

Challenges to the State: Feminist, Human Rights, and NGO Challenges

POLS 281
SUMMER 2014
FIRST FIVE WEEKS
June 9, 2014 – July 11, 2014
MTWRF 12:45-2:20pm
108 CBA

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Course Description

This course covers challenges to the state related to human rights and gender issues. It also examines the growth of non-state actors and their impact on individuals, groups, and rights. Topics to be covered include gendered notions of the state, women's rights, and humanitarian intervention. In particular, we will examine feminist and rights challenges to the state, feminist interpretations of international politics, global governance, and the role of non-governmental organizations in challenging the state. Contact instructor with additional questions.

Required Texts (2)

- Enloe, Cynthia. 2013. *Seriously! Investigating Crashes and Crises as if Women Mattered*. Berkeley: University of California Press. ISBN: 9780520275379.
- Willetts, Peter. 2011. *Non-Governmental Organizations in World Politics: The Construction of Global Governance*. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 978-0-415-38125-3 PAPERBACK, NOT hardback.
- Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard. Print these and bring them to class.

Course Objectives

- understand and apply key themes in challenges to the state
- understand gendered conceptions of the state and feminist challenges to the state
- determine the role of non-state actors in challenges to the state
- reflect on the impact of non-state actors in foreign and comparative government
- explore the impact of intersecting identities in challenges to the state
- develop critical reading skills, and analytical writing skills

Course Questions

- What are challenges to the state?
- What is the role of NGOs in the process of challenging the state?
- How do/can we take gender seriously in politics?
- How do/can we take human rights seriously in politics?
- When are challenges to the state taken seriously?

Grading and Course Requirements

10%	Quality of Class Involvement
10%	Daily Reading Notecards
40%	Quizzes
40%	NGO Paper and Presentation

The grading scale is as follows:

A+ = >98	B- = 80-82	D = 63-66
A = 93-97	C+ = 77-79	D- = 60-62
A- = 90-92	C = 73-76	F = <59
B+ = 87-89	C- = 70-72	
B = 83-86	D+ = 67-69	

Attendance Policy

Discussion will help students engage with the ideas of this course. Due to this, class attendance is necessary. Excessive absence (more than two unexcused absences) and tardiness will be reflected in my evaluation of your class participation, and will likely be reflected both in the kinds of grades you likely will receive on written work, and quizzes. **Missing six classes (approximately 1/4 of the total number of classes) will result in automatic failure of the course.** If you miss class, with or without a legitimate excuse, you are responsible for getting lecture notes from a classmate. If you have questions about the material after looking over the notes, please stop by during my office hours or schedule an appointment with me. Since only a portion of the quizzes will be graded, and since answers will be discussed in class, make-up quizzes will not be given.

Quality of Class Involvement

The success of each class meeting depends upon both your active involvement in class discussion and your arrival to class having carefully read the assigned readings. Class involvement is a significant portion of your grade. Involvement refers to both classroom participation and quizzes which are designed to confirm that students are reading. Good classroom participation includes coming to class prepared to discuss the material after having read it thoroughly. **You must be able to demonstrate that you have read and thought about the material for the day.** Students who participate less frequently but with more substance can earn higher participation grades than those who speak every day and do not substantially contribute to the course. Notes will prove most helpful to facilitating your discussion, especially if you write down key arguments, supporting arguments for those key arguments, and your own questions, comments and responses to the readings. **Be sure to ground your discussion in the readings.** You will be expected to participate respectfully. If your behavior during class is inappropriate or distracting your participation grade will suffer. In this course we will discuss controversial ideas on all ranges of the political spectrum. This is done to help improve comprehension of the texts. Everyone should feel free to experiment with their ideas and be prepared to constructively engage the ideas of others, remembering that the discussion needs to be about the arguments and ideas. Our class discussions demand tolerance, respectful listening, and civility.

