

# INR 4085: GENDER AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Fall 2025, Tuesdays 1:55 PM – 2:45 PM & Thursdays 1:55 PM – 3:50 PM  
@ WEIMER HALL (WEIM) 1094

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Office hours: TBD (will be decided first day to see what days/times work for everyone!)  
\*Or by appointment

## Course Description and Required Texts

This course examines theoretical and methodological approaches to understanding gender dynamics in international relations (IR). Although IR as a discipline has long marginalized considerations of gender in global politics, this course places gender at the center—as both a core analytic framework and an organizing principle that shapes and is shaped by international relations. We will begin by exploring the theoretical foundations of feminist scholarship in IR, focusing on pivotal concepts such as “power” and “security.” Next, we will investigate how perspectives on global politics change when analyzed through feminist methodologies, applying these frameworks to contemporary international issues. In addition to examining the intersections of gender, security, and IR theory, we will address the practical implications of gender in peace processes, human rights, international political economy, and beyond. Student assessment will center on the ability to critically engage with course concepts and questions, while developing and defending their own well-reasoned academic arguments. The primary goal of this course is to deepen students’ understanding of gender-based research in IR and to strengthen their critical analytical skills.

- To understand the theoretical foundations of feminist international relations scholarship
- To compare and evaluate different feminist methodological approaches to researching global politics
- To critically reflect on global politics through gender-analytic lenses.
- A final objective is to reflect on the particular historical contexts and dynamics of local and global politics within which these scholars wrote, and to consider how their theories and perspectives are applicable today.

The following books are required:

- Christine Sylvester (1994). *Feminist Theory and International Relations in a Postmodern Era* (Cambridge University Press)
- J. Ann Tickner (1992). *Gender in International Relations: Feminist Perspectives on Achieving Global Security* (Columbia University Press)
- Brooke A. Ackerly, Maria Stern, Jacqui True (Eds.) (2006), *Feminist Methodologies for International Relations* (Cambridge University Press)

Please let me know if you need any assistance accessing these books. Hard copies are available for checkout at the UF Library West. Digital copies are also available through Library West's website, except for Tickner's text. I will make all other articles and course materials available on our Canvas course webpage.

### Course Requirements

Grades will be based on (a) two "thought pieces," (b) two short "reaction pieces," and (c) class attendance and discussion participation.

**Thought Pieces:** 750 words (double-spaced) take-home essay assignment (2 total essays). For each essay assignment, you will be challenged to demonstrate a firm grasp of the theoretical and methodological perspectives covered in class and apply them to current issues in global politics. I will provide an article on a current affair/event that you will analyze through a particular feminist lens. The first thought piece assignment **will be due on at 12 pm**. The second assignment will be **due on December 11 at 5 pm**. These dates are indicated in red font on the class weekly schedule below. Late submissions will be penalized at a rate of 3 points (that is, 3 percent of the maximum total score for the class) per 24 hours.

**Short Reaction Pieces:** Two times during the semester you will be required to respond briefly to a prompt and/or short article /video interview related to the reading materials assigned that week. The reaction pieces should be 500 words (double-spaced). The prompts and additional resources needed will typically be posted on Canvas before class at 12 pm, and the assignment will be **approximately one week later at 12 pm**. The relevant dates are indicated in red font on the course schedule. Late submissions will be penalized at a rate of 0.5 points per 24 hours.

The following questions are a guide for writing your reaction pieces. You do not need to answer all of them in each piece, but they should help instruct the content of your submissions.

- Do you take issue with any part of the authors' arguments? If so, why?

- Do you find the authors' arguments convincing? If so, why?
- Do you agree with the conclusions the authors reach? Why or why not?
- Do these readings connect (or disconnect) in an interesting way with/from the readings from a previous week of the course?
- Do these readings connect (or disconnect) in an interesting way with/from contemporary world politics?
- Do you have an experience that somehow engages with the readings in an interesting way?
- Do these readings challenge arguments and understandings you have come across in other courses you've taken? If so, how?
- What assumptions are the authors making in their research/analysis, and how do those assumptions affect their overall arguments?
- Are you satisfied by the approach the authors took for conducting this research/analysis? Why or why not?

