GEN & WS 424 Women’s International Human Rights

Fall 2010
4:00-5:15pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays
Sterling Hall 3425

Instructor: Eunjung Kim
Department of Gender and Women’s Studies
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Office: 3309 Sterling Hall
Office Hour: Tuesdays 1:00-3:00pm, or by appointment
Email:

This course will examine the development of international women’s human rights in its legal, political, and cultural dimensions and the application of critical gender analyses and postcolonial feminist consciousness to contemporary human rights thinking and practices. Themes of the course include the history of UN human rights mechanism; key conceptions of human rights and gender issues; the possibilities and challenges of the notion of human rights and women’s rights; transnational feminist advocacy and contestations vis-à-vis the state, sovereignty, law, policy, human rights culture, and global governance. Religion, nationality, race/ethnicity, class, disability status, age, and sexuality will be considered in the exploration of women’s international human rights. The course is organized in a lecture and discussion format.

Course requirements
- Attendance. 10%
- Preparedness, reading and active participation in discussion. 10%
- Two quizzes. (5% each) 10%
- Midterm. 20%
- Final project chosen out of three options: 30%
  a) A 10-15 page paper analyzing and critiquing one or two cultural texts (film, documentaries, photos, advertisements, novels, television etc.) from a feminist human rights perspective;
  b) A 10-15 page paper on human rights related legal case summary and gender analysis of the decision and public opinion around it;
  c) Artwork (painting, short visual material, craft art, creative writing, performance art, music, and others) that captures a theme of women’s human rights and its complexity with a 5-page statement explaining the artwork.
- Final exam 20%

Evaluation policy
- Attendance is mandatory. Documentation needs to be provided for any excused absence.
- Reading and participation will be evaluated based on your participation throughout the semester but more specifically evaluated based on the performance on the weeks
that students are “on-call.” Schedules of “on-call-weeks” for each student will be handed out in Week 2. If you are on-call, you need to be prepared to answer the questions of the instructor about the readings, provide overall arguments of the readings, present your opinion, and engage with other students more actively than in other weeks.

- Quizzes consist of short answers and definitions and take 10 minutes. No make-up quiz will be allowed. The lowest quiz score will be dropped. In other words, there are 3 quizzes but only 2 will be included in your overall grade. Each quiz will cover the readings and lectures after the previous quiz until the class before the day of the quiz.
- Midterm and final exams consist of short answers, definitions, and long answers and takes place on 10/21 and 12/21 accordingly. The answers will be graded based on their accuracy, consistency with the reading materials and lecture contents, and effectiveness of presenting one’s own opinions using examples and concepts that are presented during class.
- Final project guidance will be distributed during class.

Disability Access Statement
Ensuring access for all students is taken very seriously in this course. It is the course’s intention to support the full participation of all students in the learning process. Access and accommodation include physical and social environments, intellectual, emotional and psychological aspects. I encourage students not to wear strong perfume or chemical products that might affect others with chemical sensitivity. The course incorporates a variety of instruction and evaluation methods. In spite of these efforts, situations may occur in which the learning style of individual students is not met by the instructional climate. I encourage students who require specific or additional support to understand the course contents or fulfill the course requirement to inform me as soon as possible. Students who require accommodations for access and participation in this course may contact The McBurney Disability Resource Center. The Center provides useful assistance and documentation regarding physical, learning, sensory, psychological, or other kinds of disabilities: 263-2741, 263-6393 (TTY); 1305 Linden Drive or www.mcburney.wisc.edu.

Academic Honesty
Plagiarism is a serious violation of university codes on academic integrity. Plagiarizing material from the web, printed sources, other students’ work, or any other source constitutes grounds for failure in this course. Incidents of plagiarism may also be brought before the university judiciary board resulting in further disciplinary action. Students uncertain of the definition of plagiarism must ask the instructor prior to submitting their work.

Grading Policy
If you have questions about a grade, speak first to your instructor. If the question is not resolved, speak with the Chair, Jane Collins <jcollins@ssc.wisc.edu>, or the Associate Chair, Christina Ewig <cewig@wisc.edu>. They will attempt to resolve the issue informally and inform you of the Appeals Procedures if no resolution is reached informally.

Required Book
Gender Matters In Global Politics: A Feminist Introduction to International Relations.
Edited by Laura J. Shepherd. Routlege, 2010
Available for purchase at A Room of One’s Own, Feminist Bookstore at 307 W. Johnson St. Madison, WI 53703 Tel: 608-257-7888

**Required Readings**
The required reading packet is available for purchase from Student Print.
3301 Student Services
333 East Campus Mall
Madison, WI 53715-1380
Phone: 608.262.6216
[http://studentprint.rso.wisc.edu/](http://studentprint.rso.wisc.edu/)
Textbook and one reading packet will be placed at the College Library Reserve.
The electronic format readings are also available online at Learn@UW (except chapters from the required book).

**Supplementary Readings**
The supplementary readings are optional and will not be included in exams. They will be only provided online as an electronic format.

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**Week 1 Introductions**

**Sep 2**

**Week 2 Understanding Women’s International Human Rights**

**Sep 7**
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966
- International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights 1966
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) 1965
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) 1979
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment 1984
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2006
For the list of parties and reservations, go to the UN database below.

