

The International MA Program in Conflict Resolution and Mediation

The Gershon H. Gordon
Faculty of Social Sciences
Tel Aviv University

Dr. Ina Kubbe

Gender and Conflict: Understanding Conflict and Promoting Peace

Mondays 15:00-16:30

Naftali 004

Gender equality - as a fundamental human right - and empowering women and girls are among the UN's sustainable goals and the basic foundation for sustainable development, peaceful societies, and a prosperous world. Still, we are far away from reaching these goals.

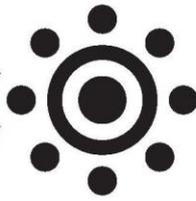
Our course focuses on the role of gender in the public as well as private sector. It examines the challenges and opportunities of women and girls (as well as men) in all areas of life and levels with a specific focus on the complex interplay between gender, conflict, and peacebuilding. This multidisciplinary course explores how gender norms, identities, and inequalities intersect with armed conflicts, humanitarian crises, and peace processes.

We will discuss theories and approaches related to gender (in)equality and analyse the societal debates around them from various theoretical and empirical perspectives. Through a critical and analytical lens, students will gain insights into the roles of women and men in conflict zones, the impact of gender-based violence, and the strategies employed to promote gender equality in the context of conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction.

This course's readings encompass academic articles, books, policy reports, and case studies, drawing from various disciplines such as political science, sociology, and gender studies. Students are encouraged to engage critically with these materials and apply them to course discussions and assignments.

By the end of this course, students will:

- Acquire a deep understanding of key concepts and theories related to gender, conflict, and peace.
- Analyze the gendered dimensions of conflict, including the roles of women and men in various conflict settings.



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- Evaluate the impact of conflict on gender-based violence, human rights, and women's empowerment.
- Explore gender-sensitive conflict resolution and peacebuilding strategies.
- Critically assess policies and initiatives aimed at advancing gender equality and women's participation in peace and security processes.

The course is structured as a combination of lectures, discussions, case studies, group projects, and guest speaker sessions. It encourages active engagement with both theoretical concepts and real-world applications, ensuring a comprehensive and immersive learning experience.

This course is designed for Master's level students interested in international relations, conflict studies, gender studies, disaster management, human rights, and related fields. It is particularly valuable for those seeking to work in international organizations, NGOs, government agencies, or academia, with a focus on gender-responsive policies and practices.

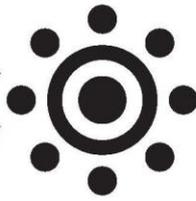
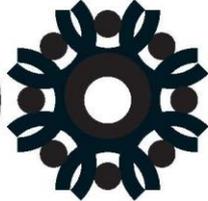
Course Requirements

- Class attendance and active participation – 20% of the final grade
- Class presentation based on the provided literature – 30% of the final grade (presentations during the sessions)
- Research Paper – 50% of the final grade

The research paper (final assignment) should comprise an introduction including research question, hypothesis, literature review, analysis, and discussion - research must relate to established theoretical and empirical debate and must discuss at least one of the sections learned in class - 2500-3500 words (including bibliography)

Further requirements for the final paper and presentations and due dates will be provided in class.

These requirements are designed to evaluate students' comprehension of course materials and their ability to apply theoretical knowledge to practical scenarios.



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Session 1: Introduction, Syllabus

- Overview of the course and objectives
- Defining key concepts: Gender, Sex, and Intersectionality
- Theoretical frameworks for analyzing gender and conflict

Part I: Definitions, Theories, Approaches

Session 2: Gender Theory: Why should we care?

- Theoretical Approaches and Relevance
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Session 3: Feminism (e.g. historical roots and development)

- Different feminist approaches
- Feminism and Conflict(resolution)

Session 4: Gender In/Equality and Gender Mainstreaming

- Definition of terms
- Theories in Practice

Part II: Gender, Conflict and Peace

Session 5: Gendered Dimensions of Conflict

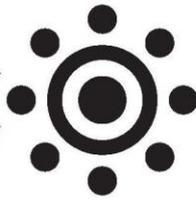
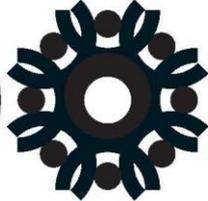
- Gender roles and norms in conflict settings
- Masculinities and femininities in war and peace
- Case study: Gender dynamics in armed groups

Session 6: Women in Conflict Zones

- Women as combatants and soldiers
- Women as victims and survivors
- Role of women in conflict economies

Session 7: Gender-Based Violence in Conflict

- Understanding gender-based violence (GBV)



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- Forms and consequences of GBV
- International legal frameworks and responses

Session 8: Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

- Analyzing conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV)
- Impacts on survivors and communities
- Preventing and responding to CRSV

Part III: The Way Ahead

Session 9: Women, Peace, and Security (UNSCR 1325)

- The UN Security Council Resolution 1325
- Women's participation in peace processes
- Gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping and peacebuilding

Session 10: Gender-Responsive Conflict Resolution

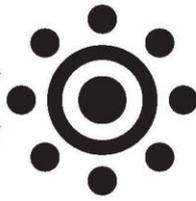
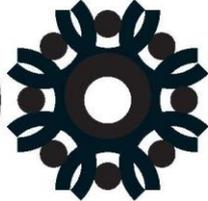
- Gender-sensitive negotiation and mediation
- The role of women's civil society organizations
- Case study: Successful peace processes with a gender focus

Session 11: Gender and Post-Conflict Reconstruction

- Gender and transitional justice
- Economic empowerment and livelihoods
- Reconciliation and social cohesion

Session 12: Policy and Practice in Gender and Conflict

- Analyzing gender-responsive policies and programs



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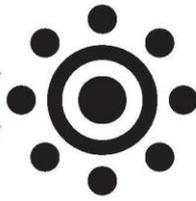
- Challenges and opportunities in implementing gender mainstreaming
- The Women, Peace, and Security Agenda beyond 1325

Session 13: Conclusion and Future Prospects

- Contemporary challenges, such as climate change and conflict
- LGBTQ+ perspectives in conflict
- Technology and gender-based violence

General Literature

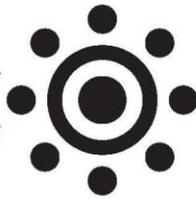
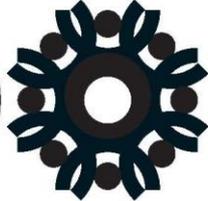
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