- Reading and Remembering: <http://www.canberra.edu.au/studyskills/learning/reading>
- Notetaking: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills/success/notes.html>

Current Political Affairs

I expect that students in a political science course will read reputable newspapers throughout the week to keep abreast of political affairs. You may rotate between newspapers, but they must be of national or international repute. Appropriate newspapers include: *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, or *The Wall Street Journal*. For local newspapers, you may rotate between the *Lincoln Journal Star* and the *Omaha World Herald*, but keep in mind that a national newspaper should be read at least once a week. For news focused on women, you can look at www.womensenews.org.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be given at random throughout the course. Since quiz answers may be discussed in class, students are instructed to get notes from another student if they miss a class, and since only a proportion of quizzes will be included in the final grade, make-up quizzes will not be given. These quizzes will cover the material of the day, and may include material from the class to date. They will take various forms, to include multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and short essay.

Daily Reading Notecards

You will complete notecards on each the reading for each class day. These will be collected at random, so bring them to each class. On the front of these notecards, you will have the following information:

- summarize the key argument (conclusion), or one key argument, of the reading in ONE sentence
- list two supporting reasons (premises) offered for the conclusion (one sentence each maximum)
- write one question informed by the reading that you have for class

This should all fit on the front of the notecard. You can use the back of the notecard for any additional information you would like to have. The purpose of the exercise is to aid in reading comprehension, help you prepare for quality class participation, and provide practice in recognizing arguments. Since these will be collected randomly, and only a portion will be included in the final grade, you cannot make up missed notecard submissions without a university-approved excuse.

NGO Challenge to the State Paper (Proposal – 23 June; Paper – 11 July)

In this paper, you will examine a non-governmental organizations (NGO) and a specific issue (it must be gender or human rights connected in some way) on which the NGO focuses and which challenges a particular state. I recommend local NGOs with whom you can request a visit. Your paper must explain:

- the issue on which the NGO focuses (background of the issue), and which UDHR article(s) could apply to the issue
- the work of the NGO (how does your NGO engage locally, and globally, if applicable)
- how the work challenges the political system of a particular state
- which UN commission(s) your NGO might offer key insights if your NGO was to apply for consultative status

This paper should be between three and five full pages. It gives you the opportunity to focus on a particular issue of interest to you, and explore what an NGO has done. It also gives you an opportunity to think about politics in practice. I highly recommend working with the Writing Center and talking with me about your progress throughout the writing process. You can also reference the resources below for help with grammar and writing. At the very least, be sure to proofread your paper:

- Oxford Dictionaries Better Writing: <http://oxforddictionaries.com/words/better-writing>
- Dr. Grammar: <http://www.drgrammar.org/>
- Purdue Online Writing Lab Grammar: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/5/>
- Quick and Dirty Tips – Grammar Girl: <http://www.quickanddirtytips.com/grammar-girl>

Submitting and Formatting the Paper

*I will not grade the paper if these items are not a part of the submitted paper.

You must bring a printed copy of your paper to class, AND submit an electronic version on Blackboard's SafeAssign. You will find this link by clicking on "Assignments" and submitting your paper under the title of the assignment. Late papers will be penalized five percent each calendar day after the due date and time; however, late final papers will not be accepted after 12:45pm on Monday, 14 July. All items are due at the beginning of class (12:45pm) on the day listed.

Paper must include the following six formatting items:

- one-inch margins
- Times New Roman 12-point font double-spaced
- no extra space between paragraphs (Word → Paragraph → check "No extra space between...")

