

# Topics in International Politics: Sex in Global Society

## Gender in Global Perspective

Fall 2008

PSC 394-002 & WGS 383-002

T/TH 9:25-10:50–FH 213

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### Introduction

This course is designed to promote an understanding of the dynamics, institutions, and experiences that shape the lives of human beings. Understanding gender involves examining the forces that have influenced various societies' notions about the roles we inherit, identify with, or are ascribed in our world. Understanding gender in a global context is even more complicated as culture and issues of agency are thrown into the mix. Various socioeconomic, political, and historical processes have created dynamics of inequality that persist today.

The purpose of looking at gender in a global setting is to broaden your understanding of gendered relations and particularly women's experiences in the world. These dynamics are a consequence of political, economic, and social institutions that shape how women's experiences differ from, impact, and are impacted by men's experiences. The goal of this course is to gain a better understanding of humans' diverse situations and perspectives in different cultures and states across the globe, by examining diverse areas such as sexuality, labor issues, globalization factors, religion, and development trends.

### Student Learning Outcomes

In taking this course, you will:

- Learn important concepts relating to global political phenomena as influenced by socioeconomic and historic factors and to critically apply these concepts as a means to better understand current political issues.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how political scientists apply principles and standards to the study of actors, events, and phenomena in the international system.
- Examine ethical issues relevant to the discourse between humans in the global political setting.
- Examine the impact of diversity in international political relations.
- Communicate an understanding of international politics through performance on critical thought papers, applied exercises, and discussion participation.

### Readings

The following are required for this class:

- Burn, Shawn Meghan. 2005. *Women Across Cultures: A Global Perspective, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.* Mount View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Company. ISBN: 0072826738
- Pew Cases, available only at <http://www.guisd.org/>
- Additional readings are linked to your course webpage at <http://www.sallymundo.com/kimberly/>

## Course Schedule

See your course webpage for a regularly-updated course schedule, as well as assignments and their respective due dates.

## Course Requirements

- Assignments = 80% of overall grade
- Class Participation = 20% of overall grade

## Assignments

The primary objective of the assignments—which may include reaction papers, in- and out of class-exercises, and quizzes—is for you to make connections between course topic concepts and the political implications of human interaction in the global setting. With the exception of in-class assignments, you will be evaluated based on the criteria laid out below in the *Standard Format for Written Work*. Any assignment turned in after the class collection time will result in a grade deduction. Assignments will be accepted only as late as the start of the next class or the final exam time.

## Class Participation

As an upper-level topics course, this class largely evolves around discussion of the reading assignments. Participation grades are based on the **quality** of your participation, not solely the **quantity**. I keep track of not only how often you participate, but take note of what you contribute. At any point during the semester, you can ask where you stand for your class participation grade. Work is not a legitimate excuse for missing class.

I expect that you have all of the reading done for the class day on which it is assigned. Because class participation is 20% of your overall grade, it is imperative that you attend regularly and do all of the assigned reading. If you aren't prepared to answer questions in class, it will negatively affect your participation grade. That means, if you regularly come to class, and even look interested, but rarely contribute, you will receive a failing grade for your lack of participation to the discussions.

Participation is based on the following:

1) *The quality and frequency of your contributions.*

Particularly because this is a large class, class discussion will necessarily be on a 'raising hands and being called on' basis so everyone who wants to contribute has an opportunity.

2) *Showing Up and Feigning Interest*

Class participation is based on the following elements: class attendance, punctuality, participation, attention, and respect. Text messaging, cell phone use of any kind, instant messaging by laptop, passing notes, and sleeping in class are disrespectful not only to me, but to other students. Any and all of these activities will affect your final class participation grade.

3) *E-mail Responses*

This option provides a way for those of you who might feel less comfortable talking in class to enhance your participation grade, though email responses **are not** a substitute for in-class participation. You will not lose participation points for not emailing responses to me. Your responses must be in formal writing style—that is, you are not text messaging me.

You have two options for email participation: (1) Throughout the semester, before the start of class, you may send me your responses to the readings. (2) Another option is for you to send me relevant news items. Along with the link for the news story, email me with your comments, criticisms, and/or any insights you have regarding the news item, and particularly, how the news relates to what we cover in class. You may send me up to one news item per week, with the last one submitted no later than November 30.

