

POL 398: War and Gender

Professor Susan Allen
Department of Political Science
327 Deupree Hall
Office Hours: T 1-2:30 & W 9:30-11
Email: shallen@olemiss.edu

Course Description

War narratives and studies of political violence have traditionally focused on the roles and actions of men. When women are included, they have typically been cast in the roles of innocent bystanders or victims. Yet, women often actively participate in civil wars and in terrorist campaigns, either as civilian supporters of these groups or as armed fighters. Women are therefore both willing to and capable of engaging in the same violent actions as their male counterparts during wartime. Intriguingly, there is also evidence that the inclusion of women in political processes—particularly in positions of authority—may help promote peace, resolve political conflicts, and increase stability after armed conflict.

In the first section of the course, we will explore the place of women in war. After considering the range of roles that women play with particular attention to the growing place of women as participants, we will explore the consequences of conflict for women. Conflict has a profound impact on women through armed violence, economic hardship, displacement, sexual violence, and we will explore that impact. Women in conflict areas often struggle with the “double burden” of both providing resources for the family and taking care of the home. Conflict affects women in many ways beyond simply life and death on the battlefield. In the final section of the class, we will examine women’s potential contributions to post-war peace building and conflict resolution. The overall objective of the course is that students gain a better understanding of the roles women play in the production and resolution of political violence and the manner in which gender and gender attitudes influence war and armed conflict.

Course Goals

- Identify, understand, and apply key themes in research on women and conflict
- Differentiate between the impacts of conflict for men, women, and children
- Describe the link between women’s participation in conflict resolution and post-conflict outcomes
- Interpret qualitative and quantitative data on the consequences of conflict
- Strengthen critical reading skills and analytical writing skills

Expectations

- READ THE SYLLABUS!
- Come to class. I know that seems like an obvious one, but it's important nonetheless. You will have a tough time passing this course without attending it. Class attendance is not mandatory, but it's been said that 80% of success comes from showing up, and so it will likely be in this class.
- Do the readings beforehand; you will find that they provide important background for the lectures. Without that background, you may have a difficult time keeping up during class sessions. Most practically, questions for the exams will come from both the lecture and the readings. Not all relevant material will be duplicated in both sources.
- Keeping up with the world around you is not only important for discussion in this class, it is also important to becoming a good citizen. While not required for this course, I highly recommend keeping up with national political events during the course of the semester. Good resources online include The New York Times (www.nytimes.com), the Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com), CNN (www.cnn.com) or the International Herald Tribune (www.iht.com). Examples for discussion in class or exam questions are likely to be drawn from current events. You might also consider signing up for the daily email updates from CFR (Council on Foreign Relations).
- In this class, we will discuss a number of intense topics including sexual violence. We will also discuss a range of topics where opinions will differ across the class. Please be respectful of others' experiences and beliefs. Healthy discussion and debate will make this class more enjoyable, but it is important that we treat each other thoughtfully and kindly. In addition, please show respect to your classmates and to me by turning off all cell phones before entering classroom. Texting during class is also unacceptable. Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in a request to leave the class for the duration of the session.
- Students are expected to attend and be prepared for all class sessions. To do so, all of the readings must be completed in a timely fashion. This course will largely be driven by discussion and your insights on the readings. Be prepared to participate and engage the material.
- Keeping up with the world around you is not only important for discussion in this class, it is also important to becoming a good world citizen. While not required for this course, I highly recommend keeping up with international events during the course of the semester. Good resources online include The New York Times (www.nytimes.com), the Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com), CNN (www.cnn.com) or the International Herald Tribune (www.iht.com). Examples for discussion in class or exam questions are likely to be drawn from current events.

- In addition, please show respect to your classmates and to me by turning off all cell phones and pagers before entering classroom. Texting or instant messaging during class is also unacceptable. Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in a request to leave the class for the duration of the session.
- A note on etiquette: please use appropriate salutations, including my name in the opening and your name in the closing. (Hint: you can't go wrong with "Hi Professor Allen"). For further guidance see <http://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor>. “

Readings

The readings for this course will be drawn from several sources. Two books are required for this course:

- Trisko Darden, Jessica, Alexis Henshaw, and Ora Skelezy. 2019. *Insurgent Women: Female Combatants in Civil Wars*. Georgetown University Press.
- Tripp, Aili Marie. 2015. *Women And Power In Postconflict Africa*. Cambridge University Press.
- Jenny Nordberg. 2015. *The Underground Girls of Kabul: In Search of a Hidden Resistance in Afghanistan*. Broadway Books. ISBN: 978-0307952509

Other materials will be handed out in class or will be available online via Blackboard.