- last name and page numbers on each page after the first (Word→Design→Header & Footer→check “Different first page,” and ensure the header is also Times New Roman 12 point)
- bibliography (note: Wikipedia and similar sites DO NOT count as appropriate sources)
- APSA Citation Style for political science majors. All others MUST note citation style.
 - a. APSA Citation Guide: <http://citesource.trincoll.edu/apsa/apsa.html>
 - b. APSA Citation Manual: <http://www.apsanet.org/media/pdfs/publications/apsastylemanual2006.pdf>

NGO Challenge to the State Presentation (Presentation Aid – 9 July; Presentation – 10-11 July)

You will present to the class the NGO you examine in your paper. The professional presentation should be nine to eleven minutes, and you should be prepared to answer approximately five minutes of student and instructor questions after your presentation. You must use some sort of presentation aid (handout, PowerPoint, etc.) that will be submitted to the instructor prior to the presentation (due 9 July). If you use PowerPoint, remember the 5x5 rule: no more than five words in a line, and no more than five lines. There are times when this rule is not applicable, so be sure to know your reason for deviating from the 5x5 rule. Finally, include a works cited slide or notation for anything cited or pictures used in the presentation.

Plagiarism / Academic Dishonesty

Academic integrity is essential to teaching, learning, and research – in short, to the entire academic enterprise. You must provide appropriate citations whenever you incorporate someone else’s words or ideas into your text, you must put away any unauthorized material before taking quizzes, and you may not turn in the same work for multiple classes. Copying material from another source (book, journal, another student) without proper acknowledging (see APSA guidelines in the “Submitting and Formatting Papers” section of the syllabus) is cheating. **These and other forms of academic dishonesty, such as falsification, fabrication, or plagiarism, may result in an automatic grade of F for the course no matter the quality of your other class work, and potential University disciplinary proceedings against the student for the violation of the UNL Code of Conduct.** If you have any questions about academic integrity, don’t hesitate to ask. The UNL Code of Conduct, particularly section 4.2 which deals with academic dishonesty, is available online at <http://stuafs.unl.edu/ja/code/index.shtml>. If you have **any** questions regarding proper citation or academic dishonesty please contact me.

- UNL Plagiarism and Citation: <http://unl.libguides.com/plagiarism>
- Plagiarism: What It Is and How to Avoid It: <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/plagiarism>
- Plagiarism Goblin Game: <http://www.lycoming.edu/library/instruction/tutorials/plagiarismGame.aspx>

Campus Resources

- Writing Center - <http://www.unl.edu/writing/>, 402-472-8803, writing@unl.edu
 - The Writing Center offers free one-with-one consulting on writing to all members of the UNL community. They can assist with brainstorming ideas, developing and sustaining an argument or positions, organization, citations, editing strategies and more. The Writing Center recommends bringing in any writing you have done already, your assignment sheet if working on a class assignment, and any feedback you’ve already received for the project.
 - ONLINE SCHEDULER: <http://unl.mywconline.com>
- Campus Libraries and Departmental Resource Centers
 - Women’s Center Library (340 Nebraska Union)
 - Phone: 402-472-2597 ext. 3
 - Email: wclibrary@unl.edu
 - Website: <http://involved.unl.edu/womens-center>
 - Women’s and Gender Studies Program Library (327 Seaton Hall)
 - Phone: 402-472-9392

- WGS Book Library and Video Library Lists available at: <http://www.unl.edu/wgs/resources.shtml> (videos available for overnight rental only)
- UNL Library Website – <http://libraries.unl.edu>
 - On this website is an instant message tool you can use to talk with UNL Librarians
 - Suping Lu (Political Science): slu1@unl.edu; 225B Love; 402-472-3159
 - Charlene Maxey-Harris (WGS): cmaxeyharris2@unl.edu; 224D Love; 402-472-8700
- Trigger Warning: some material we will cover in this class may be upsetting.
 - UNL CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) – <http://health.unl.edu/caps>
 - UNL Victim Advocate – <http://involved.unl.edu/gender/advocate.php>
 - Morgan: 402-472-0203, 340 Nebraska Union, morgan@voicesofhopelincn.org
 - NDVSAC (Nebraska Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalition) – <http://ndvsac.org/>
 - RAINN (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network) – www.rainn.org; 1-800-656-4673
 - National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder – <http://www.ptsd.va.gov/>; 802-296-6300
 - National Center for Victims of Crime – www.victimsofcrime.org

Electronic Devices

Cell phones, laptops, MP3 players, PDAs, PSPs, tablets, and all other electronic devices should be turned off and put away before class begins. If your cell phone rings during class, I reserve the right to deal with the infraction in a way that I deem appropriate. If you are awaiting an important telephone call, please set your phone to ‘vibrate’ and then take the call outside of the classroom.

