POLS 426 Gender and Politics

(Spring 2023)

Lecturer: Gözde Turan

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Class hours: Thursday 11.00-13.50

Office hours: Monday 14.00-16.00 or by appointment.

**Course description**

This course highlights the important but often neglected role played by gender in politics. A concern with gender is located within the broader context of politics as a field of study and the course seeks to uncover and critically assess the gender dimension of central political-topics as well as IR topics such as war, peace, security, international political economy, development, ethics, human rights, migration, and human trafficking.

**Course objectives**

Beyond contributing to the general development of students’ intellectual maturity and abilities, the more specific objectives of the course include developing students’

* knowledge of different theoretical approaches to gender in general, and gender in world politics in particular;
* knowledge of the role played by gender in connection with different aspects of politics;
* ability to analyse and reflect critically on various aspects of world politics from a gender perspective;
* ability to think and reason in terms of gender more generally;
* ability to develop, communicate and defend views and opinions in class discussions and written assignments.

**Course organization**

The course consists of a combination of lectures and class discussions. The latter will be organised around a set of questions distributed earlier in the week, and students are expected to participate actively in the discussions on a regular basis throughout the semester. In addition to participation in class discussions, student performance will be assessed on the basis of a paper written and presented by the student, a mid-term examination, and a final examination (see below).

**Attendance**

The students should note that attendance is important for both their obtainment of course-related knowledge/skills, and the assessment of their class participation (see below). Students not attending classes do so fully at their own risk, and can be certain that it will negatively affect their performance in the course.

**Course grading**

Mid-term examination: 30% of final grade

Final examination: 40% of final grade

In-class assignments: 20% of final grade (2x10 points)

Participation in class discussions: 10% of final grade

**Course schedule**

Week 1: Course introduction [Shepherd (foreword)]

Week 2: Feminism and Gender [Lindsey (Part 1, ch.1); Malinowska]

Week 3: Western History and Construction of Gender Roles [Lindsey (Part 1, ch.5]

Week 4: Men and Masculinity [Lindsey (Part 2, ch. 9]

Week 5: Gender & world politics [Shepherd (ch.3); Maliniak et al.]  
Week 6: Migration & trafficking [Shepherd (ch.18&7)]  
Week 7: Review 1st In-class Essay Assignment

Week 8: *Mid-term examination*  
Week 9: War, militarism & violence [Shepherd (ch.8,9,10,11); McClintock (pp.58-64)]

Week 10: Peace & security [Shepherd (ch.12); Sjoberg] 2nd In-class Essay Assignment

Week 11: State, nation & nationalism [Shepherd (ch.19&20); McClintock, 1993)]

Week 12: Political economy, Development, Production, Consumption and Employment [Shepherd (ch.15&16&17)]  
Week 13: Transnational politics [Shepherd (ch.21); Kaufman; Abu-Lughod]

Week 14: Review

**Compulsory course readings**

***Textbook***

Shepherd, Laura J. (ed.) (2010), *Gender Matters in Global Politics: A Feminist Introduction to International Relations*, 1st ed. (Abingdon: Routledge).

Lindsey, Linda L. (2015), *Gender roles: A sociological perspective*. Routledge.

***Other literature***

Abu‐Lughod, Lila (2002), “Do Muslim women really need saving? Anthropological reflections on cultural relativism and its others”, *American anthropologist*, 104 (3): 783-790.

Kaufman, Michael (2001), “Building a movement of men working to end violence against women”, *Development*, 44 (3): 9-14.

Maliniak, Daniel et al. (2008), “Women in International Relations”, *Politics & Gender*, 4 (1): 122-44.

Malinowska, Ania (2020), “Waves of Feminism”, *The International Encyclopedia of Gender, Media, and Communication* 1-7.

McClintock, Anne (1993), "Family feuds: Gender, nationalism and the family", *Feminist review* 44 (1): 61-80.

McClintock, Anne (2009), “Paranoid empire: specters from Guantánamo and Abu Ghraib”, *Small Axe: A Caribbean Journal of Criticism,* 13 (1): 50-74.

Sjoberg, Laura (2009), “Introduction to *Security Studies*: Feminist contributions”, *Security Studies*, 18 (2): 183-213.

**Important pieces of information:**

***Student preparation*** in the form of reading the assigned literature before each lecture and class discussion is a course requirement.

***Improper student behaviour*** during class will not be tolerated, and disciplinary action will be taken if necessary. With regard to examinations and in-class essays, separate rules will be distributed in due time.

***Make-ups*** will be arranged for students who are ill at the time of the mid-term examination or final examination. In order to qualify for a make-up, students must provide a medical report for the day of the examination. The report must be submitted and approved to the faculty in accordance with formal procedures. Note that make-ups will be arranged as soon as possible after the time of the original examination or essay.

***E-mail*** will be used for the purpose of communicating important information concerning the course, and it is the responsibility of students to check their university e-mail accounts on a regular basis.

**About examinations and other assignments**

***In-class Assignments (2x10=20%)***

In this assignment, you will be given a topic in the form of a question, and will write an argumentative opinion essay in response to it. An argumentative opinion essay is an essay in which one presents and defends an opinion on a topic. In other words, such an essay should include both (i) a personal opinion on a particular topic, and (ii) the reasons for holding that opinion. You must provide arguments in support of your opinion, and the arguments should to a large extent be informed by the course readings, lectures and class discussions. When trying to convince or persuade the reader of the soundness of your opinion, you should also acknowledge possible arguments against your arguments (i.e. counter-arguments), and explain briefly why you reject them.

***Mid-term examination (30%)***

The mid-term examination will consist of 5-6 short-essay questions, and you will provide as complete and concise answers as possible to all of them within the allotted time.

***Final examination (40%)***

The final examination will consist of 5-6 short-essay questions, and you will provide as complete and concise answers as possible to all of them within the allotted time.

***Participation in class discussions (10%)***

As noted above, students are expected to participate actively in class discussions throughout the semester. The lecturer will take note of participation on a weekly basis, and give regular feedback to students as to how they are performing. Participation in class discussions will include pop-up quizzes and other types of assignments that will be given to students before the lecture of the week.