

INTD 498
Honours Seminar: Gender and Human Rights



Instructor

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Classroom

EDUC 613

Class Times

Tuesdays 11:35am-2:25pm

Office Hours

Tuesdays & Fridays 2:30pm-4:00pm

*An office hours sign-up sheet (online) is available via MyCourses

Course Description:

Gender constitutes one of the most significant and pressing concerns in international development. Yet, as scholars contend, gender is also an elusive, socio-legal category. Both international human rights law and domestic law fail to define what constitutes gender rights and are unable to guarantee under what mechanisms gender rights are protected. The central goal of the seminar is to provide a critical, socio-legal lens for investigating the evolving relationship between gender and human rights regimes. Our weekly topics

include, gender and international human rights law, research ethics, colonial law, violence and international law, displacement, sexuality, climate change, human trafficking, and transnational labor mobility. In the last two weeks of the semester, we will undertake practical initiatives to ameliorate gender and human rights.

Required course materials

All the required readings are available via MyCourses.

1. Participation (10%)

For this seminar to be successful, you are expected to make committed, and engaged contributions to the discussions. Due to the nature of the discussion topics that involve culturally and socially sensitive human rights concerns, all the seminar participants must engage in our discussions in a respectful and thoughtful manner.

Each week, we have about 80-120 pages of assigned reading materials. To engage with class discussions critically and proactively, students are expected to come to the seminar meeting having done the required readings beforehand.

2. Class moderation (5%)

Between Week 3 (Research Ethics) and Week 10 (Transnational Mobility #1), we will have student moderators who will lead and facilitate our weekly seminar discussions. Prior to the meeting, weekly moderators are required to submit via email a seminar moderation plan to the instructor. The plan should include: (a) learning goals, (b) keywords, (c) discussion questions based on the assigned readings, and (e) potential in-class interactive activities to stimulate students' proactive engagement with the class discussion. Class moderators are highly encouraged to meet with the instructor to discuss their plans. The class moderation exercise is *mandatory*. The detailed arrangement will be discussed in the first seminar meeting on September 5.

3. Précis (15%)

Students are required to write *five précis* out of the 8 weekly themes. You are allowed to select any five weekly topics between Week 2 and Week 11. Each précis examines one article or one book chapter from the weekly readings. The précis should clarify the main argument of the article and then provide your reflections on the article. The précis should be written in 500-600 words.

Due date: Each précis must be submitted via MyCourses ["Assignments"] by 11:59pm on

Monday prior to the seminar meeting. For example, if you are going to write a précis based on Collins's reading in Week 3 (September 19), you must submit your précis by Monday, September 18. This exercise is intended to encourage your engagement with the seminar discussions.

3. Short analytical paper (15%)

The aim of the short analytical papers is to provide a critical analysis of a key theme discussed between Week 2 and Week 11. In the paper, you are expected to develop an original argument that engages with at least two (separate) readings. The argument should reflect a critical assessment of a specific question or problem or further development of an idea that you find compelling. The paper must above all show the capacity to analyze and critique in a coherent and systematic manner. The paper should be written in a minimum of 1,200 words and a maximum of 1,400 words.

Due date: Monday, October 23 (11:59pm) via MyCourses

4. Group Activity: Gender and Human Rights in Practice (15%)

This group activity is intended to strengthen the connection between gender and human rights in practice. Each group must prepare a "communication" document which draws for urgent attention to prevailing (often underdocumented) gender-based human rights violations. Each group should select one of the following four UN Special Rapporteurs as a recipient of the communication document. Groups must select a special rapporteur whose mandate is directly related to the gender-based human rights concerns that they are going to address in the communication document.

- a. The UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Girls
- b. The UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants
- c. The UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- d. The UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Trans and Intersex Persons

The United Nations "special rapporteurs" are part of the UN Human Rights Council's "special procedures" that aim to monitor human rights issues. Special rapporteurs are independent human rights experts who work individually or in groups to report and advise on human rights issues. Each special rapporteur's mandate is tied to specific international

treaties. The UN Special Rapporteurs' "communication" procedure allows civil society actors to seek international intervention on human rights violations at the national level (<https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures-human-rights-council>).

