**PSCI 4605B**  
**Gender and International Relations**  
**Mondays, 11:35-2:25**

Professor: Fiona Robinson  
Office: Loeb B649  
Tel: 520-2600, x.2794  
E-mail: Fiona_Robinson@carleton.ca

I **Course Description:** This course explores IR and world politics using both feminist perspectives, and the ‘lens’ of gender. It will examine feminist theory and feminist methodology within the discipline of IR, looking especially at the marginalization of these theoretical perspectives, and the ways in which they differ from both traditional and non-feminist critical theories. The course will also cover the gendered issues surrounding and effects of a number of key issues within the ‘real world’ of global politics – including security and militarization, globalization, and human rights.

II **Course Objectives:** Students taking this course should come away with a better understanding of gender as an analytical category, and, specifically, of gender as constitutive of international politics. This will include an informed knowledge of ‘feminism’ as a set of theoretical perspectives and as a social movement, and of ‘gender’ as a social relation and a structure. Most importantly, students will gain a clear insight into why gender is not only ‘private’, but also ‘political’, and why it matters profoundly to the way the world works, and to our understanding of it.

III **Format:** The class is structured as a weekly three-hour seminar. The instructor will begin each session with a short lecture (20-30 minutes) to introduce key themes and ideas associated with each topic. Following this, there will be a short student presentation. The remainder of the class will operate as a seminar, in which all students are expected to participate actively.

IV **Course Materials:** All course materials are available either on Reserve in the Library, or are available through the library’s on-line journal subscriptions.

V **Assessment:** Your final grade will be determined on the following basis:

- **Participation** 25%
- **Attendance and participation** 15%  
- **Weekly summaries** 10%  
- **In-class Presentation** 15%  
- **Critical Review of Kabeer reading (due Feb. 12)** 20%  
- **Research Essay (due in class April 2)** 40%
Explanation of Assessment:

1. **Attendance and Participation**: Your participation grade will be based on the following:
   
   i) Your attendance at these meetings throughout the term. Attendance at weekly seminars is mandatory. If you have to miss a seminar for a legitimate reason, please inform me as soon as possible (preferably before the seminar).

   ii) The quality and quantity of your participation in discussions. Regular, careful reading and informed participation are a crucial aspect of a fourth-year seminar.

   iii) Each week, students will be required to write a short paragraph (2 or 3 sentences) outlining the main argument or key points of each reading. Please bring two copies of this work to class each week – one to submit to me at the beginning of class, and one to refer to during the seminar. Students will be called upon by the instructor to offer their understanding of main points of a given reading, or to pose questions raised by their interpretation of the arguments.

2. **In-class Presentation**: Students will be required to do one in-class presentation on a topic to be assigned during the first seminar. The presentation should be approximately 15 minutes long, and it should address the main arguments and key debates addressed by the assigned reading(s). The presentation should NOT be a summary or précis of the readings.

3. **Critical Review**: Students will be required to write a short critical review (5 pages) of the article by Naila Kabeer (see Week 6 of reading list). The aim of the review is to assess and evaluate the arguments made by the author. Students may use outside sources, but this is not required (all sources must be properly documented). The critical review is due in class on February 12th.

4. **Research Essay**: Students will be required to write one substantial research essay (12 – 15 pages) on a topic of their choice related to gender and/or feminist theory and international relations (chosen in consultation with the instructor. This essay must make use of sources beyond the course reading list, and must be properly documented. The essay is due in class on April 2nd.

**Other Information**

- Assignments are due in class on the days specified above. Extensions will not be granted. If you cannot submit an assignment on time due to illness or similar legitimate reason, please see the instructor about this as early as possible. Assignments must be handed directly to the instructor, of placed in the Political Science Office drop box. Do not slip assignments under my office door, or the door of the Political Science office. Do not fax assignments to the Department of Political Science; do not send them to me as e-mail attachments. Assignments which are
submitted after the deadline will be downgraded one letter grade category per calendar day.

- It is not acceptable to submit the same assignment for more than one course.
- To obtain credit for this course, students must meet all of the course requirements. Failure to complete all of the assignments will result in a failing grade for the course.

**Weekly Schedule**

**WEEK 1  Introduction: Gender as a Lens in World Politics**

**Jan 8**


**WEEK 2  Feminist Theory in International Relations**

**Jan 15**


WEEK 3 Feminist Methodology and Epistemology in International Relations
Jan 22


WEEK 4 Feminist Theory, Gender and 9/11
Jan 29


WEEK 5 Gender, IPE and Global Governance
Feb 5


**WEEK 6 Women, Labour and Development**

Feb 12
(Critical Review of Kabeer article** due today)


**WEEK 7 Feminist Ethics of Care and Carework**

Feb 26


**WEEK 8 Gender, Militarization and Violence against Women**

**Mar 5**


**Film: Rape: A War Crime**

**Week 9 Gender, Security and Peacekeeping**

**Mar 12**


WEEK 10 Special Class: Feminism, Realism and Power
Mar 19 (Guest Instructor: Professor Brian Schmidt)


WEEK 11 Politics and ‘Culture’ in Women’s Human Rights
Mar 26


WEEK 12 Gender, Empire and Humanitarian Intervention
Apr 2 (Research Essays due today)


Academic Accommodations

For Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Paul Menton Centre (PMC) for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) to complete the necessary forms. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs at least two weeks before the first in-class test or CUTV midterm exam. This will allow for sufficient time to process your request. Please note the following deadlines for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations: November 6th, 2006 for fall and fall/winter term courses, and March 9th, 2007 for winter term courses.

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: “to use and pass off as one’s own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another.” The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/styleguide.pdf

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Course Requirements: Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure – No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the
final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

**Connect Email Accounts:** The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See [http://connect.carleton.ca](http://connect.carleton.ca) for instructions on how to set up your account.