**Sep 9**
Jacqui True, “Mainstreaming Gender in International Institutions.” In *Gender Matters*. 289-203


**Week 3 Underlying Concepts and Mechanisms**

**Sep 14**  

**Sep 16**  
Quiz 1  


**Week 4 Critique of Human Rights and Cultural Production**

**Sep 21**  


**Sep 23**  

http://www.aaanet.org/cmtes/cfhr/Committee-for-Human-Rights-Guidelines.cfm


http://www.law.harvard.edu/students/orgs/hrj/iss15/kennedy.shtml

**Week 5 Family, Marriage, Divorce, and Widowhood**

**Sep 28**  

- The Convention on the Nationality of Married Women
- The Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration for Marriage
- Same Sex Marriage Around the Globe

**Sep 30**


### Week 6 Reproductive Rights and Transnational Adoption

**Oct 5**

Angela Davis, “Racism, Birth Control and Reproductive Rights” In *Feminist Postcolonial Theory*. 353-365

Amartya Sen, “More than 100 million women are missing” *New York Review of Books* 37(20), 1990.

**Oct 7**

**Quiz 2**

Parlita Harris, “No Longer Alone In This Grief: Service-user-led Support For Transracial Adoptees” In *Outsiders Within: Writing on Transracial Adoption*. 267-283

- Guest Speaker: Minjon Tholen


### Week 7 Health, Disability and Environmental Rights

**Oct 12**


**Oct 14**


Arundhati Roy, “The Reincarnation of Rumpelstiltskin” [http://www.commondreams.org/views02/0307-03.htm](http://www.commondreams.org/views02/0307-03.htm)

Film: *State of Denial*

### Week 8 Sexual Rights and Transgender Rights
Oct 19
Dean Spade, “Compliance is Gendered: Struggling for Gender Self-Determination in a Hostile Economy (August, 07 2008). In Transgender Rights. 217-241
Oct 21
Mid-term

Week 9 Civil Rights and Economic Rights
Oct 26
Oct 28
Juanita Elias and Lucy Ferguson, “Production, Employment and Consumption” In Gender Matters. 234-248
Supplementary Reading: Megan Thibos, Danielle Lavin-loucks, and Marcus Martin, The Feminization of Poverty, 2007
www.ywcadallas.org/documents/advocacy/FeminizationofPoverty.pdf

Week 10 Body, Religion, and Culture
Nov 2
Stanlie James, “Shades of Othering.” Signs 23(4): 1031-1048
Nov 4
Suruchi Thapar-Björkert and Laura J. Shepherd, “Religion” In Gender Matters. 265-279
Niamh Reilly, “Fundamentalisms and Women’s Human Rights,” In Women’s Human Rights: Seeking Gender Justice in a Global Age. 140-159

Week 11 Border Crossing: Migration, Refugees, and Trafficking
Nov 9
Jindy Pettman, “Migration” In Gender Matters. 251-264


Nov 11
Quiz 3
Barbara Sullivan, “Trafficking in Human Beings” In Gender Matters. 89-102
Kamala Kempadoo, “From Moral Panic to Global Justice: Changing Perspectives on Trafficking” in Trafficking and Prostitution Reconsidered. vii-xxxii


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<th>Week 12 Women Prisoners, Violence against Women, Systemic Sexual Violence During Wartime</th>
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<th>Week 13 Rape as Weapon of War</th>
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<td>Nov 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donna Pankhurst, “Sexual Violence in War.” In Gender Matters. 148-160</td>
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<td>Euan Hague, “Rape, Power and Masculinity: The Construction of Gender and National Identities in the War in Bosnia-Herzegovina” Gender and Catastrophe. 50-63</td>
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| Nov. 25 Thanksgiving |

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<th>Week 14 Genocide and Transitional Justice</th>
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<td>Nov 30</td>
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<td>Adam Jones, “Genocide and Mass Violence” In Gender Matters. 127-147</td>
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<td>Samantha Powers, “Dying in Darfur” The New Yorker, August 30, 2004</td>
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<td>Amnesty international report on Women and Genocide in Rwanda <a href="http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engafr470072004">http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engafr470072004</a>;</td>
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<td>Dec 2</td>
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<td>Nadine Puechguirbal, “Peacekeeping, Peacebuilding and Post-conflict Reconstruction” In Gender Matters in Global Politics. 161-175</td>
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### Week 15 Military, Security, and Nationalism

**Dec 7**  
Krista Hunt, “‘The ‘War on Terrorism’” in *Gender Matters*. 105-115  

**Dec 9**  
Dibyesh Anand, “Nationalism” In *Gender Matters*. 280-291

### Week 16 Virtual Human Rights and Non-Human Animal

**Dec 14**  
M. I. Franklin, “Sex, Gender and Cyberspace.” In *Gender Matters*. 309-325  
Donna Haraway, “Sharing Suffering: Instrumental Relations between Laboratory Animals and Their People,” *When Species Meet* (*Posthumanities*). 69-93

**FINAL EXAM** December 21, 2010 10:05AM-12:05PM