

## Syllabus: Conf. 723 ~ Conflict and Gender

Fall 2007: Tuesdays, 1:30-4:10 pm  
Truland Building Room 666B  
Sandra Cheldelin, Professor  
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### Introduction

In this course we will consider gender as a powerful idea that shapes the way we see others and others see us. Social and cultural conceptions of gender – at home and around the world – has led to significant disparities in economic status, education, health, legal rights and other cultural indices of success. It has been used to justify such violence as sexual and physical abuse, rape, mutilation, imprisonment and killing. We will consider many implications of the social construction of gender including the way language both shapes and reflects gendered attitudes, behaviors, expectations, and norms. We will examine our own relationships to gender at the micro, meso and macro levels including individual, interactional and structural analyses. Themes of power, performance and privilege – and their implications – will be woven throughout the course.

### Course Requirements, Assignments and Required Readings

1. **This course will be conducted as a learning community seminar.** Each week we will discuss, as a group, the assigned readings, exploring the implications for the field of conflict analysis and resolution. Some weeks we will integrate field research results from class assignments. Along with class attendance, students are expected to participate fully in all discussions and complete all weekly required readings in preparation for class. Throughout the course there will be various learning experiences. Mediums will include videos, lectures, role-plays, class exercises and discussions. Students will also be asked to conduct interviews on various themes – from family, friends, and “experts” in the field throughout the semester. Results of the interviews will be discussed with the readings. (20%)
2. **Students will select one topic and conduct in-depth research.** Within the following six themes, students will pursue at greater depth – with no more than two other colleagues – current and engaging research and present their findings to the class on the date(s) indicated below.

- Gender and sexuality: the marketplace (9.25.07)
- Gender and the law (10.02.07)
- Gender and health (10.09.07)
- Gender and conflict in groups, organizations and work (10.16.07)
- Gender and violence – domestic and international conditions of war (10.23.07, terrorism and small arms 10.30.07, and globalization, 11.06.07)
- Prevention, resolution, post-war construction (11.13.07)

Students will present your research on the day that topic is proposed in the syllabus. The specifics of the requirements for presentations will be discussed in class. The paper for your presentation is due one week prior to your presentation (but the final copy will be accepted no later than the day of your presentation). Creativity is encouraged! (30%)

3. Drawing on all class discussions, readings, presentations and other activities, teams of **students will develop their own theory of gender and conflict** and present their theory as a capstone product. Students should be able to clearly articulate existing theory, research and practice from which their proposed theory is built. Additionally, students should explain the contribution their theory makes to current understanding of gender and conflict and its implications for constructive change. Students are required to submit a hard copy of their presentation scripts, materials, notes, etc. at the time of their presentation. (30%)
4. **The following books are required** and available in the Arlington campus bookstore.

- Chesler, Phyllis (2001) *Woman's inhumanity to woman* New York: Thunder's Mountain Press/Nation Books
- Crawford, Mary (1995) *Talking difference: on gender and language*. Sage: Thousand Oaks
- Nafisi, Azar (2003) *Reading Lolita in Tehran* New York: Random House.
- Anonymous (2005) *A Woman in Berlin: eight weeks in the conquered city: a diary*. New York: Henry Holt

In addition to the required books, there is a collection of articles, chapters and suggested other books for you to consider as you develop your presentations and papers. Be sure to read and be prepared to discuss those that are *required* the week the topic will be considered in class. The week-by-week schedule, below, includes all required readings from the collection of articles and books. I have also included a list of suggested readings, particularly for students who want to pursue particular themes or topics. (20%)

## Electronic Reserves

Adobe Acrobat must be installed on your computer to view and print some E-Reserves Readings. E-Reserves permits students to access Course Readings remotely from home or office, and allows students to view and print materials using Adobe Acrobat Reader. All users of the E-Reserves must comply with the University Policy and Copy Right Law (Title 17, United States Code)