## **Additional Information**

### **Standard Format for Written Work**

Unless otherwise indicated for the assignment, follow these guidelines. You will be penalized for failing to follow the standard format, with the exception of the last bullet, which will result in a zero grade for exceptionally poor work.

- Typed, in hard copy form
- Name and information formatted as indicated above
- Stapled (Paper-clipped **IS NOT** stapled, nor is dog-eared)
- Page numbers
- Double-spaced
- Prescribed margins: 1" all around
- Times New Roman 12 pt. font (or Mac comparable)
- Edited and proof-read so that paper is well-written
  - clarity in writing
  - well-organized
  - connects abstract concepts with concrete examples
  - grammatically sound
  - appropriate length paragraphs
- Assignments should be right justified, including only this information:

Your Name  
Assignment Due Date  
Assignment #

## **Contact Information**

My primary objective is to help you learn and succeed. Please visit me during my office hours and/or contact me by email with any questions, clarifications, or concerns you have about this course. If you cannot come to office hours, you can arrange to meet me by appointment. If you opt to contact me, you will get a much faster response by emailing me, as I generally check my email at least once a day Monday through Friday.

Occasionally it may be necessary to contact you outside of class. For any correspondence outside of class, I will send messages to your NKU email account. I will post this information as well on your course webpage as soon as possible.

**Extra credit projects are not an option.**

## **Syllabus Amendments**

I reserve the right to amend the syllabus or schedule as necessary at any time as described under the Common Course Policies.

### **All University policies apply, including the honor code.**

The work you will do in this course is subject to the Student Honor Code. The Honor Code is a commitment to the highest degree of ethical integrity in academic conduct, a commitment that, individually and collectively, the students of Northern Kentucky University will not lie, cheat, or plagiarize to gain an academic advantage over fellow students or avoid academic requirements.

Plagiarism is any instance of attempting to pass off the work of others as your own. This is not limited solely to directly quoting the work of others- it also includes paraphrasing the work of others without giving appropriate credit. Put another way, if you take someone else's work and change, add, or delete some words here and there, you are still plagiarizing if the essential meaning remains the same. This applies to all papers, exams, quizzes, and exercises. Plagiarizing from other students, or even from your own previous work, is not acceptable.

You are expected to do your own work, properly cite the contribution of others, and use only expressly authorized materials on exams, quizzes, or assignments. If you aren't sure about when or how to credit the work of others, let me know and I will be happy to help you out.

The penalty for the first instance of lying, cheating, or plagiarizing is an automatic zero for the assignment in question. The penalty for a second instance of lying, cheating, or plagiarizing is a grade of 'F' for the class and dismissal from class. All instances of lying, cheating, or plagiarizing will be brought to the attention of the Dean of Students.

### **Disabilities Services**

Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments, auxiliary aids or services) for this course must register with the Office of Disability Services. Please contact the Disability Service Office immediately in the University Center, Suite 320, or call (859) 572-6373 for more information. Verification of your disability is required in the Office of Disability Services for you to receive reasonable academic accommodations.

### **Additional Issues**

Work is not an excuse for missing class or the inability to hand in work on the respective due date.

If you encounter any problems throughout the semester regarding this class or your ability to attend and participate, please let me know **ASAP**. It is not advisable to wait until the end of the semester to inform me of difficulties you are having; that is after the fact.

## **Common Course Policies Approved April 2005**

The following policies apply to all courses taught by faculty in the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice. Please note that individual faculty may have specific applications of these policies in their syllabi.

### **1. Classroom and Electronic Participation:**

Classroom participation is essential to the educational process. It is vital to your understanding of the course material, and to your overall performance. It is also a student responsibility. Class participation is generally defined as regular class attendance, proper class preparation, completing assignments and activities in a timely manner, completing assignments in the format requested, and participating in discussions both during and outside of class (e.g. Black Board discussions). Participation also refers to regular monitoring of and responding to electronic contact by professors via email, Black Board or other means. Participation may have a specific grade percentage in your class; see your course syllabi for specifics.

