

Syllabus: Conf. 723 ~ Conflict and Gender

Fall 2008 Tuesdays, 1:30-4:10 pm

Truland Building Room 648

Sandra Cheldelin, Professor

scheldel@gmu.edu 703.993.3652

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 – have 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 ways language 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, you 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. You 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. **Select one topic and conduct in-depth research.** Within the following six themes, you will pursue at greater depth current and engaging research and present your findings to the class on the corresponding date indicated below.
 - Gender and sexuality and the marketplace (9.23.08)
 - Gender and the law (9.30.08)
 - Gender and health (10.07.08)
 - Gender and conflict in groups, organizations and work (10.14.08)
 - Gender and violence – domestic and international conditions of war (10.21.08, terrorism and small arms 10.28.08, and globalization, 11.04.08)
 - Gender and prevention, resolution, post-war construction (11.11.08)

You 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 the presentation is due one week prior to the 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, **you will develop your own theory of gender and conflict** and present your theory as a capstone product. You may develop your theory alone or with one other student. You should be able to clearly articulate existing theory, research and practice from which your proposed theory is built. Additionally, you should explain the contribution your theory makes to current understanding of gender and conflict and its implications for constructive change. You are required to submit a hard copy of your presentation scripts, materials, notes, etc. at the time of your 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 (weeks 3, 4, 5)
 - Crawford, Mary (1995) *Talking difference: on gender and language*. Sage: Thousand Oaks (weeks 2, 3,
 - Nafisi, Azar (2003) *Reading Lolita in Tehran* New York: Random House. (weeks 5 and 6)
 - Anonymous (2005) *A Woman in Berlin: eight weeks in the conquered city: a diary*. New York: Henry Holt (week 10)

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 2008"
4. Enter in the password (**women**) and click "submit" to view the item. It is case sensitive.
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.

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. (week 8)

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 (week 5)

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) (week 3)

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*. (week 10)

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) (week 8)

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. (week 4)

Cheldelin, Sandra and Ann Lucas (2003) *Conflict Resolution*, Chapter 2: "A Framework for Conflict Analysis" San Francisco: Jossey Bass, pp 13-23 (week 2)

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 (week 13)

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). (week 4)

Cole, Constance H. (2005) *Microfinance and women's physical welfare in poor states*. Paper read at the 46th International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii. [FD 08] (week 12)

Connell, R. W. (1995). "Masculinities" In *Gender and Power*, Berkeley: University of California Press (p 8-21) (week 2)

Cunningham, Karla J. (2003) "Cross-Regional Trends in Female Terrorism" In *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, 26, (pp 171-195) (week 11)

Denmark, F. (1993). "Women, leadership and empowerment" in *Psychology of women quarterly*, 17 (pp 343-356) (week 9)

Felson, Richard B. (2003) *Violence and Gender Reexamined*, Chapters 1, "Introduction", and 2, "A Theory of Instrumental Aggression" (pp. 1-28) (week 3)

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) (week 9)

Gray, B. (1994). "The gender-based foundations of negotiation theory" from *Research on negotiations in organizations*. Vol. 4 JAI Press, Ltd. (week 9)

Hoogensen, Gunhild (2005) *Gender and human security: transcending the North/South divide*. Paper read at the 46th International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii. [SB 28] (week 12)

Korabik, Karen (1990) "Androgyny and leadership style" in *Journal of Business Ethics*. (week 9)

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 46th International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii. (week 10)

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. (week 4)

Minow, Martha (1998) *Vengeance and forgiveness*, Chapter 2 in *Between vengeance and forgiveness*, Boston: Beacon Press (pp. 9-24) (week 6)

Stinson, Kate (2005) *Freedom fighters: women terrorists and the battle for female liberation*. Paper read at the 46th International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii. SB 20 (week 9)

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 (week 6)

Tannen, Deborah (1998) *The argument culture: moving from debate to dialogue*, New York: Random House Chapters 2 and 3, "The Argument Culture" and "From Lapdog to Attackdog" pp. 27-94 (week 5)

Taylor, Anita and Judi Beinstein Miller (1994), "Introduction: the necessity of seeing gender in conflict," Chapter 1 in *Conflict and Gender*, Taylor, Anita and Judi Beinstein Miller, editors. New Jersey: Hampton Press, Inc. (pp. 1-17) (week 2)

True, Jacqui (2005) *Gender mainstreaming and regional trade organization*. Paper read at the 46th International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii. [SD 18] (week 12)

Whitworth, Sandra (2005) *Gender and globalized violence*. Paper read at the 46th International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii. [TA 25] (week 12)

Weekly Class Schedule

THEME 1: IMAGES OF GENDER & THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIONIST DEBATE

Week 1: 8.26.08 ~ introductions ~

Topics:

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

Week 2: 9.02.08 ~ social constructionism and language ~

Topics:

- Social constructionist debate – nature vs. nurture
- Gender as difference
- Gender and language
- Finalize student presentation schedule
- Framework for gender conflict analysis

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

- Cheldelin, Sandra and Ann Lucas (2003) *Conflict Resolution*, Chapter 2: "A Framework for Conflict Analysis" San Francisco: Jossey Bass, pp 13-23
- Connell, R. W. (1995). "Masculinities" In *Gender and Power*, Berkeley: University of California Press (p 8-21) (e-reserve)
- Crawford, Chapters 1 & 2 (Talking across the gender gap; Search for a woman's language)
- Taylor, Anita and Judi Beinstein Miller (1994), "Introduction: the necessity of seeing gender in conflict," Chapter 1 in *Conflict and Gender*, Taylor, Anita and Judi Beinstein Miller, editors. New Jersey: Hampton Press, Inc. (pp. 1-17)

Week 3: 9.09.08 ~ gender and sexism ~

Topics:

- Gender and language
- Living with gender and sexism
- Video: *Killing Us Softly* (3)

[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: 9.16.08 ~ 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:

- 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)
- 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)

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

THEME 3: GENDER AND SEXUALITY – THE MARKETPLACE

Week 5: 9.23.08 ~ gender in the media and arts ~

Topics:

- Media, literature, film, television
- Report examples of gender and conflict in news, media, literature, arts
- Video: *Tough Guise: Violence, Media, and the Crisis in Masculinity*

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:

**THEME 4:
GENDER AND THE LAW**

Week 6: 09.30.08 ~ 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:

Week 7: 10.07.08 ~ no class; Monday classes meet on Tuesday ~

**THEME 5:
GENDER AND HEALTH**

Week 8: 10.14.08 ~ 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
- 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:

THEME 6:
GENDER AND CONFLICT –GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS AND WORK

Week 9: 10.21.08 ~ 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.
- 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 46th 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: 10.28.08 ~ 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 46th International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii. (e-reserve)

Student Presentation:

Week 11: 11.04.08 ~ 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: 11.11.08 ~ globalization, prevention and post-war activities ~

Topics:

- Globalization
- Humanitarian work
- Prevention

Required Readings:

- Cole, Constance H. (2005) *Microfinance and women's physical welfare in poor states*. Paper read at the 46th 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 46th 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 46th International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii. [SD 18] (e-reserve)
- Whitworth, Sandra (2005) *Gender and globalized violence*. Paper read at the 46th International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii. [TA 25](e-reserve)

Students Presentation:

Week 13: 11.18.08 ~ Peace building, mainstreaming

Topics:

- Post-war construction
- Peace-building
- Mainstreaming

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)

Students Presentation:

Week 14 11.25.08 ~ Theories of Conflict and Gender ~

Student Presentations:

Week 15: 12.04.07 ~ Theories of Conflict and Gender ~

Student Presentations:

Evaluation

Celebration