang 122

Office Phone: 781.736.2748 Email: sjoberg@brandeis.edu

**Course Description:** This course introduces students to "gendered lenses" used to observe and study international politics. It addresses the (separate but related) questions of women's experiences in international politics and of the influence of gender on international political relations. In the first section of the course, we look at the roles that women play in international politics, critically evaluating both how those roles came to be and how they are studied. In the second section of the course, we study the evolving literature on feminist international relations. In this literature, a group of feminist scholars theorize how gender (as social fact and social construction) affects international politics generally and the lives of women around the world specifically. The course concludes with a section on feminist international activism, which critically interrogates the line between "theory" and "practice" of gender in politics.

**Course Goals:** In this course, students gain an awareness of the following themes: 1) the situations of women around the world; 2) the ways in which gender affects social and political status; 3) gendered themes in the practice of both micro- and macro- politics; 4) the evolving study of gender in international politics; 5) the political implications of scholarship; and 6) links between gender, feminism, and "service" or "activist" learning.

**Grading:**

Class Participation: 20% (students must either express informed opinions when called for at least six times over the semester, or write three two-page responses to readings on weeks when there are not other written assignments given)

Research Paper: 30% (students will be assigned research paper topic inspired by the readings in the course. The topic will be a theoretical statement concerning gender in international politics. Students will then find empirical evidence either for or against the theory, and present it in a 15-page research paper, arguing for or against the presented theory. Details will be distributed week 2, and the paper will be due at the end of the semester.

Exams: 50% (midterm: 15%, final 35%)

### **Course Policies:**

- 1) Accommodation of disabilities: Brandeis University has a process in place to officially recognize the need for accommodation. You can find information about that process on the Brandeis website, or you may ask me, and I will direct you to it. No accommodations will be made outside of this system of recognition.
- 2) Late work: There are eleven different times that you will need to turn something in to me this semester. I know that is a lot. Nonetheless, I expect you to do it on time, always. If for some reason you cannot make it to class, you may turn your assignment in either in my mailbox or in my email box *before* class. I am generally an understanding person but *not about late papers*. In 21 years of school, I never turned a paper in more than 20 minutes late. My official policy is not quite so draconian, however: a paper may be turned in the day it is due without penalty, the next day for a letter grade off, and the third day for half credit. This includes your final paper.
- 3) Late persons: Ten minutes late once or twice? C'est la vie. More than once or twice? Grade problem – each tardy after two loses a participation point. More than fifteen minutes late? Tell me ahead of time or stay home that day and apologize profusely.

### **Books you need to own (either from your friendly neighborhood bookstore, or your friendly neighborhood website):**

- 1) Tickner, J. Ann. 2001. *Gender in International Relations*. New York: Columbia, 2001.
- 2) Enloe, Cynthia. 2001. *Bananas, Beaches, and Bases*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- 3) Moon, Katharine. 1997. *Sex among allies: Military prostitution in U.S.-Korean Relations*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- 4) Ackerly, Brooke. 2000. *Political Theory and Feminist Social Criticism*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- 5) Peterson, V. Spike and Anne Sisson Runyan. 1999. *Global Gender Issues, 2nd edition*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
- 6) Robinson, Fiona. 1999. *Globalising Care: Feminist theory, ethics, and International Relations*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
- 7) **THE READER FOR THIS COURSE, AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IN THE POLITICS OFFICE.**

**Wednesday, January 19: First Class**

- A. Question and answer game about what women are, domestically and internationally
- B. Short reading from Gayatri Spivak, and small group discussion of themes of the reading.

**I. Introduction to Gender in International Relations**

**Monday, January 24:** Tickner, *Gendering World Politics*, 1-95.

**Wednesday, January 26:** Tickner, *Gendering World Politics*, 96-148.

**II: Women in World Politics**

**A. Where are the women?**

**Monday, January 31:** Francine D'Amico and Peter Beckman, eds., *Women in World Politics*, Introduction, ch.1, 3, 4, 7, and conclusion – 1-30, 45-70, 95-112, 199-214

**Wednesday, February 2:**

- A. Cynthia Enloe, *Bananas, Beaches, and Bases*, Preface and Ch.1, 1-18.
- C. Jean Elshtain, *Women and War*, ch.5, 163-193 (to be provided).

**B. Gender and Women's Lives**

**Monday, February 7:** Christine Chin, *In Service and Servitude: Foreign female domestic workers and the Malaysian Modernity Project*. New York: Columbia, 1998, Preface, ch. 1, 2, xi – xvi, 1-68 (Reader).