Course Requirements

Your final grade will be made up of the following components:

- Midterm Exam 25%
- Final Exam 30%
- Final Project 25% (10% Presentation; 15% Paper)
- Contribution 10%

Final Project: Each student will be part of a group that will be responsible for choosing an issue that falls under the topic of “War & Gender” (one that is not covered in-depth in class) that they will conduct research on throughout the semester. Each group will submit a literature review on the issue and make a 10-minute video presentation to teach the class about the issue. Further details will be given in class.

Late assignments: All work for the course must be handed in on time. Late papers will be penalized one full letter grade for each day past the deadline. If papers will be unavoidably late due to illness or other serious impediment to school work, please alert me

as soon as possible and an extension may be offered at my discretion. No makeup exams will be offered, unless unusual circumstances such as serious illness, university sanctioned events, or extreme family crisis arise.

Academic Integrity: Students will be expected to adhere to the university honor code for all assignments. Work handed in by any student should be solely the work of that student – end of story. If you draw on the ideas of others, please cite them. Failure to do some will result in a failing grade in the course.

ADA: Disability Access and Inclusion: The University of Mississippi is committed to the creation of inclusive learning environments for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your full inclusion and participation or to accurate assessment of your achievement, please contact the course instructor as soon as possible. Barriers may include, but are not necessarily limited to, timed exams and in-class assignments, difficulty with the acquisition of lecture content, inaccessible web content or the use of non-captioned or non-transcribed video and audio files. You must also contact Student Disability Services at 662-915-7128 so that office can 1) provide you with an Instructor Notification form, 2) facilitate the removal of barriers and 3) ensure you have equal access to the same opportunities for success that are available to all students. For necessary accommodations to be made available, please contact me before the first exam.

Grading for Political Science Majors and Minors: It is the policy of the political science department that no grade lower than a C can be counted towards either a major or minor in political science. This course will be graded on a +/- scale

Course Outline

August 27: Course Introduction

August 29: Getting Started

- Trishna Rana and Marie Berry. 12/17/15. “A Woman Did That? Thoughts on Women Perpetrators of Violence.” From *Political Violence at a Glance*.
- Goldstein, *War and Gender*, pp. 1-10

Week 2: Comparing Traditional and Feminist Theories of War

September 3

- Goldstein, *War and Gender*, pp. 10-58

September 5: Gender and Traditional International Relations

- Sjoberg, Laura. 2012. “Gender, structure, and war: what Waltz couldn’t see.” *International Theory* 4(1): 1-38.

- Ann Tickner. 1997. “You just Don’t Understand: Troubled Engagements Between Feminists and IR Theorists” *International Studies Quarterly* 611-632

September 10: How We Think about War

- Men and Women’s Support for War
- Women’s Perceptions of Drones
- Carol Cohn. 1987. “Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals.” *Signs*.

September 12: Women’s Historical Participation in War

- Goldstein, *War and Gender*, Chapter 2

Week 4: Nature versus Nurture?

September 17: The Biological Basis for the Absence of Female Combatants

- Goldstein, Chapter 3

September 19: Examining Social Hierarchy and Sex Segregation

- Goldstein, Chapter 4

Week 5: Women and Conflict

September 24

- Trisko Darden, Jessica, Alexis Henshaw, and Ora Skelezy. 2019. *Insurgent Women: Female Combatants in Civil Wars*. Georgetown University Press.

September 26

- Miranda Alison. 2004. “Women as Agents of Political Violence: Gendering Security.” *Security Dialogue*. 447-463.
- Laura Sjoberg. 2007. “Triple Transgressions at Abu Ghraib.” In *Mothers, Monsters, and Whores*.
- Wood, R.M. and Thomas, J.L., 2017. “Women on the frontline: Rebel group ideology and women’s participation in violent rebellion.” *Journal of Peace Research*, 54(1), pp.31-46.

