

**GENDER EQUALITY, WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT, AND THE UNITED NATIONS**  
**790:537:01**  
**FALL 2018**

Professor: Mona Lena Krook  
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Course Time: Wednesdays, 18.00-20.40  
Office Hours: By appointment

### **Course Description**

This course examines the global dimensions of feminist organizing and policy-making, focusing on the United Nations. It applies insights from research on social movements, state-society relations, and multi-level governance to explore the formation, activities, and strategies of international and transnational women's networks on a variety of women's rights issues. It considers interactions with local and national women's movements, as well as states and international organizations, and weighs the opportunities and constraints involved in mobilizing beyond the nation-state in struggles against inequality in global and national arenas.

### **Course Requirements**

The course seeks to introduce students to basic concepts and debates on feminism and globalization through two sets of course assignments:

- **Class participation** (40%) which includes coming to class prepared and participating actively in class discussions. Students should bring notes on the readings, as well as copies of the readings themselves, to every class. To further facilitate participation, students will be assigned a session in which they will provide an empirical example of the topic in focus, reflecting on how it speaks back to the readings and other concepts/readings addressed in class. Additional modes of participation include bringing in news items related to topics and dynamics being discussed in the course.
- **A major term paper** (60%) in which students examine one particular aspect of gender and the United Nations. This paper should be approximately 5,000 to 8,000 words long and will be written in stages over the course of the semester. More specific details regarding this assignment can be found in the handout distributed in class and posted on Sakai under the 'Syllabus' tab.
- **Deadlines:** a paper proposal on September 18, a first section on October 16, a second section on November 13, and the final paper on December 21. Sections are due at the **before class** and the final paper is due by 11.59PM. All work should be submitted **via the Dropbox on Sakai**.

### **Required Texts**

All of the readings are available on the course's Sakai page.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

#### **September 4: Social Movements and Transnational Activism**

McAdam, Doug et al. 1996. "Introduction." In *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements*, ed. Doug McAdam et al. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1-20.

#### **September 11: Global Diffusion and International Norms**

Finnemore, Martha and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change." *International Organization* 52 (4): 887-917.

Risse, Thomas and Kathryn Sikkink. 1999. "The Socialization of International Human Rights Norms into Domestic Practices: Introduction." In *The Power of Human Rights: International Norms and Domestic Change*, ed. Thomas Risse, Stephen C. Ropp, and Kathryn Sikkink. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1-38.

Keck, Margaret E. and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1-38.

### **September 18: Gender, Activism, and International Norms**

Ellerby, Kara. 2017. *No Shortcut to Change: An Unlikely Path to a More Gender Equitable World*. New York: New York University Press, selections.

Baldez, Lisa. 2014. *Defying Convention: US Resistance to the UN Treaty on Women's Rights*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1-31, 100-129, 152-182.

Cherif, Feryal M. 2015. *Myths about Women's Rights: How, Where, and Why Rights Advance*. New York: Oxford University Press, 15-56.

### **September 25: International Organizations and Women's Rights**

Pietilä, Hilka. 2007. *The Unfinished Story of Women and the United Nations*. New York: United Nations, 1-19, 37-56, 69-90.

Berkovitch, Nitza. 1999. *From Motherhood to Citizenship: Women's Rights and International Organizations*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 139-167.

Read one of the following:

Montoya, Celeste. 2009. "International Initiative and Domestic Reforms: European Union Efforts to Combat Violence against Women." *Politics & Gender* 5 (3): 325-348.

Friedman, Elisabeth Jay. 2009. "Re(gion)alizing Women's Human Rights in Latin America." *Politics & Gender* 5(3): 349-375.

Adams, Melinda, and Alice Kang. 2007. "Regional Advocacy Networks and the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa." *Politics & Gender* 3 (4): 451-474.

### **October 2: Transnational Feminist Networks**

Film: *Once and For All*

Alvarez, Sonia E. 2000. "Translating the Global: Effects of Transnational Organizing on Latin American Feminist Discourses and Practices." *Meridians: A Journal of Feminisms, Race, Transnationalism* 1 (1): 29-67.

True, Jacqui. 2008. "Global Accountability and Transnational Networks: The Women Leaders' Network and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation." *Pacific Review* 21 (1): 1-26.

Friedman, Elisabeth Jay. 2003. "Gendering the Agenda: The Impact of the Transnational Women's Rights Movement at the UN Conferences of the 1990s." *Women's Studies International Forum* 26 (4): 313-331.

### **October 9: Women's Rights in the Global Economy**

Hertel, Shareen. 2006. *Unexpected Power: Conflict and Change Among Transnational Activists*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 55-85.

Hochschild, Arlie Russell and Barbara Ehrenreich, eds. 2004. *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy*. New York: Owl Books, 39-54, 142-153, 154-168.

Read one of the following:

Karim, Lamia. 2008. "Demystifying Micro-Credit: The Grameen Bank, NGOs, and Neoliberalism in Bangladesh." *Cultural Dynamics* 20 (1): 5-29.