### Accessing E-Reserves:

1. Go to <http://oscr.gmu.edu>
2. Click on the magnifying glass (Search electronic reserves)
3. Using the drop-down boxes, select the course [Conf 723-001] and instructor [Cheldelin]
  - a. The section and faculty are opposite of what is on the schedule
  - b. Be sure it says "Fall 2007"
4. Enter in the password (**women**) and click submit to view the item
5. To view and print an article click on the small PDF button or the Link button if available

If you experience problems with an electronic reserve item or need additional help please contact the E-Reserves Coordinator at 993-9043. If you need additional assistance please e-mail [ereserves@gmu.edu](mailto:ereserves@gmu.edu).

## Articles and Chapters Available on E-Reserve

Agger, *The blue room. Trauma and testimony among refugee women: a psycho-social exploration* Chapter 1 *In the Blue Room* (pp 1-19) and Chapter 2 *The Daughter's Room* (pp 20-39) New Jersey and London: Zed Books, Ltd.

Allen, Stuart (1995) Chapter 7, *(En)gendering the truth politics of news discourse* in C. Cortes, G. Branston and S. Allen (Eds.) *News, gender and power*, New York: Routledge

Ashwini Tanabej (2000) *The globalization syndrome: transformation and resistance*, Chapter 4, *Global poverty and gender*, (pp. 74-89)

Barrett, Michele, (1999) "The concept of 'difference'" In *Imagination in theory, culture, writing, words and things*. New York: New York University Press (pp 111-123)

Bloom, M.M. (2001) *War and the politics of rape: ethnic versus non-ethnic conflicts*, unpublished paper; shorter version appears in December 2001-January 2002 *International Peace Review*.

Bouta, T., Frerks, G. and Bannon, I. (2005) *Gender-based and sexual violence: a multidimensional approach*, chapter 3 in *Gender, conflict and development*. Washington, D.C.: the World Bank Press (pp. 33-48)

Bouta, T., Frerks, G. and Bannon, I. (2005) *Further analysis on gender, conflict, and development*, chapter 11 in *Gender, conflict and development*. Washington, D.C.: the World Bank Press (pp 145-153)

Brooks, T. and Bronstein, P. (1996 March) *Cross-cultural comparison of mothers' and fathers' behaviors toward girls and boys*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence. Boston.

Cheldelin, Sandra (2006) *Gender and violence: redefining the moral ground* (Chapter 11) in *Identity, morality and threat: studies in violent conflict*, D. Rothbart and K. Korostelina, eds., New York: Lexington Books

Chodorow, Nancy. (1974) "Family structure and feminine personality." In M. S. Rosaldo and L. Lamphere (Eds.) *Women, culture, and society*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press (pp 43-66).

Cole, Constance H. (2005) *Microfinance and women's physical welfare in poor states*. Paper read at the 46<sup>th</sup> International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii. [FD 08]

Connell, R. W. (1995). "Masculinities" In *Gender and Power*, Berkeley: University of California Press (p 8-21)

Connell, R.W. (2002) "Studying men and masculinity" in *Resources for feminist research*, Winter, vol 29, Issue 1/2, p. 43

Cunningham, Karla J. (2003) "Cross-Regional Trends in Female Terrorism" In *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, 26, (pp 171-195)

Denmark, F. (1993). "Women, leadership and empowerment" in *Psychology of women quarterly*, 17 (pp 343-356)

Felson, Richard B. (2003) *Violence and Gender Reexamined*, Chapters 1, "Introduction", and 2, "A Theory of Instrumental Aggression" (pp. 1-28)

Fletcher, Joyce K. (2001) *Disappearing acts: Gender and power at work*, Chapter 5 in : *Gender, power, and relational practice at work*, Cambridge: MIT Press, (pp 89-112)

Gray, B. (1994). "The gender-based foundations of negotiation theory" from *Research on negotiations in organizations*. Vol. 4 JAI Press, Ltd.

Harvard Business Review *Debate*, (1991) "Ways men and women lead" interviews pp 150-160, January-February.

