

The Comparative Politics of Race, Ethnicity and Gender
Fall 2001
JC 120
M W 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.
Gov 228, WS 228, IDCE 228, RER 228

Professor Enloe

Office: JEF 418

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(emailing is **NOT** the way to converse about course questions, or to ask about deadlines or assignments. It is much better to come see me in office hours or right before/after class)

Office hours:

Monday 2:30 – 4:00 Gov. Dept., JEF 418

Thursday 9:00 – 10:30 Women's Studies Office, 1st. floor, Carriage House

In this course we will explore how men and women come to see themselves – and come to be seen by others – as belonging to particular ethnic groups and racialized groups. We will try to figure out when and why people come into conflict with each other in the name of ethnic loyalties and racialized interests. Women's and men's experiences of identities are often quite dissimilar – why? With what consequences? The use of public power and authority – politics – sometimes cause ethnic and/or racialized conflict – while other times they help stave off violence and help create new bases for community and cooperation. Why?

This semester we will delve into these crucial questions by looking closely at three cases:

- **Rwanda**
- **Yugoslavia/Kosovo**
- **The U.S. politics of domestic workers (esp. in LA and Boston)**

Assignments and grading

There is a LOT OF READING in this course. You can do it! Just be sure to keep up with your reading and attend class regularly.

Your course grade will be based, 50% - 50%, on 2 take-home essay exams. Both exams will call upon you to make very concrete use of the readings, your class notes, and your notes taken at the special Noon-time guest lectures.

The **Noon-time lecture series** takes place outside of our class meetings. Mark these dates on your calendar:

Wed, Sept. 26

Noon – Professor Kum-Kum Bhavnani – Grace Conference Room, U.C.

Mon., Oct 8

Noon – Carmelyn Malalis, Room to be announced

Thurs., Nov 1

Noon, Angela Raven-Roberts, Grace Conference Room, U.C.

Thurs., Nov. 29

Noon, Barbara Neely, Grace Conference room, U.C.

*All four talks are open to everyone – So bring your friends!

Required Readings

* Only the books with * here are BOTH on sale at the University Bookstore AND on 2 hour reserve in Goddard University Library

* Gerard Prunier, The Rwanda Crisis, Columbia Press.

* Human Rights Watch, Shattered Lives: Sexual Violence During the Genocide, Human Rights Watch.

* Julie Mertus, Kosovo: How Myths and Truths Started a War, California University Press.
Jasmina Tesanovic, The Diary of Political Idiot: Normal Life in Belgrade, Midnight Editions.

*Julie Mertux, War's Offensive on Women: The Humanitarian Challenge in Bosnia, Kosovo and Afghanistan, Kumarian Press.

Pierrette Hondagneu – Sotelo, Domestica, University of California Press.

Barbara Neely, Blanche Cleans Up, Penguin Books.

Also required:

Rwanda and Kosovo in the News – A Press Clippings Book

- **this will be sold only in class (approx. \$7.00)**

Schedule of Readings, Discussions and Assignments

Tues., Aug. 28 (a “Monday”)

Why “Race, Ethnicity and Gender”? Why “Politics”?

Start reading Prunier, cover – p. 40.

Wed., Aug. 29

Rwanda: An Exception?

Be ready to discuss: Prunier, cover – p. 40.

Mon., Sept 3 – LABOR DAY

Keep reading Prunier!

Wed., Sept. 5

Colonialism and the Creation of Ethnicities

Read: Prunier, pp. 41-126.

Week of Sept. 10 – 12

The Rwandan Genocide was Not Inevitable

Read: Prunier, pp. 127 – 280.

Sept. 17 – 19

Local Violence and the International Community

Read: Prunier, pp. 281 – END.

Video in class: “Valentina’s Nightmare”

Sept. 24 - 26

Where were Rwandan Women?

Read: Shattered Lives – ENTIRE

Remember: NOON, Wed Sept. 26 – Attend the special lecture by Professor Kum-Kum Bhavnani, on Women’s Grassroots Organizing. Grace Conference Room, U.C.

Oct. 1 – 3

Rwandans have politics even after the media (and we) turn away

Read: in “Rwanda & Kosovo in “The News” clippings book.

Oct. 8 – 10

The Politics of Memory (ies):

Yugoslavs, Slavs, Kosovar Albanians

Read: Mertus, Kosovo, cover – 95 AND “Appendix A”

Reminder – Mon., NOON – Guest Speaker Carmelyn Malalis – how to be a feminist activist against the international trafficking of women.

Oct. 15 – FALL BREAK

Keep reading Mertus!

Wed., Oct. 17

Decisions, Decisions

Read: Mertus, p.95-174 AND “Appendix B”.

Mid-term take-home exam question handed out in class.

Oct. 22-24

When does ethnicized distrust foment violence?

Read: Mertus, pp. 175 – END.

Oct. 29 – 31

Is international bombing the solution?

Read: Tesanovic, ENTIRE; AND – Clippings Book on Kosovo.

Reminder – THURS. NOON, Nov. 1

Attend guest lecture by Angela-Roven Roberts on “Sexism in International Humanitarian Aid Operations” – Grace Conference Room, U.C.

Nov. 5 – 7

Women, Men and Peacekeeping: Learning from Kosovo

Read: Mertus, War’s Offensive on Women, ENTIRE And: Clippings Book.

Nov. 12 – 14

The Gendered racialized politics of Cleaning American Kitchens.

Monday, Nov. 12 – your Midterm Exam is due in class.

Read: Hondagneu – Sotelo, cover – p. 60.

Monday, Nov. 19

Los Angeles politics: Where are the women? Where is the power?

Read: Hondagneu – Sotelo, pp. 61-170.

Wed., Nov 21 – THANKSGIVING Vacation

Keep reading Hondagneu – Sotel: pp. 170 – END.

Nov. 26-28

Fact and Fiction: A Black U.S. feminist mystery of power & housecleaning.

Read: Neely – cover – p. 194.

Wed., Nov 28 – FINAL take-home exam question handed out in class.

Reminder: Thurs., Nov. 29 – NOON

Barbara Neely, Black mystery writer, will speak-Grace Conference Room, U.C.

(bring your own copies of Blanche Cleans Up for her to sign!)

Dec. 3-5

What is political? The lessons from U.S. domestic workers.

Read: Neely, pp. 195-END.

Dec. 10 – Rwanda, Kosovo, US

What does comparison reveal about genderings of racial and ethnic politics?

Read: Clippings Book

Monday, Dec. 17 Your take-home final exams are due in the Government Department office (JEF 302) NO LATER THAN 4:00 P.M.