

**POLITICAL SCIENCE SEMINAR:
GLOBAL FEMINISMS
790:395:15
FALL 2012**

Professor: Mona Lena Krook
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Course Time: Wednesdays, 9.15-12.15
Office Hours: Mondays, 12.00-2.00
or by appointment

Course Description

This course examines the global dimensions of feminist organizing and policy-making, drawing on both historical and contemporary examples. 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 issues ranging from suffrage and equal rights to violence against women and gender quotas. 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 are expected to draft weekly agenda notes consisting of a short list of questions and ideas for class discussion, responding to the readings for that day (not handed in). To facilitate participation, students will be assigned a session in which they will be asked to provide an empirical example of the topic in focus, as a way of launching the class discussion. Further ways to participate include bringing in news items related to topics and dynamics being discussed in the class.
- **A major term paper** (60%) in which students examine one particular aspect of the global dimensions of feminism. This paper should be twenty to thirty pages long and will be written in stages over the course of the semester. *Students are strongly encouraged to meet with me to discuss their plans as well as any difficulties that arise during the research.* Deadlines: a paper proposal on September 26, a first section on October 24, a second section on November 28, and the final paper on December 19.

Required Texts

All of the readings will be available on the course website, with the exception of two books that are available for purchase at the campus bookstore:

Towns, Ann. 2010. *Women and States: Norms and Hierarchies in International Society*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Cockburn, Cynthia. 2007. *From Where We Stand: War, Women's Activism, and Feminist Analysis*. New York: Zed.

COURSE SCHEDULE

September 5: 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.

Tarrow, Sidney. 2001. "Transnational Politics: Contention and Institutions in International Politics." *Annual Review of Political Science* 4: 1-20.

September 12: 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 19: NO CLASS

September 26: Historical Global Feminisms

Hawkesworth, Mary. 2006. "Feminists Go Global: Reclaiming a History." In *Globalization and Feminist Activism*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 29-65.

Towns, Ann. 2010. *Women and States: Norms and Hierarchies in International Society*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 55-121.

October 3: International Organizations and Women's Rights

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

Meyer, Mary K. 1999. "Negotiating International Norms: The Inter-American Commission of Women and the Convention on Violence Against Women." In *Gender Politics in Global Governance*, ed. Mary K. Meyer and Elisabeth Prügl. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 58-71.

Duncan, Simon. 1996. "Obstacles to a Successful Equal Opportunities Policy in the European Union." *European Journal of Women's Studies* 3 (4): 399-422.

October 10: Contemporary Transnational Feminisms

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.

Moghadam, Valentine M. 2005. *Globalizing Women: Transnational Feminist Networks*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1-20, 78-104.

Wright, Robin. 2011. *Rock the Casbah: Rage and Rebellion Across the Islamic World*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 138-159.

October 17: Women, War, and Peace: Part I

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

Cockburn, Cynthia. 2007. *From Where We Stand: War, Women's Activism, and Feminist Analysis*. New York: Zed, 13-78, 132-180.

October 24: Women, War, and Peace: Part II

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

Carter, K. R. 2010. "Should International Relations Consider Rape a Weapon of War?" *Politics & Gender* 6 (3): 343-371.

October 31: 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.

November 7: Reproductive Rights and Sexual Health in Global Perspective

Freedman, Lynn P. and Stephen L. Isaacs. 1993. "Human Rights and Reproductive Choice." *Studies in Family Planning* 24 (1): 18-30.

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

Dowsett, Gary W. 2003. "Some Considerations on Sexuality and Gender in the Context of AIDS." *Reproductive Health Matters* 11: 21-29.

November 14: 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.

Peterson, V. Spike. 2003. *A Critical Rewriting of Global Political Economy: Integrating Reproductive, Productive, and Virtual Economies*. New York: Routledge: 78-112.

November 28: Global Strategies for Gender Equality: Gender Mainstreaming

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.

True, Jacqui and Michael Mintrom. 2001. "Transnational Networks and Policy Diffusion: The Case of Gender Mainstreaming." *International Studies Quarterly* 45 (1): 27-57.

Towns, Ann. 2010. *Women and States: Norms and Hierarchies in International Society*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 122-148.

December 5: Global Strategies for Gender Equality: Electoral Quotas

Krook, Mona Lena. 2006. "Reforming Representation: The Diffusion of Candidate Gender Quotas Worldwide." *Politics & Gender* 2 (3): 303-327.

Towns, Ann. 2010. *Women and States: Norms and Hierarchies in International Society*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 149-183.

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

December 12: 'Feminist Imperialism' and International Politics

Film: *Cut From Different Cloth: Burqas and Beliefs*

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.