

UAB PSC 270 - Fall 2011
Contemporary Political Issues/Women & World Politics

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Office hours: F 2:30-4:30, & M or W by appointment

This course is an investigation of contemporary women's issues in world politics, with a special emphasis on gender and war. I have designed this class to be a seminar (involving active participation by all students) rather than a traditional lecture-format course. By asking students to read, discuss, and critique, my goal is for students to improve their analytical abilities and their confidence in expressing ideas verbally.

Every class session I will give a brief lecture that places in context the assigned readings, but this will be a very participatory class that will entail your active involvement. Therefore, I ask that students attend class and be prepared for each class meeting. This will serve as preparation for class discussion, in which I request that all students participate.

There are three exams on the syllabus; the last one will take place at the time of the scheduled final exam. It will not be cumulative (in other words, it will only cover material from the last third of the course). Exam I is worth 25%, Exam II is worth 20%, and Exam III is worth 25% of the total grade. The book report will count for 20%. Participation is worth 10%. Every student will start the semester with a perfect 10 points for participation, but excessive absences, inability to discuss the assigned readings, low scores on pop quizzes, and disruptive behavior will cause loss of participation points. The quality of your class presentation of your book report will also be factored into your participation points.

Course objectives:

- ♀ Applying the rights of women under international law to a variety of countries and cultures;
- ♀ Analyzing patterns and trends of women's political participation;
- ♀ Evaluating strategies to improve women's access to the state;
- ♀ Studying gender roles during times of militarization and war.

Required textbooks:

- ♀ Crook, Mona Lena and Sarah Childs. 2010. *Women, Gender, and Politics: A Reader*.
- ♀ Nazer, Mende and Damien Lewis. 2003. *Slave*.
- ♀ Goldstein, Joshua. 2001. *War and Gender: How Gender Shapes the War System*.

Responsibilities of the Student:

- ♀ Kindly turn off cell phone ringers before class begins.

♀ If you miss class, contact another student for the notes. Powerpoint slides will not be made available online or by request.

♀ Asking questions is a key component of learning. However, please do not ask things, either in class or by e-mail, that can be answered by reading this syllabus.

♀ If you must come to class late, or must leave early, please try to do so with as little disruption as possible.

♀ The only reason a student can take a make-up exam is if there is a documented medical or family emergency. After such documentation is provided, the student can take the missed exam during the week of finals.

♀ The book report is due at the beginning of class on November 30th. Please submit it electronically through the Blackboard page (through the "turnitin" link in the "Your Reports" subfolder). A paper will lose one full letter grade for each hour it is late.

♀ Your report should be prepared by you alone, for this class only. The UAB definitions of and policies on violations of academic integrity can be found on Blackboard. Should a student violate standards of academic integrity, I will a) assign a failing grade for the assignment, and b) refer the matter to the administration.

♀ By each Friday (or Wednesday if Friday is a holiday), you should have completed the reading material assigned for the week. I do realize that sometimes life interferes with the best of intentions. Should you come to class without having done the reading, please do everyone a favor and confess rather than bluff.

♀ The instructor reserves the right to hold pop quizzes, which will be factored into the participation points.

♀ Just as you have the right to express your own opinion, so does every other member of the class. Please refrain from using profanity, and remember that one cannot talk and listen at the same time.

♀ Texting and surfing the internet distract not only the student engaging in such behavior, but also the students seated near him or her. A student who uses her or his computer or other electronic device for purposes unrelated to the course during class may be asked to leave.

♀ You have the right to petition a grade. Sometimes we make mistakes. However, it is very seldom that I change a grade. Should you feel that something is amiss in the evaluation of your work, I request that you submit to me a letter explaining the problem and re-submit to me your assignment. I will review it, photocopy it, and submit a letter back to you.

♀ Any student with a disability will receive accommodation for it upon presentation of a letter from the Disability Support Services office.

PSC 270 – Women & World Politics – Course Schedule

Students should have started the week's readings by the Monday class meeting and should surely have finished them by the Friday class.

"*WG&P*" is an abbreviation for the textbook titled *Women, Gender, and Politics*; "*WaG*" is an abbreviation for the textbook titled *War and Gender*.

PART I – Gender and Cultural Politics

WEEK I: 8/17-8/19 Introduction

Ch. 1, *WG&P*

WEEK II: 8/22-8/26 Gender, Culture, & Health

Chs. 1-7, *Slave*

8/22 – Please submit via the link on the course Blackboard page (in the "Your Reports" folder) your choice of book to read for the book report. In case someone senior to you has chosen the same book, please include two alternate selections.

WEEK III: 8/29-9/2 Gender & Cultural Imperialism

Chs. 8-20, *Slave*

WEEK IV: 9/5-9/9 Gender, Culture & Migration/Asylum

Chs. 21-end, *Slave*

WEEK V: 9/12-9/14 Gender, Culture & Political Institutions

Ch, 20, *WG&P*

9/16 – EXAM I

PART II – Women & Electoral Politics

WEEK VI: 9/19-9/23 Women and Social Movements

Chs. 3-5 & 7, *WG&P*

WEEK VII: 9/26-9/30 Women and Political Parties

Chs. 9, 10, 12-14, *WG&P*

WEEK VIII: 10/3-10/7 Women & Elections

Chs. 26, 27, *WG&P*

FRIDAY 10/14: HOLIDAY (FALL BREAK)

WEEK X: 10/17-10/21 Women & Social Politics

Chs. 31, 33, & 36, *WG&P*

WEEK XI: 10/24-10/28 Women & the State

Chs. 34-40 (skip 36), *WG&P*

WEEK XII: 10/31 – EXAM II.

PART III –Women, Men, & War

11/2-11/4 Gender Roles and War

Ch. 1, *WaG*

WEEK XIII: 11/7-11/11 Women Warriors

Ch. 2, *WaG*

Ch. 2, *WG&P*

WEEK XIV: 11/14-11/18 Masculinity & War

Chs. 4&5, *WaG*

WEEK XV: 11/21-11/23 Sex & War

Ch. 6 *WaG*

FRIDAY 11/25: HOLIDAY (THANKSGIVING).

WEEK XVI: 11/28—Conclusion of *WaG*

Ch. 7, *WaG*

11/30-12/2 Presentation of Book Reports.

BOOK REPORTS DUE 11/30!

WEEK XVII: 12/5 – Summary & Review

12/13 at 10:45 in our regular classroom – EXAM III