GENDER AND SEXUALITY

TUESDAY 10:00-12:00

ABSTRACT:

The course explores the ways in which the social and cultural construction of categories shapes the politics of sexuality in International Relations. It will focus on issues, themes and debates such as women’s movements and feminism, masculinity, queerness and how social categories such as race, class and gender intersect. The aim will be to examine women’s and gender’s place in international politics for example in the various revolutions and uprisings across the Arab world.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students taking the course for 3 credits will be assessed based on participation and submission of worksheets that entail answers to the questions asked for each session. 6 have to be submitted for 3 credits.

Students taking the course for 6 credits will be assessed based on participation, the submission of 6 worksheets and book review comparing two books. The details of the book reviews are online.

1. INTRODUCTION (5 MAY)

2. AVITAL RONELL CASE (11 MAY)


Esther Wang, What Are we to make of the Case of Scholar Avital Ronnell’, https://jezebel.com/what-are-we-to-make-of-the-case-of-scholar-avital-ronell-1828366966


3. INTRODUCTION TO CONCEPTS AND DEBATES (18 MAY)


Five Genders: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9VmLJ3niVo

Third Gender: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1ZvDRxZlb0&t=6s

India’s Third Gender Movement: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmWICmK37b4

RECOMMENDED:


4. FEMINISM, GENDER AND IR (25 MAY)

QUESTIONS:

What do feminisms add to IR? How does IR overlook women? How does IR approach issues of sex or gender? How does the critique brought by feminists to IR fit the discussion of different feminisms?

Cynthia Enloe (2014) Bananas, Beaches and Bases, Chapter 1 and Chapter 9

Shepherd, Laura J. (2015) ‘Sex or gender? Bodies in world politics and why gender matters,


RECOMMENDED WATCHING:

A CONVERSATION WITH CYNTHIA ENLOE (7 VIDEOS) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LalOS-Tazt0&list=PLfcRzkscDMduK7Bfk3aYhZPESd7pQ1uZ
5. STATE, NATION-BUILDING AND FOREIGN POLICY (2 JUNE)

Questions: What is the relationship between private/public and the formation of nations/states? How are the notions of state, nation-building and foreign policy gendered? How do the articles define women, sex and gender? Are there definitions and/or categories that are overlooked? How would they contribute to the discussion?

READINGS:


RECOMMENDED WATCHING:

THE OPERATION: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3RPScod6E

6. TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (8 JUNE)

Questions: How do the articles approach the main categories and perspectives discussed? How do the articles define women, sex and gender? Are there definitions and/or categories that are overlooked? How would they contribute to the discussion? How is the notion of security gendered?

Caron Gentry, ‘The Neo-Orientalist Narratives of Women’s Involvement in al-Qaeda’,


Feminism in times of war and Peace: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mIP8XHi9938

7. INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT (15 JUNE)

Questions: How do the articles approach the main categories and perspectives discussed? How do the articles define women, sex and gender? Are there
definitions and/or categories that are overlooked? How would they contribute to the discussion? How is the economy gendered?


The Secret Slaves of the Middle East: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jb_pBhWi1YM

8. HOMONATIONALISM AND HOMONORMATIVITY (22 JUNE)

Questions: How do the articles approach the main categories and perspectives discussed? How do the articles define women, sex and gender? Are there definitions and/or categories that are overlooked? How would they contribute to the discussion?


RECOMMENDED WATCHING:

AUB LECTURE – Homonationalism Gone Viral: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6a0Dkn3SnWM

9. POPULAR CULTURE AND WORLD POLITICS (29 JUNE)

Questions: How are IR/world politics phenomena such as wars gendered in popular culture? How do gendered popular cultural representations relate to official or academic representations of IR/world politics?

Rowley, Christina (2015) ‘Popular culture and the politics of the visual,’

The Bechdel Test for Women: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLF6sAAMB4s

Burka Avenger: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xahbq1dCVhE

10. GLOBAL HEALTH (6 JULY)

How is global health gendered? How do the articles approach the main categories and perspectives discussed? How do the articles define women, sex and gender? Are there definitions and/or categories that are overlooked? How would they contribute to the discussion?


11. CONCLUSION (13 JULY)