Prügl, Elisabeth. 2012. "'If Lehman Brothers Had Been Lehman Sisters...': Gender and Myth in the Aftermath of the Financial Crisis." *International Political Sociology* 6 (1): 21-35.

### **October 16: Women's Human Rights and Violence Against Women**

Peters, Julie and Andrea Wolper. 1995. *Women's Rights, Human Rights: International Feminist Perspectives*. New York: Routledge, 11-35, 176-188, 335-355.

Keck, Margaret E. and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 165-198.

True, Jacqui. 2012. *The Political Economy of Violence against Women*. New York: Oxford University Press, 3-16, 35-52, 161-182.

### **October 23: Women, War, and Peace: Part I**

Films: *War Redefined*, *I Came to Testify*, and *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*

Blanchard, Eric M. 2003. "Gender, International Relations, and the Development of Feminist Security Theory." *Signs* 28 (4): 1289-1312.

Skjelsbaek, Inger. 2001. "Sexual Violence and War: Mapping out a Complex Relationship." *European Journal of International Relations* 7 (2): 211-237.

Cohen, Dara Kay. 2013. "Explaining Rape during Civil War: Cross-national Evidence (1980–2009)." *American Political Science Review* 107 (3): 461-477.

### **October 30: Women, War, and Peace: Part II**

MacKenzie, Megan. 2009. "Securitization and Desecuritization: Female Soldiers and the Reconstruction of Women in Post-Conflict Sierra Leone." *Security Studies* 18 (2): 241-261.

Reilly, Niamh. 2007. "Seeking Gender Justice in Post-Conflict Transitions: Towards a Transformative Women's Human Rights Approach." *International Journal of Law in Context* 3 (2): 155-172.

Bell, Christine, and Catherine O'Rourke. 2010. "Peace Agreements or Pieces of Paper? The Impact of UNSC Resolution 1325 on Peace Processes and their Agreements." *International and Comparative Law Quarterly* 59(4): 941-980.

## **November 6: Reproductive Rights and Sexual Health in Global Perspective**

Cook, Rebecca J. and Bernard M. Dickens. 2003. "Human Rights Dynamics of Abortion Law Reform." *Human Rights Quarterly* 25: 1-59

Ernst, Julia L., Laura Katzive, and Erica Smock. 2003. "The Global Pattern of US Initiatives Curtailing Women's Reproductive Rights: A Perspective on the Increasingly Anti-Choice Mosaic." *University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law* 6 (4): 752-795.

Altman, Dennis. 1999. "Globalization, Political Economy, and HIV/AIDS." *Theory and Society* 28 (4): 559-584.

## **November 13: Global Strategies for Gender Equality: Mainstreaming and Quotas**

Krook, Mona Lena and Jacqui True. 2012. "Rethinking the Life Cycles of International Norms: The United Nations and the Global Promotion of Gender Equality." *European Journal of International Relations* 18 (1): 103-127.

Moser, Caroline and Annalise Moser. 2005. "Gender Mainstreaming since Beijing: A Review of Success and Limitations in International Institutions." *Gender & Development* 13 (2): 11-22.

Bush, Sarah Sunn. 2011. "International Politics and the Spread of Quotas for Women in Legislatures." *International Organization* 65 (1): 103-137.

Towns, Ann. 2012. "Norms and Social Hierarchies: Understanding International Policy Diffusion 'From Below.'" *International Organization* 66 (2): 179-209.

## **November 20: NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING BREAK**

## **November 27: Masculinities and Global Politics**

Connell, R. W. 2005. "Change among the Gatekeepers: Men, Masculinities, and Gender Equality in the Global Arena." *Signs* 30 (3): 1801-1825.

Pease, Bob. 2008. "Engaging Men in Men's Violence Prevention: Exploring the Tensions, Dilemmas and Possibilities." Australian Domestic & Family Violence Clearinghouse, Issues Paper 17.

Peacock, Dean, Lara Stemple, Sharif Sawires, and Thomas J. Coates. 2009. "Men, HIV/AIDS, and Human Rights." *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes* 51 (Supplement 3): 119-125.

## **December 4: 'Feminist Imperialism' and International Politics**

*Film: Half the Sky*

Winter, Bronwyn, Denise Thompson, and Sheila Jeffreys. 2002. "The UN Approach to Harmful Traditional Practices." *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 4 (1): 72-94.

Russo, Ann. 2006. "The Feminist Majority Foundation's Campaign to Stop Gender Apartheid: The Intersections of Feminism and Imperialism in the United States." *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 8 (4): 557-580.

Davis, Kathy. 2002. "Feminist Body/Politics as World Traveller: Translating Our Bodies, Ourselves." *European Journal of Women's Studies* 9 (3): 223-247.

## **December 11: RESERVED FOR MAKE-UP CLASS, IF NECESSARY**