Hoogensen, Gunhild (2005) *Gender and human security: transcending the North/South divide*. Paper read at the 46<sup>th</sup> International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii. [SB 28]

Kolb, D. and Putnam, L.L. (1994) *Through the looking glass: negotiation theory refracted through the lens of gender*. Unpublished paper.

Korabik, Karen (1990) "Androgyny and leadership style" in *Journal of Business Ethics*.

Lukić, Jasmina (2000) "Media representations of men and women in times of war and crisis: the case of Serbia" Chapter 14 in Gal, S. and Kigman, G. *Reproducing gender: politics, publics and everyday life after socialism*. Princeton University Press, pp. 393-419.

Mawhinney, Emily B. (2005). *Eyewitness to gendercide: a critical feminist analysis of rape as a tool of war in Bosnia and Rwanda*. Paper read at the 46<sup>th</sup> International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Mead, Margaret. (1974) "On Freud's view of female psychology." In J. Strouse (Ed.) *Women & analysis: Dialogues on psychoanalytic views of femininity* (pp 95-106). New York: Grossman.

Minow, Martha (1998) *Vengeance and forgiveness*, Chapter 2 in *Between vengeance and forgiveness*, Boston: Beacon Press (pp. 9-24)

Stinson, Kate (2005) *Freedom fighters: women terrorists and the battle for female liberation*. Paper read at the 46<sup>th</sup> International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii. SB 20

Swiss, S. and Giller, J.E. (1993) "Rape as Crime of War" *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 270.5 (August 4): pp. 612-615

True, Jacqui (2005) *Gender mainstreaming and regional trade organization*. Paper read at the 46<sup>th</sup> International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii. [SD 18]

Whitworth, Sandra (2005) *Gender and globalized violence*. Paper read at the 46<sup>th</sup> International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii. [TA 25]

## Weekly Class Schedule

### THEME 1: PROLOGUE IMAGES OF GENDER & THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIONIST DEBATE

**Week 1:**                    **8.28.07**                    ~ **introductions** ~

**Topics:**

Introduction to gender and conflict: power, performance and privilege  
Overview of course and syllabus  
Presentation and discussion of gender and conflict graphic  
Discussion of student presentation topics  
Gender lifelines

**Week 2:**                    **9.04.07**                    ~ **social constructionism and language** ~

**Topics:**

Social constructionist debate – nature vs. nurture  
Gender as difference  
Gender and language  
Gender lifelines  
Finalize student presentation schedule

**Readings** (please read *prior to attending class* and be prepared to discuss):

- Connell, R. W. (1995). "Masculinities" In *Gender and Power*, Berkeley: University of California Press (p 8-21) (e-reserve)
- Connell, R.W. (2002) "Studying men and masculinity" in *Resources for feminist research*, Winter, vol 29, Issue 1/2, p. 43
- Crawford, Chapters 1 & 2 (Talking across the gender gap; Search for a woman's language)

**Week 3:**                    **9.11.07**                    ~ **gender and sexism** ~

**Topics:**

Gender and language  
Living with gender and sexism

**[Discussion of assignment: conduct gender interview with family member; be prepared to report Week 4]**

**Readings:**

- Barrett, Michele, (1999) "The concept of 'difference'" In *Imagination in theory, culture, writing, words and things*. New York: New York University Press (pp 111-123) (e-reserve)
- Chesler, Chapter 3 (Woman's sexism)
- Crawford, Chapters 3 and 4 (assertiveness training; sex and culture)

- Felson, Richard B. (2003) *Violence and Gender Reexamined*, Chapters 1, “Introduction”, and 2, “A Theory of Instrumental Aggression” (pp. 1-28) (e-reserve)

**THEME 2:  
GENDER AND THE FAMILY AND RELATIONSHIPS**

**Week 4:            9.18.07            ~ psychological development of gender ~**

**Topics:**

Report results of family gender interviews  
Psychoanalytic theories of gender  
Gender and sexual identity  
Role of schools in gender construction  
Relationship aggression  
Issues across cultures

