PSCI 4605A
Gender and International Relations
Mondays 11:35-14:25
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

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

I Course Description: This course explores IR and world politics using both feminist theory, and the ‘lens’ of gender relations. 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, human rights, development and the environment.

II Course Objectives: Students taking this course should come away with a better understanding of how gender affects social and political structures and processes. 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 ‘personal’, 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 by introducing 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 readings are either on Reserve in the University Library, or available online. (In general, book chapters are on reserve, and journal articles are available online). There are a number of readings from the book: Laura J. Shepherd, ed., Gender Matters in Global Politics: A Feminist Introduction to International Relations. London: Routledge, 2010. This book has been ordered and is available for purchase in the University Bookstore.

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

Attendance and Participation 25%
In-class Presentation 15%
Short Papers 2 X 15%
Research Essay 30%
(Proposal 5%, Essay 25%)

TOTAL 100%

Explanation of Assessment:

1. **Attendance and Participation:** Attendance at weekly seminars is mandatory. Your participation grade will be based on your attendance at these meetings throughout the term, as well as the quality and quantity of your participation in discussions. Students are expected to have completed the required reading before the seminar and to arrive prepared to discuss that week’s material. To earn a grade of 15 or higher out of 20, you must have perfect or near perfect attendance, and have made regular, informed contributions to the discussion. If you have to miss a seminar for a legitimate reason, please inform me as soon as possible (preferably before the seminar). All students are required to show respect for the instructor and the other students in the group during presentations and group discussions.

2. **Short Papers:** Students are required to complete two short papers. The topics are listed below. The papers are due on September 26th and October 24th.

3. **Presentation:** Students will present one of their short papers to the class. These presentations will begin in week 3 and will continue until all presentations are complete. Students MAY NOT read their papers, but must set out the main argument and ideas in a 10-minute presentation. Questions and discussion will follow each paper.

4. **Research Essay:** Students will be required to write one substantial research essay on a topic of their choice. This essay must make use of sources beyond the course reading list, and must be properly documented. 5 marks out of the total available 30 marks for the essay is reserved for the essay proposal, which should include a suggested title, a research question(s) and a working hypothesis with one paragraph of explanation, and a preliminary annotated bibliography. The essay proposal must be e-mailed to me at Fiona_Robinson@carleton.ca by 10am on Monday November 14th. The essay must be e-mailed to my at Fiona_Robinson@carleton.ca by 10am on Monday December 5th.

**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 me about this as early as possible. Assignments must be e-mailed to me. 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. Assignments which are submitted after the deadline will be downgraded one letter grade category per 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.

WEEK 1 Introduction: Gender as a Lens in World Politics
Sept 12


WEEK 2 Feminist Theory and Disciplinary International Relations
Sept 19


WEEK 3 Feminist Methodology and Epistemology in International Relations
Sept 26


***First Short Paper due: ‘Why does Gender Matter in International Politics?’

WEEK 4 Feminist Ethics
Oct 3


October 10 – Thanksgiving Day, classes suspended

WEEK 5 Women’s Human Rights and International Law
Oct 17


**WEEK 6 Gender, Race and Identity**  
Oct 24


***Second Short Paper due: ‘Is ‘women’ a meaningful category in the context of global politics?’***

**WEEK 7 Women, Peace and Security**  
Oct 31


Week 8 Gender, War and Militarization
Nov 7


Week 9 Global Political Economy and Global Governance
Nov 14


Website: UN Women: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. [www.unwomen.org](http://www.unwomen.org) (Read as much of the website as possible)

Week 10 Globalization and Women’s Labour
Nov 21

Marianne Marchand and Anne Sisson Runyan, ‘Introduction: Feminist Sightings of Global Restructuring: Old and New Conceptualizations’ in *Gender and Global


Read ILO press release at:

WEEK 11 Gender, Development and Environment
Nov 28


WEEK 12 Women’s Transnational Activism and Conclusion
Dec 5


**Academic Accommodations**

**For students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your request for accommodation. 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 assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations**. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **(November 11, 2011 for fall term examinations and March 7, 2012 for winter term examinations)**.

**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 University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with
the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not
trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

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.

Grading: The following is the Carleton University grading system.

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<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
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<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>67-69</td>
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Grades: Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write
the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the
student is in good standing in the course.

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.

Connect Email Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political
Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via
the Connect email system. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

Carleton Political Science Society: The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its
mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social
events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the
after-hours academic life at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic
activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University
community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both
academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email
carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, or come to our office in Loeb
D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official
course outline.