Students with Disabilities

You are encouraged to contact me for a confidential discussion of your individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To take advantage of these accommodations, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, at 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787. For additional information visit the SSD website at <http://www.unl.edu/ssd/>.

**The instructor may make changes to the syllabus and course calendar during the course. If this occurs, students will be notified in class, and the revised syllabus will be emailed to students and posted on blackboard*

Course Calendar

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Monday 9 June	Introduction	Syllabus (READ the entire syllabus before class)	
Tuesday 10 June	Politics & States	Enloe, Chapter 1 – Who is Taken Seriously? (p. 1-18) OPTIONAL: “Chewbacca’s Defense” (Blackboard)	
Wednesday 11 June		Tétreault and Lipschutz, “Global Politics Because People Matter” (Blackboard)	
Thursday 12 June		Tétreault and Lipschutz, “People and States” (Blackboard)	
Friday 13 June		Tétreault and Lipschutz, “People Matter” (Blackboard)	

Monday 16 June	Politics as the Preferred World	Enloe, Chapter 2 – Launching and Naming(p. 19-38)	
Tuesday 17 June		Enloe, Chapter 3 – The Mundane Matters (p. 39-48)	
Wednesday 18 June		Forsythe, “The UN Security Council and Human Rights” (Blackboard) Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Blackboard)	
Thursday 19 June		UN NGO Bulletin (Blackboard) OPTIONAL: UN Charter (Blackboard)	
Friday 20 June		Willetts, Chapter 1 – NGO, Social Movements, and Civil Society (p. 6-31)	
Monday 23 June	Organizing around Ideas	Willetts, Chapter 2 – The Access of NGOs to Global Policy-Making (p. 32-63)	NGO Proposal
Tuesday 24 June		Willetts, Chapter 3 – The Status of NGOs in International Law (p. 64-83)	
Wednesday 25 June		Willetts, Chapter 4 – NGOs, Networking, and the Creation of the Internet (p. 84-113)	
Thursday 26 June		Willetts, Chapter 5 – Understanding the Place of NGOs in Global Politics (p. 114-143)	
Friday 27 June		Willetts, Chapter 6 – The Creation of Global Governance (p. 144-162)	
Monday 30 June	Challenges and Today’s World Politics	Responsibility to Protect (Synopsis, I, II) http://responsibilitytoprotect.org/ICISS%20Report.pdf	
Tuesday 1 July		Enloe, Chapter 4 – Masculinities and Banking (p. 49-85)	
Wednesday 2 July		Enloe, Chapter 5 – Women in Recession (p. 86-113)	
Thursday 3 July		Enloe, Chapter 6 – Militarism, Patriarchy, and Peace Movements (p. 114-123)	
Friday 4 July		NO CLASS – INDEPENDENCE DAY (USA)	
Monday 7 July		Enloe, Chapter 7 – Failing to Secure the Peace (p. 124-150)	
Tuesday 8 July		Enloe, Chapter 8 – Egyptian Women, Feminism, Revolutions (p. 151-178)	
Wednesday 9 July		Enloe, Chapter 9 – In the Eye of the Beholder (p. 179-186)	Presentation Aid Due
Thursday 10 July		Student Presentations	
Friday 11 July		Student Presentations	NGO Paper Due
Monday 14 July		NO LATE WORK ACCEPTED AFTER 12:45pm (this is four days late, meaning the penalty is 20% off)	