Instructor: Professor S. Bashevkin  
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Themes: This course asks students to participate in a seminar-based evaluation of women as foreign policy decision-makers in Western industrialized systems, notably with reference to (a) the willingness and ability of female leaders to use force in international politics; (b) self-constructions of gender identity; and (c) linkages between women elites and feminist activism at the global level. The course is designed to stimulate the preparation of high-quality student research papers. Given this highly structured emphasis on seminar participation and cross-fertilization across student projects, no other research or writing assignments will be admitted as substitutes for the course requirements outlined below.

Course requirements: One two-hour seminar per week. Regular attendance in the classroom is essential in order to fulfill the course requirements. No make-up seminars will be organized for students who miss class, nor will online communications options be provided for seminar participation. Given the strong research component of the course, seminar attendance and participation are crucial in order for students to complete the core assignment. Students are expected to present two seminars during fall term and to submit one draft and one finished paper. Seminar assignments will be made at the beginning of the term. Students are urged to prepare written comments on weekly readings as a basis for discussion, including when they are not scheduled to make a formal presentation. Presentations should focus on critical questions and integrative points linking the readings, not on descriptive summaries of texts. Responsibility for presentations rests with students; the instructor must be notified at least three hours before the start of class if for any reason you will not be making your presentation on the given materials at a specified class. Given enrolment numbers, there is no guarantee that missed seminar presentations will be rescheduled. All students will be required to make at least one seminar presentation on or before Oct. 27, in order for the instructor to grade at least one significant piece of work before the drop deadline of Nov. 3.

Grading scheme: No tests or exams. Emphasis is placed on insightful reading, weekly seminar participation, and well-developed research, writing and seminar presentation skills. Final mark is calculated as follows:  

Class participation  15% (based on quality of in-class engagement, not attendance)  
Presentations        30% (two each @ 15%)  
First draft paper    20%, due 10 November  
Final paper          35%, due   1 December
Essay assignment: Instructions follow this outline. Students are strongly urged to consult with the course instructor well in advance of the first draft essay deadline in order to select an appropriate topic and research strategy for the assignment. Essays should be handed in to instructor on the due date at the start of class. Note strictly enforced late penalty. Essays are organized in sequential order: Students must in all cases submit assignment #1 as a prerequisite for the completion of assignment #2. Grading regulations are clearly delineated in the Faculty of Arts and Science calendar.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information on plagiarism, please see the website of Writing at the University of Toronto: [www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources)

Back up your work: Students are strongly advised to keep rough and draft work, and to make hard copies of their essays before handing them in to the instructor. These should be retained until the marked assignments have been returned and the grades posted on ROSI.

Late penalty for papers: A late penalty of 3 percentage points per day including Saturdays and Sundays will be assessed for both assignments. Only in rare circumstances will a full or partial waiver of the late penalty be considered, and no extensions will be granted in advance of essay assignment deadlines. Papers not submitted in person to the instructor at the beginning of class on the due date must be submitted in person to the Department of Political Science staff in Sidney Smith room 3018 during regular business hours, usually between 9 AM and 5 PM on weekdays only. The instructor assumes no responsibility for papers otherwise submitted. No fax or e-mail essay submissions will be accepted.

Texts: Course readings will be available on the portal site for POL 450F/2316F.

COURSE SCHEDULE

8 September – Introduction to course syllabus, organization of seminar presentations

15 September – Conceptual beginnings


22 September – Applying an empirical lens


29 September – Women as foreign policy decision-makers


6 October – Iraq/Afghanistan case study


13 October – Thanksgiving holiday, no class meeting

20 October -- Post-structural contributions


27 October – Representation theory and its application
**students must make a seminar presentation on this date or before**


3 November -- Gendering international institutions


10 November -- Feminist interventions in international politics **first draft papers due**


17 November **November pause, no class meeting**

24 November -- Drawing conclusions


Hagar Kotef, “Baking at the Front Line, Sleeping with the Enemy: Reflections on Gender and Women’s Peace Activism in Israel,” *Politics and Gender* 7: 4 (December 2011), 551-72.

1 December **final papers due**

Presentation of student research papers

**Course Assignment Information**

1. **First draft paper, due 10 November**

   Suggested length is 1000 to 1500 words in total (4 to 6 typed, double-spaced pages)

   In light of course readings, develop the core of an original piece of empirical research that evaluates either (a) the willingness and ability of female leaders in Western industrialized systems to use force in international politics; (b) self-constructions of gender identity by women foreign policy leaders in Western industrialized systems; or (c) linkages between women elites in Western industrialized systems and feminist activism at the global level. For example, if you select theme (c), you may choose to focus on one individual’s track record with respect to a given substantive policy area (for example, reproductive politics or rape as a weapon of war) or on her interventions with respect to the conduct of international organizations (for example, reform of the UN). In light of course readings, what conceptual frameworks best explain your results? What consequences do your findings hold for the study of women elites?
2. Research paper, due 1 December
Suggested length is 2500-3000 words in total (10 to 12 typed, double-spaced pages)
In light of comments received on your first draft paper, flesh out the main lines of your argument, refine your empirical data and discussion, and draw some key conclusions that are relevant to women elites. Be sure to use course readings to help guide your own writing, argumentation and research toward a level of publishable quality.