Week 6: Women and Terrorism

October 1

- Sjoberg, Cooke and Neal. 2011. "Introduction: Women, Gender, and Terrorism" in *Women, Gender, and Terrorism*. Pp. 1-15 only (pay particular attention to sections on how to define terrorism).
- Gentry and Sjoberg. 2011. "The Gendering of Women's Terrorism" in *Women, Gender and Terrorism*." Pp. 57-76.
- Brigitte L. Nacos. 2005. *The Portrayal of Female Terrorists in the Media: Similar Framing Patterns in the News Coverage of Women in Politics and in Terrorism*. *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*. 435-451.

October 3

- Lindsey O'Rourke. 2009. "What's Special About Female Suicide Terrorism?" *Security Studies*. 681-718.
- Cook, D. 2005. "Women Fighting in Jihad." *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*.
- Gentry, Caron. 2011. "The Committed Revolutionary: Reflections on a Conversation with Leila Khaled" in *Women, Gender, and Terrorism*.

Week 7: Midterm and Consequences

October 8: Exam

October 10: Women and the Consequences of Conflict

- Buvinic, Gupta, Casabonne, Verwimp. 2013. "Violent Conflict and Gender Inequality: An Overview."
- Buvinic, Das Gupta, Shemyakina. 2013. "Armed conflict, gender, and schooling." World Bank.

Week 8: Consequences of Conflict

October 15

- Excerpt from Allen and Thames, *Women and the Consequences of Armed Conflict*
- Bruck and Schindler, 2009. "The Impact of Violence Conflict on Households: What We Know and What Should We Know about War Widows?"

October 17

- Carpenter, R. Charli. 2003. "Women and Children First: Gender, Norms, and Humanitarian Evacuation in the Balkans 1991-95." International Organization.
- Ferris, Elizabeth. 2007. Abuse of power: Sexual exploitation of refugee women and girls. *Signs: Journal of women in culture and society*, 32(3): 584-591.
- Elbe, S. 2002. "HIV/AIDS and the Changing Landscape of War in Africa." *International Security*, 27(2): 159-177.

Week 9: Afghanistan and Consequences

October 22

- The Underground Girls of Kabul, parts 1 & 2
- Hunt, Karen. 2002. The strategic co-optation of women's rights. *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, 4(1): 116-121.

October 24

- The Underground Girls of Kabul, parts 3, 4 and Epilogue

Week 10: Conflict and Sexualized Violence

October 29: Rape as a Weapon of War?

- Carter. 2010. "Should International Relations Consider Rape a Weapon of War?" *Politics & Gender*. 343-371
- Wood, Elisabeth Jean. 2015. "Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and the Policy Implications of Recent Research." *International Review of the Red Cross*, 457-478.
- Cohen, Green, and Wood. "Wartime Sexual Violence: Misconceptions, Implications, and Ways Forward" A Special Report by the United States Institute of Peace.

October 31: More to the story

- Cohen, Dara Kay. 2013. "Female Combatants and the Perpetration of Violence: Wartime Rape in the Sierra Leone Civil War." *World Politics* 383-415.
- Beber, Bernd, Michael J. Gilligan, Jenny Guardado, and Sabrina Karim. 2017. "Peace-keeping, compliance with international norms, and transactional sex in Monrovia, Liberia." *International Organization*
- "The Rape of Men: The Darkest Secret of War." 7/16/11. *The Guardian*.

Week 11: Women and Peacebuilding

November 5

- Tripp, Chapter 1 & 3

November 7

- Tripp, Chapter 4 & 6-7

Week 12: Women and Post-Conflict

November 12

- Karim, Sabrina “Restoring Confidence in Post-conflict Security Sectors”
- Sion, Liora. “Can Women Make a Difference? Female Peacekeepers in Bosnia and Kosovo”
- MacKenzie, Megan. 2009. “Securitization and Desecuritization: Female Soldiers and the Reconstruction of Women in Post-Conflict Sierra Leone.” *Security Studies* 241-261.

November 14

- Tripp, Chapter 2 & 8-9
- Al-Ali, Nadjie. 2005. “Reconstructing Gender: Iraq between dictatorship, war, and occupation.” *Third World Quarterly* 739-758.

November 19 & 21: Research Presentations

December 1 & 3: In Class Simulation – Attendance is Mandatory

Final Exam Period – December 10, 12PM