**Wednesday, February 9:** Katharine Moon, *Sex Among Allies*, 1-56, 149-160.

**Monday, February 14:** Brooke Ackerly, *Third World Feminist Social Criticism*, 1-72

**Wednesday, February 16:**

- A. Card, Claudia. "Rape as a Weapon of War." *Hypatia* 11:4 Fall 1996: 5-17 (Reader).
- B. Joachim, Jutta. "Shaping the Human Rights Agenda: The Case of Violence Against Women." in Meyer, Mary K. and Elisabeth Prugl, eds. *Gender Politics in Global Governance* Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 1999, 142-160 (Reader).

**February 19 – Professor's birthday!**

**February 21, 23 – Spring Break!**

**C. The Meaning of Gender**

**Difference issues among women**

**Monday, February 28** (extra office hour from 4-5 to answer any midterm questions)

- A. Mohanty, Chandra. "Under Western Eyes." in Mohanty, Russo, and Toures, eds. *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism* Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1991 (Reader).
- B. Spivak, Gayatri C. "Can the Subaltern Speak?" in Nelson and Grossberg, eds. *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture* Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1988 (Reader).
- C. Midterm Review

**Wednesday, March 2**  
**MIDTERM**

**The Meanings of Gender**

**Monday, March 7**

- A. Anthias, Floya. "Beyond Feminism and Multiculturalism: Locating Difference and the Politics of Location." *Women's Studies International Forum* 25:3 2002: 275-86 (Reader).
- B. Berker, Victoria. "Definition and the Question of 'Woman'." *Hypatia* 12:2 Spring 1997: 185-215 (Reader).

**Wednesday, March 9**

- A. Okin, Susan Moller. "Feminism, Women's Human Rights, and Cultural Differences." *Hypatia* 13:2 Spring 1998: 32-52 (Reader).
- B. Hooper, Charlotte. 2000. *Manly States*. New York: Columbia University Press, 19-38 (Reader).

**Monday, March 14 and Wednesday, March 16**

Peterson and Runyan, *Global Gender Issues*, all

**Monday, March 21 and Wednesday, March 23**

Fiona Robinson, *Globalizing Care*, 1-52, 109-168

**Thursday, March 24, Posing as Monday, March 24**

Christine Sylvester, 2002. *Feminist IR: an Unfinished Journey*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 12, 242-266 (Reader)

**Feminist Political Economy**

**Monday, March 28**

- A. Armstrong, Pat and M. Patricia Connelly, eds. *Feminism, Political Economy, & the State: Contested Terrain* Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press Inc, 1999, Introduction. (Reader)
- B. Aslaksen, Iluie. "Gender Constructions and the Possibility of the Generous Economic Actor." *Hypatia* 17:2 Spring 2002:118-32. (Reader)
- C. Freeman, Carla. "Is Local : Global as Feminine : Masculine? Rethinking the Gender of Globalization." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*. 26:4 2001: 1007-1037. (Reader)

**Feminist Theories of International Institutions**

**Wednesday, March 30**

- A. Charlesworth, Hilary; Christine Chinkin; and Shelley Wright. "Feminist Approaches to International Law." *American Journal of International Law* v.85, n.4, 1998. (Reader)
- B. Reanda, Laura. "Engendering the United Nations: The Changing International Agenda." *The European Journal of Women's Studies* 6:1 1999: 49-68 (Reader).

**Feminist Theories of War and Peace**

**Monday, April 4 and Wednesday, April 6**

- A. Warren, Karen J. and Duane L. Cady. "Feminism and Peace: Seeing the Connections." *Hypatia* 9:2 Spring 1994: 4-19. (Reader)
- B. Selections from "Gendering Just War," . . . Laura Sjoberg (Reader)
- C. Cohn, Carol. "Sex and Death in the World of Rational Defense Intellectuals." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 12:4 1987: 687-718. (Reader)
- D. Skim thoroughly the remainder of Cynthia Enloe, *Bananas, Beaches, and Bases*

**Feminist Methods of International Political Research**

**Monday, April 11**

- A. Maynard, Mary and June Purvis, eds. *Researching Women's Lives from a Feminist Perspective* London: Taylor and Francis, 1994, Introduction (Reader)
- B. Peterson, V. Spike. "Sexing Political Identities/Nationalism as Heterosexism." *International Feminist Journal of Politics* v1, n1, June 1999: 34-65.

**Wednesday, April 13**

- A. Discussion of the theory/practice relationship**
- B. Discussion of feminisms as activisms**

**Monday, April 18**

- A. Tickner, J. Ann. "Hans Morgenthau's Principles of Political Realism: A Feminist Reformulation." in Rebecca Grant and Kathleen Newland, eds. *Gender and International Relations*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1991 (Reader)

**Wednesday, April 20: Review**

**Monday, May 2: Final Paper Due**

**Thursday, May 5, 6:00-9:00 PM, Final Exam**

**I will hold additional office hours during the study and exam period.**