Gender and International Relations

RI-SP025 - Spring - 6 ECTS
Monday 12:15-14:00
Room S4

Course Description

Emerging from a theoretical and methodological critique of the field of International Relations (IR), feminist IR today encompasses a range of research programs that both mirror and exceed the IR mainstream. The purpose of this seminar is to (a) provide an introduction to feminist theoretical and methodological critiques of IR; and (b) review major currents of research in feminist IR through an examination of cutting-edge contemporary literature.

This reading seminar employs discussion, presentations, and the writing of a review paper in order to allow students to actively engage with texts and learn to critically appreciate them. At the end of the course, students will be familiar with main currents of feminist thinking in IR, and will be able to develop research projects using feminist theorizing and methods.

Requirements

A reading seminar lives from class discussion. In order to prepare for discussion, students are expected to complete assigned readings and develop three talking points each week pertaining to the readings. The talking points should be submitted on Moodle before the start of each class and should prepare your class participation. Class attendance is required; unexcused absences will affect your participation grade. The required readings are available on Moodle.

In addition to weekly readings, students will have the opportunity to engage in depth with one particular topic of feminist security studies, feminist global political economy, or gender in international governance. The topics specified on this syllabus starting March 30 are exemplary, but other topics are possible. They will gain familiarity with their topic in the following two ways:

1. Working in groups, they will take responsibility for introducing a class session pertaining to their topic. They will prepare a short (10 minute) presentation about the author assigned for that class and situate them in existing literature. In addition to the required reading, they will be familiar with the whole book assigned for the week and with a range of recommended readings.
2. Working individually, they will produce a **review paper** on the topic of their choice, surveying existing literature on this topic, identifying common threads, differences in approaches and interpretation, and highlighting opportunities for future research. The paper will be about 6000 words long. Students will identify their topic and the class session for which they will take responsibility by March 2. The review paper is due on June 1.

Your grade will consist of the following:

- Talking points & participation: 20%
- Presentation of author: 20%
- Review paper: 60%

**Course Outline**

**Feb. 17 Introductions**


*Recommended:*


**Theory and Methods**

**Feb. 24 Feminist Critiques of IR**


*Recommended:*


**March 2 Feminist Methodologies**

*Choice of topic due*


*Recommended:*


**March 9 Gender – A Social Construct (tbc)**


Recommended:


March 16 Queer IR


Recommended:


March 23 Feminist Ethics


Recommended:


Feminist Security Studies

March 30  Militarist Masculinities


Recommended:


April 6  Sexual Violence and War

Sjoberg, Laura. Women as Wartime Rapists: Beyond Sensation and Stereotyping. NYU Press, 2016. Introduction & Chapters 1, 2, 4.

Recommended:


April 13     Easter Break

April 20     Bodies in IR

Wilcox, Lauren B. Bodies of Violence: Theorizing Embodied Subjects in International Relations. Oxford University Press, 2015; Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5.

Recommended:


Feminist Political Economy

April 27     Primitive Accumulation and Social Reproduction


Recommended:


**May 4 Everyday Capitalism**


*Recommended:*


International Governance

May 11 Transnational Feminism


*Recommended:*


May 18 Gender Expertise & Gender Mainstreaming


*Recommended:*


### May 25  Gendered Citizenship/Gendered States


**Recommended:**


### June 1

**Review paper due**