

# WOMEN AND GLOBAL POLITICS

## POLI 366

### SPRING 2002

Course Instructor: Deirdre M. Condit  
Office: 923 W. Franklin, Room 317 (Scherer Hall, 3rd flr)  
Office Phone: 828-8098; email: dcondit@vcu.edu  
Office Hours: TBA

**Please Note: The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 requires Virginia Commonwealth University to provide a 'reasonable accommodation' to any individual who advises us of a physical or mental disability. If you have a physical or mental limitation that requires an accommodation or an academic adjustment, please arrange a meeting with me at your earliest convenience.**

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class will address a number of issues pertinent to the study of women and global politics, including the influence and response of feminist thought to the traditional discipline of international relations; a comparative examination of the political, legal and economic status of the world's women; women as global "citizens"; women as national and world leaders; the politics of the 1995 Beijing World Conference On Women, other means of voicing political concerns and taking political action advocated by women's organizations; and the increasingly pressing conundrum of differing demands for both cultural diversity and development of a global feminist vision. The first half of the class will contrast feminist international relations theory to traditional international relations theory in an effort to ascertain how gender re-informs global politics. The second half of the course will allow an in-depth, comparative examination of the political status of women in various countries around the world.

#### COURSE FORMAT

The course format will be a combination of lecture and seminar-like discussion. Students and the course instructor will engage in an exploratory dialogue about various issues related to women and global politics throughout the semester. In small groups of 3 students each, everyone will become an "expert" on the status of women in a country other than the US. In addition to the other class assignments, throughout the semester each group will "report" on various political and historic aspects of their chosen country. The goals for the small groups are multiple and include: becoming familiar with non-hierarchical "feminist process" in decision-making and research; having the opportunity to study women in a particular country on an in-depth basis; developing an analytic mechanism for comparing the success of women leaders around the world in juxtaposition to the relative absence of women leaders in the U.S.; developing a new method for interpreting and understanding "global politics."

#### COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND STUDENT EVALUATION

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:** Regular attendance is a must in order to absorb the class discussion and lecture material. Absences will be viewed dimly! **While I do not punish lack of attendance, I do reward attendance as follows:** Students are required to attend regularly and to come to class having read the assignments for the day. Any student having missed the equivalent of **3 or fewer** classes (following the first week of class) will be awarded up to a 2.5% bonus on their final grade. An attendance sheet will be provided at the beginning of each class. **Students are responsible for insuring that they sign the attendance sheet. Changes or corrections will not be made to the sheet on subsequent days, REGARDLESS OF THE REASON FOR THE STUDENT'S FAILURE TO SIGN-IN!!!** Because of this attendance policy, students do not have to bring doctor's notes, etc. to justify absences from the class. They are expected to manage their attendance as is appropriate for their individual

learning objectives for the course and for the grade they wish to attain at the end of the semester. **IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT YOU COME TO CLASS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE READING MATERIAL ASSIGNED FOR THAT DAY. IT IS EQUALLY IMPERATIVE THAT YOU DO ALL OF THE READING FOR THE COURSE.**

**COMPARATIVE STATUS OF WOMEN GROUP PROJECTS:** By the second class meeting, each group will have selected a country on which it will become an expert throughout the semester. Each group should provide a short memo to Prof. Condit detailing what country was chosen and why. Early in the semester, **all** groups will provide an initial, 10-minute oral report about the history, economic condition and demographics of women in their countries. Later on, as the course progresses, groups will present more in-depth reports to the class on the following topics: (1) the status of women political actors in their country, including but not confined to historic and current women leaders from their country and an analysis of how they came to power; (2) women's political movements, organizations and global participation (including resistance organizations); and (3) global political/policy issues of particular concern to women in their country. The overall performance and participation of group members will be evaluated on three measures: (1) on the quality and complexity of the oral presentations; (2) on the quality and complexity of the group paper submitted at the end of the semester; and (3) by self and group evaluation. The final paper for this project should be approximately fifteen pages in length and should clearly be the result of collaborative effort by all group members.

**BOOK REVIEW:** In addition to the required texts, each student must review an additional book within the broad topic of women and global politics. A list of acceptable books on the topic is given below. Five copies of each text have been ordered through Carriage House Books. You may actually want to purchase more than one, depending on your level of interest in the topic and your future plans vis-a-vis academic research in international relations and/or women and politics. This review should be an in-depth analysis of the book, NOT a complete recounting of it. Expect to write a 3-4 page paper for this assignment. Please reference the "Guide to Writing Book Reviews" to be handed out in class.

**DIVERSITY PARADOX PAPER:** Each student will individually prepare a 4-5 page paper addressing an issue in their country that concerns what will be called the Diversity Paradox problem. Included in this paper will be a brief discussion of the relevant problems addressed in Sheri Tepper's novel, *Sideshow*. A guideline for this paper will be handed out in class.