**Class attendance:** Class attendance is of utmost importance. I expect you to attend class sessions regularly and to complete all the readings in a timely fashion, as specified by the schedule below. Ten percent (ten points) of the total grade for the class will be based on attendance. I will randomly take attendance ten times during the semester. The final grade for the course will be distributed as follows:

• Thought piece #1	25% (25 points)
• Thought piece #2	25% (25 points)
• 2 Reaction pieces	40% (20 points each)
• Attendance	10% (10 points)

For each assignment, you will receive a numerical score, not a letter grade. Your final cumulative score will be translated into a letter grade according to the following schedule: 93 points or higher = A; 90–92.9 = A-; 87–89.9 = B+; 83–86.9 = B; 80–82.9 = B-; 77–79.9 = C+; 73–76.9 = C; 70–72.9 = C-; 67–69.9 = D+; 63–66.9 = D; 60–62.9 = D-; <60 = E.

### Other Matters/Policies

Individual extra-credit work is not allowed.

Deadline extensions may be granted under special circumstances; if you anticipate such circumstances, please do not hesitate to ask for an extension. But you must do so prior to the deadline; retroactive extensions will not be granted.

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/>). Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Requirements for class attendance, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies posted at

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. More information about in-class recording is available at

<http://aa.ufl.edu/policies/in-class-recording/>

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at

<https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via

<https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

### Class/Reading Schedule

August 21                      Introduction and Course overview

#### Week 2: Seeing Gender in Global Politics

August 26                      -Joyce P. Kaufman, 2022, "Introduction: International Relations in a Globalized World," in *Introduction to International Relations: Theory and Practice* (Third Edition)

August 28                      -J. Ann Tickner, 1992, chapter 1, *Gender in International Relations*  
-Laura Sjoberg, 2014, "'Mansplaining' International Relations? What Walt Misses"

#### Week 3: Theoretical Foundations of Feminist International Relations

September 2                      -Christine Sylvester, 1994, preface & pages 1—30, *Feminist Theory and International Relations in a Postmodern Era*

September 4                      - Cynthia Enloe, 2014, "Gender Makes the World Go Round: Where Are the Women?" in *Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics* (Second Edition).  
- Laura J. Shepherd, 2022, "(Why) Gender Matters in Global Politics," in *Gender Matters in Global Politics* (Third Edition).

#### Week 4: (Mis)Understandings of Feminist International Relations

- September 9      -Robert Keohane, 1989, "International Relations Theory: Contributions of a Feminist Standpoint."  
-Cynthia Weber, 1994, "Good Girls, Little Girls, and Bad Girls: Male Paranoia in Robert Keohane's Critique of Feminist International Relations  
**Reaction Piece 1 posted on Canvas at 12 pm**
- September 11      - J. Ann Tickner, 1997, "You Just Don't Understand: Troubled Engagements Between Feminists and IR Theorists."  
-Marianne H. Marchand, 1998, Different Communities/ Different Realities/Different Encounters: A Reply to J. Ann Tickner."  
-Sungju Park-Kang, 2011, "Utmost Listening: Feminist IR as a Foreign Language

#### Week 5: Gender Analysis & Feminist Research Methods

- September 16      - Brooke A. Ackerly, Maria Stern, Jacqui True (Eds.), 2006, chapter 1, *Feminist Methodologies for International Relations*  
- Brooke A. Ackerly and Jacqui True. 2020. "A Feminist Research Ethic Explained," in *Doing Feminist Research in Political and Social Science* (Second Edition).
- September 18      - Brooke A. Ackerly, Maria Stern, Jacqui True (Eds.), 2006, chapter 2, *Feminist Methodologies for International Relations*  
- Brooke A. Ackerly and Jacqui True. 2020. "Common Techniques for Analysis," in *Doing Feminist Research in Political and Social Science* (Second Edition).  
**Reaction Piece 1 due on Canvas at 12 pm**

#### Week 6: Feminist Methodologies in IR continued

- September 23      - Christine Sylvester, 1994, chapter 2, "The palette of feminist epistemologies and practices," in *Feminist Theory and International Relations in a Postmodern Era*
- September 25      - Brooke A. Ackerly, Maria Stern, Jacqui True (Eds.), 2006, chapter 6, "Distracted reflections on the production, narration, and refusal of feminist knowledge in International Relations," in *Feminist Methodologies for International Relations*  
- Brooke A. Ackerly and Jacqui True, 2020, "Structured Inquiry Research Designs," in *Doing Feminist Research in Political and Social Science* (Second Edition).

### Week 7: Gendering the State

- September 30 - Swati Parashar, J. Ann Tickner, and Jacqui True. 2018. "Introduction," in *Revisiting Gendered States: Feminist Imaginings of the State in International Relations*.
- October 2 - Jonathan D. Wadley. 2009. "Gendering the State: Performativity and Protection in International Security," in *Gender and International Security: Feminist Perspectives*.  
-Cai Wilkinson. 2018. "Mother Russia in Queer Peril: The Gender Logic of the Hypermasculine State," in *Revisiting Gendered States: Feminist Imaginings of the State in International Relations*.