Communication document: The communication document should include: (1) the background summary of the gender-based human rights violations that your group seeks to address (2) relevant international treaties that prohibit the given human rights violations, and (3) potential actions/remedies/solutions. The document should be written in 1,200-1,400 words. Submit the document by Friday, December 8 (11:59pm)

Oral presentation: Each group must present the summary of the communication document in class for 10 minutes. This assignment can be done as a group (maximum 5 students per group) or individually. The oral presentations will be scheduled for Tuesday, December 5.

Step 1. Signing up for a group	Tuesday, October 24
Step 2. Group-based meetings	Tuesday, November 28
Step 3. Oral presentations	Tuesday, December 5
Step 4. Submission of the final document	Friday, December 8 (11:59pm)

5. Final research paper (40%)

The primary goal of the final research paper is to delve more deeply into a topic on gender and human rights. Students must integrate at least three course readings in the analysis. The paper should be written in a minimum of 3,300 words and a maximum of 3,500 words. Detailed instructions will be given in class.

The title and an abstract

Students must submit the title of one's paper and an abstract describing (1) the main argument and (2) the research methodology in at least 300 words by Friday, November 24 (11:59pm) via MyCourses.

Submission of the final paper

Monday, December 18 (11:59pm) via MyCourses

Grade Distribution:

Assignments	Due	Percentage
Participation	See page 2	10%
Class Moderation	See page 2	5%
Précis (5 required)	Mondays 11:59pm (EST) - prior to the seminar meeting	15%
Short Analytical Paper	Monday, October 23 (11:59pm)	15%
Gender and Human Right in Practice	Presentation: Tuesday, December 5 Submission: Friday, December 8 (11:59pm)	15%
Final Research Essay	Abstract submission: Friday, November 24 Final essay submission: Monday, December 18	40%

Plagiarism:

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offenses under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information)

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/).

Copyright of Lectures:

All slides, video recordings, lecture notes, etc. remain the instructor's intellectual property. As such, you may use these only for your own learning (and research, with proper referencing/citation) ends. You are not permitted to disseminate or share these materials; doing so may violate the instructor's intellectual property rights and could be cause for disciplinary action.

Policy on Languages:

In accordance with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue)

Course Evaluations:

End-of-course evaluations are one of the ways that McGill works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. You will be notified by e-mail when the evaluations are available on Mercury, the online course evaluation system. Please note that a minimum number of responses must be received for results to be available to students.

N.B.

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Course Schedule

Week 1 September 5	Introduction: Gender and Human Rights
Week 2 September 12	Gender and International Human Rights Law
Week 3 September 19	Gender and Research Ethics
Week 4 September 26	Gender, Indigeneity, and Colonial Law
Week 5 October 3	Gender, Violence, and International Law
Week 6 October 17	Law and Sexuality

Week 7 October 24	Gender and Displacement
Week 8 October 31	Gender and Climate Change
Week 9 November 7	Gender and Human Trafficking
Week 10 November 14	Gender and Transnational Mobility #1: Unfree
Week 11 November 21	Gender and Transnational Mobility #2: Contested Illegality Guest Speaker: Professor Maria Cecilia Hwang, East Asian Studies and Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies, McGill University
Week 12 November 28	Gender and Human Rights in Practice: Group Meetings
Week 13 December 5	Conclusion Gender and Human Rights in Practice: Oral Presentations

WEEK 1 (September 5)
Introduction: Gender and Human Rights

Our first meeting will provide an overview of the course, including the key goals, course schedule, requirements, and readings. Students will also introduce themselves and share their ideas on the study of gender and human rights.