**Required Readings:**

- Chodorow, Nancy. (1974) “Family structure and feminine personality.” In M. S. Rosaldo and L. Lamphere (Eds.) *Women, culture, and society*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press (pp 43-66). (e-reserve)
- Mead, Margaret. (1974) “On Freud’s view of female psychology.” In J. Strouse (Ed.) *Women & analysis: Dialogues on psychoanalytic views of femininity* (pp 95-106). New York: Grossman. (e-reserve)
- Brooks, T. and Bronstein, P. (1996 March) *Cross-cultural comparison of mothers’ and fathers’ behaviors toward girls and boys*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence. Boston. (e-reserve)
- Chesler, Chapter 2, 5, 6 and 7 (Indirect aggression, psychoanalytic views, ‘good-enough’ mothers and daughters and sisters and best friends)

**[Discussion of assignment: be prepared to identify issues of gender and conflict in literature, media, movies or plays; report on Week 5]**

**Student presentation: Helen Hagos**

**THEME 3:  
GENDER AND SEXUALITY – THE MARKETPLACE**

**Week 5:            9.25.07            ~ gender in the media and arts ~**

**Topics:**

Media, literature, film, television  
Report examples of gender and conflict in news, media, literature, arts

**Required Readings:**

- Allen, Stuart (1995) Chapter 7, *(En)gendering the truth politics of news discourse* in C. Cortes, G. Branston and S. Allen (Eds.) News, Gender and Power, New York: Routledge (e-reserve)
- Chesler, Chapter 4 (mother-daughter in fairy tales and myths)
- Nafisi, *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, (please have read entire book)
- Tannen, Deborah (1998) *The argument culture: moving from debate to dialogue*, New York: Random House Chapters 2 and 3

**Student Presentation: Manar Fawakhry**

**THEME 4:  
GENDER AND THE LAW**

**Week 6: 10.02.07 ~ gender and the law ~**

**Topics:**

Law and gender  
Women's rights

**Required Readings**

- Minow, Martha (1998) *Vengeance and forgiveness*, Chapter 2 in *Between Vengeance and forgiveness*, Boston: Beacon Press (pp. 9-24)
- Nafisi, Azar (2003) *Reading Lolita in Tehran* New York: Random House.
- Swiss, S. and Giller, J.E. (1993) "Rape as Crime of War" *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 270.5 (August 4): pp. 612-615

**Student Presentation: Michelle Morgan**

**Week 7: 10.09.07 ~ no class; Monday classes meet on Tuesday ~**

**THEME 5:  
GENDER AND HEALTH**

**Week 8: 10.16.07 ~ gender and health ~**

**Topics:**

Who am I?  
Who gets to say?  
Epidemiology

**Required Readings:**

- Agger, *The blue room. Trauma and testimony among refugee women: a psycho-social exploration* Chapter 1 "In the Blue Room" (pp 1-19) and Chapter 2

“The Daughter’s Room” (pp 20-39) New Jersey and London: Zed Books, Ltd.

- Bouta, T., Frerks, G. and Bannon, I. (2005) *Gender-based and sexual violence: a multidimensional approach*, chapter 3 in *Gender, conflict and development*. Washington, D.C.: the World Bank Press

