Course Description

This course examines the global dimensions of feminist organizing and policy-making, drawing on both historical and contemporary examples. It applies insights from research on social movements, state-society relations, and multi-level governance to explore the formation, activities, and strategies of international and transnational women’s networks on issues ranging from suffrage and equal rights to domestic violence and gender quotas. It considers interactions with local and national women’s movements, as well as states and international organizations, and weighs the opportunities and constraints involved in mobilizing beyond the nation-state in struggles against inequality in global and national arenas.

Course Requirements

The course seeks to introduce students to basic concepts and debates on feminism and globalization through two sets of course assignments:

1) **Weekly agenda notes** (30%) in which students respond to the readings through a short list of questions and ideas for class discussion. Although these notes will not be handed in, students should come prepared to discuss their thoughts during class. *Attendance and participation in class discussions will also be factored into this grade.*

2) **A major term paper** (70%) in which students examine one particular aspect of the global dimensions of feminism. This paper should be twenty to thirty pages long and will be written in stages over the course of the semester. *Students are strongly encouraged to meet with me to discuss their plans before beginning their research.* **Deadlines:** a paper proposal on February 13, a first section on March 20, a second section on April 17, and the final paper on May 4.

Required Texts

All of the readings will be available on ERes (password “feminisms”), with the exception of two books that are available for purchase at the campus bookstore:


Research Opportunities

Students interested in doing further research on global feminisms – and gender and politics more generally – are welcome to meet with me to discuss possible opportunities for independent and collaborative research.

COURSE SCHEDULE

January 16: Introduction to Global Feminisms

No assigned reading – discussion of course aims and introduction to the global dimensions of feminist thought and activism.

January 23: Social Movements and Transnational Activism


January 30: Global Diffusion and International Norms


February 6: Historical Global Feminisms


**February 13: International Organizations and Women’s Rights**


**February 20: Contemporary Transnational Feminisms**


**February 27: Women’s Rights in the Global Economy**


**March 6: Women’s Human Rights and Violence Against Women**


March 20: Reproductive Rights and Sexual Health in Global Perspective


March 27: Mainstreaming as a Global Equality Strategy


April 3: Quotas as a Transnational Equality Strategy


See also:

April 10: Gender and International Conflict


See also:

**April 17: Women and International Terrorism**


**Recommended:**


**April 24: ‘Feminist Imperialism’ and International Politics**

**Film: Cut From Different Cloth: Burqas and Beliefs**