WEEK 2 (September 12)
Gender and International Human Rights Law

Readings:

Charlesworth, Hilary et al. (1991) "Feminist Approaches to International Law" *The American Journal of International Law* 85 (4): 613-645

Johnstone, Rachael Lorna (2006) "Feminist Influences on the United Nations Human Rights

Treaty Bodies." *Human Rights Quarterly* 28(1): 148-185.

Merry, Sally Engle (2005) *Human Rights and Gender Violence: Translating International Law into Local Justice*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. pp.36-71 (Chapter 2 "Creating Human Rights").

WEEK 3 (September 19)
Gender and Research Ethics

Guest Speaker: TBA

Readings:

Ackerly, Brooke and Jacqui True (2008) "Reflexivity in Practice: Power and Ethics in Feminist Research on International Relations." *International Studies Review* 10: 693-707.

Collins, Patricia Hill (2015) "Intersectionality's Definitional Dilemmas." *Annual Review of Sociology* 41:1-20.

Optional:

O'Shaughnessy, Sara and Naomi Krogman (2012) "A Revolution Reconsidered? Examining the Practice of Qualitative Research in Feminist Scholarship." *Signs* 37(2): 493-520.

WEEK 4 (September 26)
Gender, Indigeneity, and Colonial Law

Readings:

Barker, Joanne (2006) "Gender, Sovereignty, and the Discourse of Rights in Native Women's Activism." *Meridians* 7(1): 127-161.

Arvin, Maile et al. (2013) "Decolonizing Feminism: Challenging Connections between Settler Colonialism and Heteropatriarchy." *Feminist Formations* 25(1): 8-34.

Optional:

Guerrero, Jaimes (2003) "Patriarchal Colonialism' and Indigenism: Implications for Native Feminist Spirituality and Native Womanism." *Hypatia* 18(2): 58-69.

Film screening: *Mary Two-Axe Earley - I am Indian Again* (2021 by Courtney Montour)

Week 5 (October 3)
Gender, Violence, and International Law

Readings:

Mibenge, Chiseche Salome (2013) *Sex and International Tribunals: The Erasure of Gender from the War Narrative*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, pp.21-59 (Chapter 1)

Šimonović, Dubravka (2014) "Global Regional Standards on Violence Against Women: The Evolution and Synergy of the CEDAW and Istanbul Conventions." *Human Rights Quarterly* 36: 590-606.

Merry, Sally Engle (2005) *Human Rights and Gender Violence: Translating International Law into Local Justice*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp.1-35 (Introduction).

Cockburn, Cynthia (2004) "The Continuum of Violence: A Gender Perspective on War and Peace." In *Sites of Violence: Gender and Conflict Zones* (edited by Wenona Giles and Jennifer Hyndman). Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 24-44.

Optional:

Visweswaran, Kamala (2004) "Gendered States: Rethinking Culture as a Site of South Asian Human Rights." *Human Rights Quarterly* 26(2): 483-511.

WEEK 6 (October 17)
Law and Sexuality

Readings:

Thoreson, Ryan Richard (2009) "Queering Human Rights: The Yogyakarta Principles and the Norm That Dare Not Speak Its Name." *Journal of Human Rights* 8(4): 323-339.

Baisley, Elizabeth (2016) "Reaching the Tipping Point?: Emerging International Human Rights Norms Pertaining to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity." *Human Rights Quarterly* 38(1): 134-163.

Mertus, Julie (2007) "The Rejection of Human Rights Framings: The Case of LGBT Advocacy in the US." *Human Rights Quarterly* 29(4): 1036-1064.

Lalor, Kay (2011) "Constituting Sexuality: Rights, Politics and Power in the Gay Rights

Movement." *The International Journal of Human Rights* 15(5): 683-699.

Optional:

Nogueira, Maria Beatriz Bonna (2017) "The Promotion of LGBT Rights as International Human Rights Norms: Explaining Brazil's Diplomatic Leadership." *Global Governance* 23(4): 545-563.

WEEK 7 (October 24)
Gender and Displacement

Readings:

Martin, Susan (2010) "Gender and the Evolving Refugee Regime." *Refugee Survey Quarterly* 29(2): 104-121.