**Student Presentation: Carolyn Taylor and Saira Yamin**

**THEME 6:**

**GENDER AND CONFLICT -GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS AND WORK**

**Week 9:        10.23.07        ~ gender and leadership ~**

**Topics:**

Gender and leadership

Impact of ideology

Gender and conflict in groups and organizations

**Required Readings:**

- Denmark, F. (1993). “Women, leadership and empowerment” in *Psychology of women quarterly*, 17 (pp 343-356)
- Fletcher, Joyce K. (2001) *Disappearing acts: Gender and power at work*, Chapter 5 in : *Gender, power, and relational practice at work*, Cambridge: MIT Press, (pp 89-112)
- Gray, B. (1994). “The gender-based foundations of negotiation theory” from *Research on negotiations in organizations*. Vol. 4 JAI Press, Ltd.
- Harvard Business Review *Debate*, (1991) “Ways men and women lead” interviews pp 150-160, January-February.
- Kolb, D. and Putnam, L.L. (1994) *Through the looking glass: negotiation theory refracted through the lens of gender*. Unpublished paper.
- Korabik, Karen (1990) “Androgyny and leadership style” in *Journal of Business Ethics*.
- Stinson, Kate (2005) *Freedom fighters: women terrorists and the battle for female liberation*. Paper read at the 46<sup>th</sup> International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii. SB 20 (e-reserve)

**Student Presentation:**

**THEME 7:  
GENDER AND VIOLENCE – DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL  
CONDITIONS OF WAR**

**Week 10:      10.30.07                      ~ war and violence ~**

**Topics:**

War and violence  
Victims of war  
Rape and genocide

**Required Readings:**

- Anonymous (2005) *A Woman in Berlin* (all)
- Bloom, M.M. (2001) "War and the politics of rape: ethnic versus non-ethnic conflicts" unpublished paper; shorter version appears in December 2001-January 2002 *International Peace Review*.
- Mawhinney, Emily B. (2005). *Eyewitness to gendercide: a critical feminist analysis of rape as a tool of war in Bosnia and Rwanda*. Paper read at the 46<sup>th</sup> International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii. (e-reserve)

**Student Presentation: Becca Ripley and Sanya Younossi**

**Week 11:      11.06.07                      ~ war and violence: small arms in conflict; terrorism ~**

**Topics:**

Small arms  
Case studies  
Terrorist activities

**Required Reading:**

- Cunningham, Karla J. (2003) "Cross-Regional Trends in Female Terrorism" In *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, 26, (pp 171-195) (e-reserve)

**Student Presentation:**

**THEME 8:  
GLOBALIZATION, PREVENTION, RESOLUTION, POST-WAR CONSTRUCTION**

**Week 12:      11.13.07                      ~ globalization, prevention and post-war activities ~**

**Topics:**

Globalization  
Humanitarian work

## Prevention

### Required Readings:

- Ashwini Tanabej (2000) *The Globalization Syndrome: Transformation and Resistance*, Chapter 4, "Global Poverty and Gender, (pp. 74-89) (e-reserve)
- Cole, Constance H. (2005) *Microfinance and women's physical welfare in poor states*. Paper read at the 46<sup>th</sup> International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii. [FD 08] (e-reserve)
- Hoogensen, Gunhild (2005) *Gender and human security: transcending the North/South divide*. Paper read at the 46<sup>th</sup> International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii. [SB 28] (e-reserve)
- True, Jacqui (2005) *Gender mainstreaming and regional trade organization*. Paper read at the 46<sup>th</sup> International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii. [SD 18] (e-reserve)
- Whitworth, Sandra (2005) *Gender and globalized violence*. Paper read at the 46<sup>th</sup> International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii. [TA 25](e-reserve)

### Students Presentation: Lindsey Jones

Week 13: 11.22.06 ~ Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class ~

Week 14 11.27.07 ~ No Class: I am in India ~

Week 15: 12.04.07 (begins at 11:00 am) ~ Presentation of Conflict and Gender Theories ~

#### Topics:

Post-war construction

Peace-building

Mainstreaming

Capstone: towards a theory of gender-based conflict analysis and resolution

Evaluation

Celebration

### Required Readings:

- Cheldelin, Sandra (2006) *Gender and violence: redefining the moral ground* (Chapter 11) in *Identity, morality and threat: studies in violent conflict*, D. Rothbart and K. Korostelina, eds., New York: Lexington Books (e-reserve)

### Student Presentation: Pavithra Banavar; all students on Theory of Conflict and Gender