Language of Instruction: English

Professors: Tània Verge (coordinator), M. José González, Pilar Medina, Ares Batlle

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Course Contact Hours: 30 hours

Recommended Credit: 4 ECTS credits

Weeks: 2

Course Prerequisites: None

Language Requirements: Written and spoken English is required

Time modules: Monday to Friday 11.00-13.00h and 14.30-15.30h

Course Description:
Around the world, no place is less safe for women than their own home – almost one in three women have suffered physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner and one in four women have suffered psychological violence. The public sphere is neither free from gender-based violence (GBV) either, with sexual violence being a widespread global phenomenon in the workplace, in university campuses, in the streets or in the context of armed conflicts. GBV is one of the main drivers of the production and reproduction of gender inequality. This course examines GBV from an interdisciplinary approach, including sociological, legal, political science and media perspectives. It provides a forum for students to explore contemporary issues in GBV from both a theoretical and practical standpoint (using local and international case studies) through the discussion of ongoing controversies about the causes and effects of such violence. It also analyses the policy responses addressing GBV coming from states, civil society and international actors and assesses the extent to which they are effective (or not). Given that the experiences of GBV and the interactions with institutions vary across groups, the course will pay attention to how gender intersects with race, class, and sexuality.

Keywords: Gender power relations in the public and private spheres, gender roles and inequality, intersectionality, gender-based violence, feminism.

Learning Objectives:
At the end of the course, students:
  • will be able to understand the root causes, contributing factors and types of GBV.
  • will be able to understand how the intersections of gender/sexuality, race/ethnicity, class, and other characteristics are reflected in women’s experiences of GBV.
  • will be able to apply key concepts and approaches from a variety of disciplines (including Women’s and Gender Studies, Political Science, Sociology, Law and Media Studies) to analyze the problem of gender-based violence and responses to it.
  • will be able to identify the various social and legal challenges faced by survivors of gender-based violence.
  • will be able to articulate the ways in which GBV is a social justice issue.

Course Workload
Students should be prepared to read between 50 to 150 pages per week.

Methods of Instruction:
The course includes both lectures (two hours per day) and seminars (one hour per day). Due to the nature of the topic, the course will invite students to develop their critical thinking skills by understanding major theoretical, moral and practical debates that shape considerations on responses to the problem of violence against women. The
success of the course builds on the degree and quality of students’ participation. Enrolled students are expected to do the assigned readings prior to the classes. All readings and class materials will be available on the course website (Aula Global).

Method of Assessment
Class participation: 15%
Reading response: 25%
Final exam: 60%

Absence Policy
Attending class is mandatory and will be monitored daily by professors. The impact of absences on the final grade will be announced soon.

The BISS attendance policy does not distinguish between justified or unjustified absences. The student is deemed responsible to manage his/her absences. Emergency situations (hospitalization, family emergency, etc.) will be analyzed on a case by case basis by the Academic Director of the UPF Summer School.

Classroom Norms:
· No food or drink is permitted.
· There will be a ten-minute break during the class.
· Students must come to class fully prepared.

Course Contents:

25th June, Session 1. Introduction
Gender power relations and patriarchy: Inequality, privilege, and violence
The political economy of violence against women
Intersectional perspectives on gender-based violence


26th June, Session 2. Gender-based violence in intimate relationships
The public nature of private violence
Sexism and violence
Gendered opportunities, subordination and violence


27th June, Session 3. Men, masculinity and power relations
Why study masculinity?
Initiation into manhood
Hegemonic Masculinity


28th June, Session 4. Violence toward the ‘space invaders’
Sexual harassment in the workplace
Political and electoral violence against women
Discussion of policy responses

29th June, Session 5. Gender and violence in the media  
Media representations of violence against women  
Postfeminism: The portrayal of women in media advertisement  
Hipersexuality in media and rape culture


2nd July Session 6. Campaigns against psychological violence  
The myths of romantic love  
Elements of the psychological violence


3rd July, Session 7. Militarism, war and violence  
Militarism and masculinity  
Sexual violence in and by the military  
Sexual violence as a weapon of war


4th July, Session 8. Feminist criticisms to law and the criminal justice system  
The role of police  
Re-victimization processes  
Ideal victim & the invalidation of women’s experiences  
Issues of child custody following GBV


5th July, Session 9. Women’s prisons as institutional violence: Doing time as doing gender  
The history of women’s prisons  
Which profile of women end up in prison?  
Characteristics of women’s prisons


6th July, Session 10. Measuring GBV  
Indicators used in the study of GBV  
Ethical considerations in the study of GBV  
Global assessment of policy responses

**Required Readings:** The mandatory readings for each session will be available on the course website.

**Recommended bibliography:** Students are encouraged to consult the following sources on their own.


**Key Resources**


World Health Organization (2013) Global and regional estimates of violence against women: Prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence:
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85239/1/9789241564625_eng.pdf?ua=1

http://www.unhcr.org/3f696bcc4.pdf


Fundamental Rights Agency (2014) Violence against Women – and EU wide survey:

https://statswiki.unece.org/display/VAW/Measuring+violence+against+women

World Health Organization (2005) Multi-country Study on Women’s Health and Domestic Violence against Women:
http://www.path.org/publications/pub.php?id=1141

Report on Sexual Harassment in the workplace in EU member states (2004):

https://www1.essex.ac.uk/armedcon/story_id/sexualviolence_conflict_full%5B1%5D.pdf

World Bank resources on Gender-Based Violence, Health and the role of the Health Sector:

Inter-Parliamentary Union – Sexism, Harassment and Violence against Women MPs:

https://www.unicef.org/french/media/files/Interagency_Statement_on_Eliminating_FGM.pdf

White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault. Not Alone: The First Report of the White House Task Force to Protect Students From Sexual Assault (2014):
https://www.notalone.gov/assets/report.pdf

Journals
Violence against Women: http://vaw.sagepub.com/
Social Politics: http://sp.oxfordjournals.org/
Gender and Society: http://journals.sagepub.com/home/gas
European Journal of Women Studies: http://ejw.sagepub.com/
International Feminist Journal of Politics:
http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/14616742.asp

Websites
European Women’s Lobby Observatory on Violence against Women http://www.ewlcentreonviolence.org/
Women’s Initiative for Gender Justice
http://www.iccwomen.org/index.php
The International Monitoring Center on Sexual Violence in Armed Conflicts
http://www.viol-tactique-de-guerre.org/bibliography.html
European Institute for Gender Equality
Women Living Under Muslim Laws
http://www.violenceisnotourculture.org/

Last revised, February 2018