Crawley, Heaven (2022) "Saving Brown Women from Brown Men? 'Refugee Women' Gendered Racialized Politics of Protection." *Refugee Survey Quarterly* 41: 355-380.

Rosenow-Williams, Kerstin and Latharina Behmer (2015) "A Gendered Human Security Perspective on Humanitarian Action in IDP and Refugee Protection." *Refugee Survey Quarterly* 34: 1-23.

Hennebry, Jenna and Allison Petrozziello (2019) "Closing the Gap? Gender and the Global Compacts for Migration and Refugees." *International Migration* 57(6): 115-138.

Optional:

Valji, Nahla et al. (2003) "Where Are the Women? Gender Discrimination in Refugee Policies and Practice." *Agenda: Empowering Women for Gender Equality* 55: 61-72.

Murray, David (2014) "Real Queer: 'Authentic' LGBT Refugee Claimants and Homonationalism in the Canadian Refugee System." *Anthropologica* 56(1): 21-32.

Week 8 (October 31)
Gender and Climate Change

Readings:

Moosa, Christina Shaheen and Nancy Tuana (2014) "Mapping a Research Agenda Concerning Gender and Climate Change: A Review of the Literature." *Hypatia* 29(3):

677-694.

Terry, Geraldine (2009) "No Climate Justice without Gender Justice: An Overview of The Issues." *Gender and Development*: 5-18.

Djoudi, Houria et al. (2016) "Beyond Dichotomies: Gender and Intersecting Inequalities in Climate Change Studies." *Ambio* 45(3): 248-262

Whyte, Kyle Powys (2014) "Indigenous Women, Climate Change Impacts and Collective Action." *Hypatia* 29(3): 599-616.

Week 9 (November 7) Gender and Human Trafficking

Readings:

Kang, Hyun Yi (2020) *Traffic in Asian Women*. Durham: Duke University Press. pp1-18 (Chapter 1. "Introduction") and pp. 19-50 (Chapter 1. "Asian Women as Method?").

Parreñas, Rhacel at al. (2012) "What is Human Trafficking? A Review Essay." *Signs* 37(4): 1015-1029.

Jones, Loring et al. (2011) "Human Trafficking between Thailand and Japan: Lessons in Recruitment, Transit, and Control." *International Journal of Social Welfare* 20: 203-21.

Week 10 (November 14) Gender and Transnational Labor Mobility #1: Unfree

Readings:

Parreñas, Rhacel (2021) *Unfree: Migrant Domestic Work in Arab States*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, pp.25-47 (Chapter 1. "Legal Infantilization and the Unfreedom of Servitude") & pp.48-77 (Chapter 2. "Managing Vulnerable Migrants").

Blackett, Adelle (2019) *Everyday Transgressions: Domestic Workers' Transnational Challenge to International Labor Law*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, pp. 1-34 (Introduction & Chapter 1)

Silvey, Rachel (2004) "Transnational Domestication: State Power and Indonesian Migrant

Women in Saudi Arabia." *Political Geography* 23: 245-264.

Killias, Olivia (2009) "The Politics of Bondage in the Recruitment, Training and Placement of Indonesian Domestic Workers." *Sociologus* 59(2): 145-172.

Week 11 (November 21)

Gender and Transnational Mobility #2: Contested Illegality

Guest Speaker: Professor Maria Cecilia Hwang, East Asian Studies and Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies, McGill University

Readings

Hwang, Maria Cecilia (2021) "Infrastructure of Mobility: Navigating Borders, Cities, and Markets." *Global Networks* 21(1): 108-126.

Constable, Nicole (2014) *Born Out of Place*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp.1-22 (Chapter 1. "A Very Tiny Problem").

Week 12 (November 28)

Gender and Human Rights in Practice: Group-based Meetings

No readings

Week 13 (December 5)

Gender and Human Rights in Practice: Oral Presentations

No readings