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

Professor: Mona Lena Krook
Office: Hickman 314
Email: m.l.krook@rutgers.edu

Course Time: Wednesdays, 18.00-20.40
Office Hours: By appointment
Email: m.l.krook@rutgers.edu

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**


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


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


**September 25: International Organizations and Women’s Rights**


Read one of the following:


**October 2: Transnational Feminist Networks**

*Film: Once and For All*


October 9: Women’s Rights in the Global Economy


*Read one of the following:*


October 16: Women’s Human Rights and Violence Against Women


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

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


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


November 6: Reproductive Rights and Sexual Health in Global Perspective


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


November 20: NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 27: Masculinities and Global Politics


December 4: ‘Feminist Imperialism’ and International Politics

Film: Half the Sky


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