### Week 8: Gender, Security, & Foreign Policy

- October 7 -J. Ann Tickner, 1992, chapter 2, "Man, the State, and War: Gendered Perspectives on National Security," in *Gender in International Relations*  
**Thought Piece 1 posted on Canvas at 12 pm**
- October 9 -Iris Marion Young, 2003, "The Logic of Masculinist Protection: Reflections on the Current Security State."  
- David Duriesmith, 2018, "Manly States and Feminist Foreign Policy: Revisiting the Liberal State as an Agent of Change," in *Revisiting Gendered States: Feminist Imaginings of the State in International Relations*.  
- Azadeh Moaveni and Chitra Nagarajan, 2022., "[Another Deeply Gendered War is Being Waged in Ukraine.](#)"

### Week 9: Gender and Global Economics

- October 14 - J. Ann Tickner, 1992, chapter 3, "Three Models of Man: Gendered Perspectives on National Security," in *Gender in International Relations*
- October 16 -V. Spike Peterson. 2022. "International/Global Political Economy," in *Gender Matters in Global Politics* (Third Edition).  
- Aida A. Hozic and Jacqui True, 2016, chapter 1, *Scandalous Economics*  
**Thought Piece 1 due on Canvas at 5pm**

### Week 10: Women's Violence in Global Politics

- October 21 - Caron E. Gentry and Laura Sjoberg. 2015. "Introduction: A Woman Did That?" in *Beyond Mothers, Monsters, Whores: Thinking about Women's Violence in Global Politics*.

- October 23      - Caron E. Gentry and Laura Sjoberg. 2015. "Conclusion: Beyond Mothers, Monsters, Whores" in *Beyond Mothers, Monsters, Whores: Thinking about Women's Violence in Global Politics*.  
 -Alexis Henshaw. 2016. "Comparing Mainstream and Feminist Theories on Rebellion," in *Why Women Rebel: Understanding Women's Participation in Armed Rebel Groups*.

Week 11: Violence Against Women in Global Politics

- October 28      -Jacqui True, 2012, "From Domestic Violence to War Crimes: The Political Economy of Violence Against Women, in *The Political Economy of Violence Against Women*.  
 -Jacqui True, 2015, "Winning the Battle but Losing the War on Violence: A Feminist Perspective on the Declining Global Violence Thesis"
- October 30      - Juliana Zulver, 2021, "The Endurance of Women's Mobilization During 'Patriarchal Backlash': A Case from Colombia's Reconfiguring Armed Conflict"  
 -Juliana Restrepo Sanín, 2022, "Violence Against Women in Politics as an Unintended Consequence of Democratization"

Week 12: Gender, Human Rights, and Environmental Politics in IR

- November 4      - Lenore Manderson, 2007, "Local Rites and Body Politics: Tensions between Cultural Diversity and Human Rights."
- November 6      -J. Ann Tickner, 1992, chapters 4—5, *Gender in International Relations*  
 Reaction Piece 2 posted on Canvas at 12 pm

Week 13: (Re)Considering Gender and Women's Presences and Absences in IR Today

- November 11      Holiday (Veterans' Day)
- November 13      -Gillian Youngs, 2004, "Feminist International Relations: a contradiction in terms? Or: why women and gender are essential to understanding the world 'we' live in"  
 -Federiga Bindi and Mimosa Giamanco, 2019, "Missing in Action: The Absence of Women Scholars on Foreign Policy Panels"  
 Reaction Piece 2 due on Canvas at 12pm

Week 14: Reflecting on Women and Gender in Histories of IR

- November 18      -Patricia Owens and Katharina Rietzler (Eds.), 2020, Preface—Chapter 1, *Women's International Thought: A New History*

November 20      - Patricia Owens and Katharina Rietzler, Chapter 12, "Beyond Illusions: Imperialism, Race, and Technology in Merze Tate's International Thought," in *Women's International Thought: A New History*  
- Kimberly Hutchings, 2023, "Doing epistemic justice in International Relations: women and the history of international thought"

Week 15: NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 25      Holiday (Thanksgiving Break)

November 27      Holiday (Thanksgiving Break)

Wrapping Up the Semester and Final Thoughts

December 2      Final Day of Class  
**Final Thought Piece Assigned on Canvas at 12 pm**

December 11      **Final Thought Piece Due on Canvas by 5 pm**