

Fall 2012

Special Topics in Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies for Graduate Students

Gender & War

WGSS 5395, Section 001

Instructor: Christine Sylvester

Thursdays 1:30 – 4:00 PM

Gender and War is a graduate level course that explores the literature on contemporary war in ways that illuminate the gender components of this ever-present social institution. Conventional and critical aspects of war studies are contrasted and a new body of feminist war studies is explored. Themes and concepts probed include militarized masculinity, war rape, child soldiering, women combatants in wars and post-wars, methodologies for studying gender and war, and war and the arts. Specific cases will be highlighted: the Korean War, the Vietnam War and recent wars in the Balkans, Africa, the Middle East, and South America.

Students are required to make two class presentations, one that entails leading a discussion on the readings for a given week, and the other on a gender in/and a specific war situation. The written assignment is a 20 page paper that reviews and presents a critical assessment of the academic literature on a gender and a war topic of choice. Readings for the course include: Christine Sylvester, *War as Experience* (2012) and *Experiencing War* (2011); May Kaldor, *New and Old Wars* (2010), Judith Butler, *Precarious Life* (2004), Cynthia Enloe, *Nimo's War, Emma's War* (2010), and works by Mats Utas (anthropology), Anne Orford (Law), Bina D'Costa (international Relations), Maria Baaz and Maria Stern (peace and development), and Cami Rowe (performance and social movements).

If you have any questions, please contact the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program at wsinfo@uconn.edu.

