
WOMEN, CONFLICT RES., & INTERNAT'L LAW in Fall 2020 (PO4091)

Course Code	PO4091	Professor(s)	Susan Perry
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-L18
Class Schedule	F: 16:20-17:55 in C-104 T: 10:50-12:25 in C-104	Office Hours	By appointment on Teams this semester.
Credits	4	Email	sperry@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2020	Office Tel. Ext.	588

Course Description

Course summary:

Conflict resolution addresses two very different sets of circumstances: societies at war and societies that, at first glance, appear to be at peace. International attention tends to focus on the former, where violence is militarized and regional or international actors are called upon to mediate, and sometimes intervene to end the conflict. Yet not all conflicts are hot; low-grade civil conflict may have an equally pernicious effect in stable societies whose vulnerable populations are at risk on a daily basis. This course examines the impact of both overtly violent and long-term, low-grade civil conflict on women. Traditionally viewed as weaker members of society, women suffer from forms of violence ranging from trafficking in human beings to domestic beatings, from forced marriage to prostitution. These individualized, intimate forms of violence sap the strength and adaptability of any society, as the community is unable to benefit from the full contribution of all members. Endemic poverty, lack of infrastructure, and susceptibility to disease characterize those pockets of the population exposed to low-grade civil conflict. In some cases, the entire female population is at risk, reducing the possibility for a nation state to compete effectively in the global arena.

This course will examine the existing international legal framework for the protection of women's rights and contrast the law with the nearly universal perception that the world of women is a private sphere, one where laws made in the public realm have less weight, or are more difficult to implement due to lack of witnesses, or worse, community acceptance of certain types of gender-based violence. But, civil society activists are making progress across the globe in combating insufficient implementation of women's rights. This course will explore their remarkably innovative strategies to achieve conflict resolution and the protection of women in challenging circumstances. Special attention will be focused on women's rights with respect to the Covid-19 Pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement.

In addition to lectures and discussion, please note that considerable creative thinking is required for this course. The professor is interested not only in what the reading says on a specific subject, but also what new insights students can bring to their research topics. Students will be asked to draft and submit briefs to the UN treaty body committees in response to calls for commentary on subjects related to the course.

Course Learning Outcomes

General Education

Course Outline

Course Outline:

Week One Course Introduction – IHRL, IHL & ICL through a gendered lens

9/25

Reading:

- EU General Data Protection Regulation (GPDR 2018)
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR 1948)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR 1976)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR 1976)
- Eleanor Roosevelt (1948) 'The Promise of Human Rights' in *Foreign Affairs*.
- HANNUM (2020) 'Reinvigorating Human Rights for the Twenty-First Century' in Akande *et al.*(eds.) *Human Rights and 21st Century Challenges*. Oxford University Press. Ch. 1.

Week Two Transnational women's networks: combatting Covid-19

9/29-10/2

Part One: History of transnational advocacy and CEDAW

Part Two: Violence against women under lockdown

Reading:

- Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW 1981)
- PATTEN (2018) 'Unlocking the Potential of CEDAW as an Important Accountability Tool for the Women, Peace and Security Agenda' in Aoláin *et al.* (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Gender and Conflict*. Oxford University Press.
- Cynthia ENLOE (2014, 2d ed.) *Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics*. Univ. of California Press. Ch. 1.
- Melinda GATES (2020) The Pandemic's Toll on Women: COVID-19 Is Gender-Blind, But Not Gender-Neutral, *Foreign Affairs*, September-October.

Optional reading:

- Perry (2001) "Between a Rock and a Hard Place: 'Women's Organizations in China' in Perry and Schenck (eds.) *Eye to Eye: Women Practicing Development Across Cultures*, London: ZedBooks.
- Keck & Sikkink, (1998) *Activists Beyond Borders*. New York: Cornell University Press, Ch. 1.
- See: https://www.lemonde.fr/societe/article/2019/03/09/en-france-le-nombre-des-feminicides-ne-flechit-pas_5433647_3224.html

Week Three Intersectional discrimination and international law

10/6-9

Part One: Intersectional discrimination and the UNHRC (individuals)

Part Two: Gendered intersectional discrimination and the ICJ (States)

Reading:

- Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD 1969)
- Statute of the International Court of Justice (1948)
- Shreya ATREY (2019) *Intersectional Discrimination*. Oxford University Press. Ch. 1.
 - ROONEY (2018) 'Intersectionality: Working in Conflict' in Aoláin *et al.* (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Gender and Conflict*. Oxford University Press.
- Ekaterina KRIVENKO (2017) 'The ICJ and Jus Cogens through the Lens of Feminist

Week Four Trafficking in Women and Children

10/13-16

Part One: Protection during peacekeeping operations

Part Two: Impact of environmental degradation on women and girls

Reading:

- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC 1989)
- Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child pornography and child prostitution (2002)
 - VANDENBERG (2018) 'Peacekeeping, Human Trafficking, and Sexual Abuse and Exploitation' in Aoláin *et al.*, (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Gender and Conflict*. Oxford University Press.
- MCKINNEY & KING (2019) 'Women and Climate Change' in Zaleski *et al.* (eds.), *Women's Journey of Empowerment in the 21st Century: a transnational feminist analysis of women's lives in modern times*. Oxford University Press.

Week Five Honor Killings

10/20-23

Part One: Rethinking Honor Codes (+ VHA tutorial)

Part Two: Pakistan case study

Reading:

- Convention Against Torture (CAT 1984)
- AHMED (2019) 'The Honor Killing of Qandeel Baloch' in Zaleski *et al.* (eds.) *Women's Journey of Empowerment in the 21st Century: a transnational feminist analysis of women's lives in modern times*. Oxford University Press.

Optional reading:

- Anthony Kwame APPIAH (2011) *The Honor Code: how moral revolutions happen*. Ch. 4 (on Blackboard).

In-class workshop with Constance de Paris on using the Visual History Archive on Tuesday, October 20. Prepare VHA midterm assignment, **due November 3**.

Week Six Women and International Justice

10/27-30

Part One: International humanitarian law + international criminal justice

Part Two: Reproductive genocide

Reading:

- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1951)
- The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (2000)
- Patricia Viseur SELLERS (2018) '(Re)Considering Gender Jurisprudence' in Aoláin et al.(eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Gender and Conflict*. Oxford University Press.

Optional reading:

- The Prosecutor v. Jean-Paul AKAYESU, Judgment, 2001 (on Blackboard).

Week Seven Impact of war crimes on women

11/3-6

Part One: The gendered impact of war

Part Two: SAFE standards in war

Reading:

- OATMAN & MAJEWSKI (2019) 'Rape as a Weapon of War in Myanmar/Burma' in Zaleski et al.(eds.) *Women's Journey of Empowerment in the 21st Century: a transnational feminist analysis of women's lives in modern times*. Oxford University Press.
- NG & BETANCOURT (2018) 'Risk and Resilience: The Physical and Mental Health of Female Civilians during War' in Aoláin et al.(eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Gender and Conflict*. Oxford University Press.

Visual History Archive due November 3.

Week Eight Bordered identities: asylum seekers versus migrants

11/10

Part One: Convention on Refugees - female *refoulement*

Reading:

- Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951)
- Judgments - Islam (A.P.) v. Secretary of State for the Home Department Regina v. Immigration Appeal Tribunal and Another Ex Parte **Shah**(A.P.) (Conjoined Appeals), UK House of Lords, 1979 (on Blackboard).

UN submissions for CRC on children and digital technology, due **November 15.**

Week Nine Specific vulnerabilities of female migrants

11/17-20

Part One: Child marriage in Syria (guest speaker Anna Chapman)

Part Two: Female refugees in Europe

Reading:

- OOSTERVELD (2018) 'Forced Marriage during Conflict and Mass Atrocity' in Aoláin et al.(eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Gender and Conflict*. Oxford University Press.
- ANDERSON & VAN EE (2019) 'Refugee Mothers Raising Children Born of Sexual Violence in Dutch Society' in Zaleski et al.(eds.) *Women's Journey of Empowerment in the 21st Century: a transnational feminist analysis of women's lives in modern times*. Oxford University Press.
- WAHI-SINGH & ZALESKI (2019) Child Marriage in the United States in Zaleski et al.(eds.) *Women's Journey of Empowerment in the 21st Century: a transnational feminist analysis of women's lives in modern times*. Oxford University Press.

In-class workshop with Nicole Santiago on drafting a CEDAW complaint, Tuesday, November 17. Final complaint due **December 11**.

