

Gender and Power in World Politics: A Narrative Approach

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Consultation by appointment only.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This unit explores the intersections between Gender and Global Studies. To do this we engage narrative texts—including auto-ethnography, autobiography, interview, art, literature, and film—in relation to both actual and perceived binaries in gender, power and world politics. In so doing we discuss how and why factors such as race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, wealth, bodies, embodiment, anthropocentrism, and violence contribute to the oppression of particular people and species in new and interesting ways. As with any unit there are aspects of the literature that are necessarily omitted from both the topic and texts lists. Students are therefore strongly encouraged—indeed expected—to intrude additional and/or alternative issues and insights into classroom throughout the semester to further enrich our understanding of gender and power in world politics.

TOPIC LIST

The following topic and text list is structured according to topics clustered in pairs. These pairs are not solely either/or binaries (e.g. self/other), but often draw our attention to what are arguably variously intersecting (e.g. bodies/biosphere), complementary (e.g. war/peace), or problematic (e.g. women/nature) factors and ideas. Each week is assigned a single narrative text, in the tradition of “writing the self” which has been prominent in Women, Gender, and Queer Studies for several decades, but which has only more recently been mainstreamed in (Global) Narrative Politics. Given the idiosyncratic and experimental online format of this course, please provide space and time so as to respect and listen to others, as well as ourselves.

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Week 1: Self/Other

Text: Rich (1977)

Week 2: Self/Other

Text: Stryker (1994)

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Week 3: Rights/Duties

Text: Truth (1851)

Week 4: Rights/Duties

Text: Lorde (1984)

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Week 5: Bodies/Biosphere

Text: Hwang (1989)

Week 6: Bodies/Biosphere

Text: Durban-Albrecht (2017)

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Week 7: (Hu)man/Nature

Text: Miyazaki (1997)

Week 8: (Hu)man/Nature

Text: Plumwood (1999)

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Week 9: War/Peace

Text: Cohn (1987)

Week 10: War/Peace

Text: Enloe (2014)

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Week 11: Care/Harm

Text: Mol (2008)

Week 12: Care/Harm

Text: Brison (2011)

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ASSESSMENT TASKS

Assessment Task 1: Reflective Journal (35%)

Students are to write and share their insights and understandings at least once weekly in the form of a “reflective journal”. Each topic pair is assigned a single space for you to add your reflections on Moodle.

Students are expected to include analysis of the set texts, as well as additional research in the form of scholarly essays, films, news reports, and so on that you deem interesting and important.

No more than 50 words is expected each week. Please note you can write more or less than this if and when necessary, although only 50 words on average is expected.

Assessment criteria: Students will be assessed for how well they: (1) Analyse the set texts alongside texts from their own research (e.g. introducing a film or artwork that explores a complementary or supplementary ideas); (2) Consider the different aspects or complexity of the topic (e.g. the problems of feminising nature as “mother nature”); and (3) Present that arguments and evidence that they have compiled and developed in a clear and convincing manner.

How to submit: There is a link for each topic pair in Moodle labelled “Reflective Journal”.

Assessment Task 2: Annotated Bibliography + Plan (10%) + Essay (30%)

The Annotated Bibliography and Essay may be viewed as a single, major, research project that students will work on throughout the semester on a topic of their choosing in consultation with the lecturer. You are strongly recommended to select one (1) of the topics, although you are welcome to examine one of your choosing.

The key elements of the assessment are as follows:

- The Annotated Bibliography is due in Week 5, by midnight on the Monday. It is to be no more than one page and is to include commentary on between five to ten references. This commentary may take the form of a handful of bullet points on each reference, and include such information as: (1) the key argument/s being made or evidence supplied by the author; (2) the relevance to the topic you are addressing; and (3) what makes this article interesting and important for your chosen topic.
- A one-page plan of your essay—including a question—to be submitted sometime in Week 7 for discussion with your peers and lecturer; and
- The Essay will be 2,500 words and submitted in Week 10.

Further details on the assessment will be provided in Moodle to discuss as a larger group.

Assessment criteria: Students will be assessed for how well they: (1) Identify and interpret the major elements of gender and power in world politics; (2) Consider the social, political, and cultural complexity of the topic chosen; and (3) Present that arguments and evidence that they have compiled and developed in a clear and convincing manner.

How to submit: Send an email marked “SUBMISSION: annotated bibliography” to your lecturer.

Assessment Task 3: Online Test (25%)

Length and/or format: 2 hours, with both long-form essays and shorter answer questions. Open-book.

Purpose: To demonstrate students' understanding of the topics covered during the unit.

How to submit: This will be an open-book exam, and will take place during the designated university examination period.

Assessment criteria: Students will be assessed for how well they: (1) respond to the tasks and questions set, rather than the task or question they had prepared for; (2) display a breadth of knowledge and sensitivity on the different aspects, theories and perspectives on the given topic or issue; and (3) present that information and arguments in a clear and convincing manner.

Due date: TBA (during the university examination period).