**EXAMS:** Two examinations will be given during the semester: one mid-term exam and a final exam. The final will be given during the final exam period and it will be cumulative. Both exams will contain objective and subjective evaluation questions. Be prepared to write critical and thoughtful essays. The instructor reserves the right to give take-home examinations should the class performance warrant it. **NOTE: Students who have a cumulative grade of 92.5% or better for the semester going into the final do not have to take the final. Professor Condit will notify those students who become eligible for exempt from taking the final exam.**

**COMPUTER USE NOTICE:** This course will include a WEB site that each student is responsible for accessing on a regular basis. This is intended to facilitate communication between the instructor and the students and between students. Details about the course WEB site will be announced in class.

## **GRADING**

Students will be graded on a standard scale. Student work will be evaluated as follows:

Group Oral/written Reports	30%
Book Review	15%
Diversity Paradox Paper	15%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	20%

(Don't forget your potential bonus for excellent attendance!)

Students will be graded on a standard percentage curve. Where:

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = Below 60

## **COURSE READINGS**

There are 6 required readings for this course; 5 are available at Carriage House Bookstore and the sixth is a reading packet that is available at Uptown Copies.

### **Required Texts:**

- Beckman, Peter R., and Francine D'Amico, eds. 1994. *Women, Gender, and World Politics: Perspectives, Policies and Prospects*. Westport, CT: Bergin & Garvey.
- Peterson, V. Spike and Anne Sisson Runyan. 1999. *Global Gender Issues*. Westview.
- Steans, Jill. 1998. *Gender and International Relations*. Rutgers University Press.
- Tepper, Sheri. *Sideshow*.
- Walker, Alice. 1992. *Possessing the Secret of Joy*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.
- Reading Packet at Uptown Copies

### **ADDITIONAL READINGS:**

**The following are EXCELLENT sources of information about women and politics in a number of countries. They provide a great place for each group to start gathering information about the political status of women and the political structures of the countries they have chosen. They are, however, only a beginning for such research. They will be on reserve at the library.**

Dolling, Yolanda and Polly Cooper. *Who's Who of Women in World Politics*. Bowker Press, 1991.

Martin, M. *Almanac of Women and Minorities in World Politics*. Westview Press, 2000.

Nelson, Barbara J. & Najma Chowdhury. *Women and Politics Worldwide*. Yale University Press, 1994.

Tetreault, Mary Ann (ed). 1994. *Women and Revolution in Africa, Asia and the New World*, University of South Carolina Press. ISBN: 1-57003-016-2.

### **EACH STUDENT MUST USE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TEXTS FOR THEIR BOOK REVIEW.**

Adler, Leonore Loeb. 1991. *Women in Cross-Cultural Perspective*. Praeger.

Beckman, Peter (ed). 1994. *Women and, Gender & World Politics*. Greenwood Press.

Bystydzienski, Jill M. (ed) 1992. *Women Transforming Politics*. Indiana University Press.

- D'Amico, Francine and Peter R. Beckman, eds. 1995. *Women in World Politics*. Greenwood.
- Enloe, Cynthia. 1999. *Maneuvers*. University of CA Press.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1993. *The Morning After: Sexual Politics at the End of the Cold War*. Berkely, CA: U Cal P.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1989. *Bananas, Beaches & Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics*. U of CA P.
- Jabri, Vivienne and Eleanor O'Gorman. 1999. *Women, Culture and International Relations*. Lunne Rienner Publishers.
- Keck, Margaret E. and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. *Activists Beyond Borders*. Cornell University Press.
- Mohanty, Chandra T. and Jacqui Alexander. 1996. *Feminist Genealogies, Colonial Legacies and Democratic Futures*. Routledge.
- Mohanty, Chandra Talpade, Ann Russo and Lourdes Torres, eds. 1991. *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana UP.
- Nijeholt, Geertje A. and Saskia Wieringa. 1997. *Women's Movements & Public Policy in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean: the Triangle of Empowerment*. Garland Publishing.
- Robinson, Fiona. 1999. *Globilizing Care: Ethic, Feminist Theory and International Relations*. Westview Press.
- Sephocle, Marilyn. 2000. *Then, They Were Twelve: The Women of Washington's Embassy Row*. Greenwood Publishing Croup.
- Sylvester, Christine. 1994. *Feminist Theory and International Relations in a Postmodern Era*. Cambridge University Press.
- Tickner, J. Ann. 1992. *Gender in International Relations*. Columbia University Press.
- Vickers, Jeanne. 1993. *Women and War*. Zed Books.
- Whitworth, Sandra. 1994. *Feminism and International Relations*. Saint Martin Press.
- Women's Studies Quarterly, 1996. *Beijing and Beyond: Toward the twenty-first Century of Women*. Volume XXIV, Numbers 1 & 2.
- Turshen, Meredith and Briavel Holcomb. 1993. *Women's Lives and Public Policy: The International Experience*. Greenwood Publishing.

**CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

**PART I: TRADITIONAL INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND FEMINIST CRITIQUES**

- Class #1**      **TOPIC:** Introduction to course, small groups formed, etc. Foundations of feminist theory, international relations, and women and global politics.  
**READ:** Syllabus  
**NOTE:** Small groups formed.
- Class #2**      **TOPIC:** The Lens of Gender: Re-seeing; Re-thinking the Global Politics  
**READ:** P&R 1 & 2; B & A 8
- Class #3**      **TOPIC:** Reviewing and Re-interpreting Traditional IR Theories  
**READ:** B&A chapters 1 through 6; Steans 1-3  
**NOTE:** Small groups announce their country choices; present justification and memo explaining choice to instructor
- Class #4**      **TOPIC:** Continued from previous class  
**READ:** Steans 4-6
- Class #5**      **TOPIC:** Continued from previous class  
**READ:** Steans 7-10
- Class #6**      **Midterm Examination over Part I of course material**

**PART II: WOMEN AND COMPARATIVE GLOBAL POLITICS**

- Class #7**      **TOPICS:** The Status of Women around the World; Women Who Rule and Women in the Political Process  
**READ:** SP chapter 3, "Gendered Divisions of Power", Genovese chapter 9, "Women as National Leaders: What do we know?" (CP) Kelber, chapter 1, "Overview, From Ancient to Present Times" (CP), Saxonhouse in Barlick, et al, "Introduction -- Public and Private: The Paradigm's [sic] of Power" (CP), Holsti and Rosenau in D'Amico and Beckman, Chapter 8, "Gender and the Political Beliefs of American Opinion Leaders" (CP)  
**NOTE:** Small groups present short outline of condition and position of women in their country.
- Class #8**      **TOPIC:** Women's Alternative Political Movements: The UN, the Decades on Women and Beijing  
**READ:** SP Chapter 5, "The Politics of Resistance: Women as Nonstate, Antistate, and Transstate Actors", Bernard, Chapter 10, "A Drama in Three Acts" (CP), *Women's Studies Quarterly*, pp 141-172. Beijing Platform for Action; B & A chapter 9, "The United Nations and Women's Issues" (CP)
- Class #9**      **TOPIC:** Global and National Public Policies and Women: Development, Violence and questions of Political Economy  
**READ:** B&A chapter 10, "Women and Development", B&A chapter 11, Women and the International Political Economy", SP, chapter 4, "Gendered Divisions of Violence, Labor and Resources", Enloe, *Morning After*, chapter 4, "Bananas Militarized and Demilitarized" (CP), Enloe, *Bananas, Beaches and Bases*, Chapter 7, "Blue Jeans and Bankers" (CP) Bunch et al. in Tinker, chapter 5, "Feminist Perspectives on WID" (CP)

- Class #10**      **TOPIC:** Public Policies and the Body: Reproductive Politics  
**READ:** Kishwar **in** Corea, chapter 2, "The Continuing Deficit of Women in India and the Impact of Amniocentesis" (CP), G&R, chapter 2, "A Surfeit of Bodies", G&R, chapter 5, "Like a Mother to Them", G&R chapter 7 "Households Headed by Women", G&R chapter 13 "Political Demography", G&R chapter 16 "Public Servants, Professionals and Feminists"
- Class #11**      **TOPIC:** Body Politics cont. -- women's bodies as global commodities  
**READ:** Enloe, *The Morning After*, chapter 5, "It Takes More Than Two" (CP), Enloe, *Bananas, Beaches and Bases*, chapter 4, "Base Women" (CP), Enloe, *Bananas, Beaches and Bases* chapter 5, "Diplomatic Wives" (CP), Shin, chapter 7, "Industrial Prostitution and South Korean Dependent Development" (CP)
- Class #12**      **TOPIC:** Feminism and the Paradox of Cultural Diversity  
**READ:** *Possessing the Secret of Joy*, Lane and Rubinstein, "Judging the Other" (CP), Tepper, S. *Sideshow*  
**NOTE:** *Warrior Marks to be shown*
- Class #13**      **TOPIC:** Women and Global Politics and the future; Global Feminism?  
**READ:** SP 6, B&A Chapter 13, "If Men Are the Problem...", B&A Chapter 14, "Radical Feminism: Alternative Futures", Freidan, "Beyond Gender" (CP)
- Class #14**      **TOPIC:** Small Group Presentations and Review for Final Exam
- Class #15**      **TOPIC: FINAL EXAMINATION SCHEDULED FOR THE REGULAR CLASS PERIOD.**