### **2. Class Professionalism:**

- A. Out of respect to your fellow learners, **electronic devices should be turned off** during class time unless you are required to be on-call by your employer. In that case, please set your beeper / phone to a non-audible signal. If you are required to leave a beeper or cell phone on during class, inform the professor of this prior to class.
- B. **Disruptive behavior or conduct** (whether in-class or electronic) that demeans fellow class members or the instructor will not be tolerated. Please see the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities Section 4.3 for "What the Professor May Expect of the Student." Instructors reserve the right to dismiss or remove a disruptive student from a classroom in accordance with the appropriate College of Arts and Science Policy.  
[http://www.nku.edu/~deanstudents/disruption\\_guidelines.html](http://www.nku.edu/~deanstudents/disruption_guidelines.html)
- C. It is important that work with your name attached is, in fact, **solely your work** unless properly referenced or cited. In these days of increased access to information, it is critical that you understand the meaning, seriousness and consequences of plagiarism. If you ever have a question about giving proper credit for academic work, please consult your instructor **well in advance of an assignment due date**.

D. The work you will do in this course and your behavior in this course are subject to the **Student Honor Code**. The Honor Code is a commitment to the highest degree of ethical integrity in academic conduct. By being a student at NKU you make a commitment that individually and collectively, you will not lie, cheat, or plagiarize to gain an academic advantage over fellow students or avoid academic requirements. You also make a commitment to behavior in a professional manner, especially when involved in academic activities off campus such as travel courses or CCSA Study Abroad. For specifics concerning the honor code, see the Dean of Students website: [http://www.nku.edu/~deanstudents/student\\_rights/honor\\_code.htm](http://www.nku.edu/~deanstudents/student_rights/honor_code.htm).

### 3. Right to Revise a Syllabus:

A syllabus is required for every class and will be distributed at the beginning of each semester. Faculty reserve the right to **revise the course syllabus** as needed. Changes in the specific course schedule may happen frequently, so you need to keep abreast of these changes regularly. Should a major change occur in the syllabus (e.g. moving a specified test date, changing the grading percentages, changing the assignment types, etc.) the specific change will be announced at least a week in advance of any activity due date (e.g. paper, test). Major revisions in a course grading scheme or mechanism will also be in writing, which may include paper distribution, email, or posting to Blackboard or an appropriate online forum.

### 4. Student Responsibilities to Meet Course Obligations:

**You are responsible for all course assignments** including class preparation, class attendance, class activities, tests, papers, labs, projects, group work or other course assignments. By reviewing the syllabus at the beginning of a course, you are responsible for meeting all specific course obligations. Additionally, some faculty may even require that each student initial a document to recognize their course obligations. Failure to attend classes, or meet course obligations is a serious matter and it is your responsibility to communicate with the instructor should you have difficulty with meeting any course obligation. Faculty may, at their discretion, reduce grades or even fail you for not meeting specified course obligations, including but not limited to, class attendance, taking tests at a specified time, turning in papers on time and in the format required and other assignments. It is the faculty's discretion to determine the consequences of not meeting a course obligation, and many times the specific provisions and penalties are specified in the syllabus. Faculty may also require written documentation verifying your inability to meet a course obligation.

### 5. Final Examination:

With rare exception, all classes will meet at the time prescribed, will meet until the last scheduled day of classes, and will **meet during the final exam period** printed in the *Schedule of Classes*. This is an Arts and Science College policy.

Your syllabus should include the date and time of the final exam period scheduled for the course. There is also a final exam schedule posted on the NKU website. Faculty will provide an indication of the final exam's nature (cumulative final, regular test, return of take-home exam, presentation of final project, etc.) well in advance of the final exam.

There may be courses for which a cumulative final exam is not appropriate. However, these courses will still meet as scheduled during their final exam period. The final exam period will used, as appropriate for the course, including, but not limited to, a non-cumulative exam, project presentation, return of take-home exam, or paper presentation.

**6. Students with Disabilities:**

*Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments, auxiliary aids or services) for this course must register with the Office of Disability Services. Contact the Office of Disability Services immediately in University Center suite 320 or call X-6373 for more information. Verification of your disability is required in the Office of Disability Services for you to receive reasonable academic accommodations. Visit the disability services website at [www.nku.edu/~disability/](http://www.nku.edu/~disability/).*