Week Ten Female Genital Cutting – intersectionality of rights

11/24-27

Part One: FGC and the European Convention on Human Rights

Part One: Tostan and the building of a human rights culture

Reading:

- European Convention on Human Rights (1953)
- MACKIE (2018) 'Social Norms Change: Believing Makes It So' in *Social Research*, Vol. 85, No. 1, pp. 141-166.

Optional reading:

- Perry & Schenck (2000) *Eye to Eye*. Zed Books. Ch. 4.
- Appiah, Anthony Kwame APPIAH (2011) *The Honor Code: how moral revolutions*

happen. Ch. 1.

Week Eleven Gender and Environmental Hazards – hard v. soft law

12/1-4

Part One: Reproductive rights and big business

Part Two: The case of cosmetics, *Males en peril*

Reading:

- EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (2012), articles 3, 9, 37.
- BRAUN & TRAORE (2015) 'Plastic bags, Pollution, and Identity: women and the gendering of globalization and environmental Responsibility in Mali' in *Gender & Society*. Vol. 29, No. 6, pp. 863–887.

Optional viewing:

- Rachel Carson at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SeJNRaE11A0>

Week Twelve Gendered Technological Impacts – reinventing existing law

12/8-11

Part One: Equal access, equal use

Part Two: Is online activism gendered?

Reading:

- Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (1979)

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- PERRY & RODA (2017) *Digital Tightrope*. Palgrave, Ch. 3.

Optional reading:

- KLEIN & ZALESKI (2019) 'Non-Consensual Image Sharing' in Zaleski et al.(eds.) *Women's Journey of Empowerment in the 21st Century: a transnational feminist analysis of women's lives in modern times*. Oxford University Press.

Final CEDAW complaint December 11.

Week 13 Gendered Conflict in France

Exam period Slide by slide discussion of all class topics as they pertain to France - innovation, progress and lost ground.

"Je remonte de siècle en siècle jusqu'à l'Antiquité la plus reculée; je n'aperçois rien qui ressemble à ce qui est sous mes yeux. Le passé n'éclairant plus l'avenir, l'esprit marche dans les ténèbres."

Alexandre de Tocqueville (1835) *De la démocratie en Amérique*.

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

University's Covid-19 temporary amendments:

“Students studying at The American University of Paris are STILL EXPECTED TO ATTEND ALL scheduled classes. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students will have the option of attending classes remotely when special circumstances apply. For example, when students are placed under quarantine by the French authorities or by their doctor, or when students present symptoms of Covid-19 and are directed, by their doctor or the AUP Health Office, to remain home. It is still the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that their professor might have set in the course syllabus. In particular, Students attending remotely from distant Time Zones should check with their professors about the specific attendance policy for remote learners.”

Professor's Attendance Policy:

Barring death, hospitalization, or a note from the Dean, one absence (in-class or online) per semester will be permitted. If you have Covid or are in quarantine, please attend required course sessions online, or download the recorded sessions. If we are temporarily shut-down, then we will all simply move online. ?

Further full or half class absences will be penalized by 2 percentage points per absence. For example, if a student is absent twice during the semester, a final grade of 80 (B-) will be reduced to 78 (C+).

Chronic lateness will be penalized at the professor's discretion.

Required attendance for assigned guest lectures.

Grading Policy

Grading System:

In addition to the required reading, students will be expected to prepare (for) the following:

In-class discussion and submitted questions (10%).

Visual History Archives Analysis (30%). Each student will select one testimony from the VHA and prepare an analysis of core crimes from the assigned worksheet. Due **November 3**.

UN submissions for the AUP Working Group on Human Rights(20%). Students will have the opportunity, alone or in small groups, to organize and build the AUP Working Group on Human Rights (with support from the Civic Media Lab), and/or file one or more submissions to the CRC in response to the call on children and digital technology, due **November 15**at:

(<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/GCChildrensRightsRelationDigitalEnvironment.aspx>). Other submission initiatives are welcome.

CEDAW Complaint (40%). Following an in-class workshop on how to write a human rights complaint for review by a UN treaty body committee, students will render a 10-page complaint to CEDAW that demonstrates clear mastery of a specific subject related to gender that is covered by the human rights treaty system, particularly CEDAW. Due **December 11**. No complaint will be accepted without a printed copy of a Safe Assign plagiarism check – please organize this in advance!

Other

Plagiarism:

Presenting someone else's ideas as your own is unacceptable under any circumstances. Special anti-plagiarism measures have been built into this course to encourage all students to do their own work.