Course Outline
PaCS 04. GENDER, LAW AND VIOLENCE [2 credits]

Course instructor: Soibam Haripriya

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course critically examines the complex relationships between gender, law and violence. Gendered approaches to peace and conflict studies enable a rethinking of dominant assumptions about the perpetrators, victims, and agents of violence, and those charged with upholding legal mechanisms to discipline and compensate. Such approaches also question the gendered nature of key concepts like citizenship, public spheres, and politics. By drawing on cases from Northeast India, South Asia, and globally, this course adopts a multi scalar lens to explore the historical lineage of the legal developments. These have profoundly shaped the existing notions of gender and violence and vice versa. These mutually constitutive processes have both universal and relative significance. A critical understanding of the relationships between gender, law, and violence are imperative for understanding peace and conflict in multiple contexts.

Course Objectives
a. To introduce students to the phenomenon of gender-motivated violence – its forms, causes and consequences
b. Understanding the relationships between gender, law, and violence
c. Understand the constitutional and legal framework through feminist jurisprudence

Modes of Teaching: Class room lectures, seminars, movies/documentaries and tutorials
This is a 2 credit (30 contact hours) course that will be conducted primarily though (a) lectures by faculty instructor (approximately 20 hours), (b) seminar mode organised by students (approximately 6 hours, this will be graded) (c) critical engagement with documentary films (approximately 2 hours).

The course outline is included below and will be open for discussion for possible changes and alterations on the first day of class. Lectures include readings from the prescribed syllabus, as well as those that the instructor feels will be useful for the class. All the readings will be shared with the class prior to lectures. They will either be uploaded on moodle, or sent to the class representative for dissemination.

MA (PaCS) students are expected to read at the weekly-prescribed readings and contribute to the discussions in class.

The seminar mode will be used to allow students to work through certain thematic issues of the course. The seminars is also a way to introduce continuous evaluation in the class. The students will be formed into groups by the faculty. This is also to ensure interactions between the students and a learning of working together. T
Documentary films will be shown as part of the course. Students are expected to conduct an informed debate after watching the films. Therefore discussions after the screenings are a must. This also forms part of the continuous evaluation and carries weightage of grades.

**Modes of Assessment:** Seminars, Assignment and Term End Exam

1. **UNDERSTANDING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**

   [This unit will introduce students to issues of gender-based violence, such as sexual harassment, rape, domestic violence, dowry, etc. The aim is to highlight the new ways of conceptualizing and interrogating methodological issues of gender-based violence.]

   2 weeks, 3 readings: Lecture Method; 1 reading: Student Group Seminar
   6 hours

   **Readings**


2. **Exploring the relationship between gender and law**

   [This unit will explore feminist legal theory to underscore that it is not about particular laws but rather to investigate the gendered modern law. Such an approach provides a more nuanced and sophisticated conception of law that foregrounds sex/gender as an important social structure or discourse.]

   2 weeks, 3 readings: Lecture Method; 1 reading: Student Group Seminar
   6 hours

   **Readings**


Flavia Agnes, *Law and Gender Inequality: The Politics of Women's Rights in India*, Oxford University Press, 1999

4. Global law and local justice

[This unit introduces the student to a critical reading of law, especially in its universalist ambit, by focusing on localized studies and examples of how gender-based violence is addressed.]

1 week: 1 reading Lecture Method; 1 reading: Student Group Seminar, 1 Film Screening: Student discussion moderated by Faculty

4 hours

Readings
Sally Engle Merry, *Human Rights & Gender Violence: Translating International Law into Local Justice*, University of Chicago Press, 2006


Film
Bilal A Jan, *Ocean of Tears*, 2012

5. Gender and armed conflict

[Challenging assumptions that women are forever seen as victims, this unit looks at critical attempts to reformulate the impact of armed conflict on gender relations. It draws from different studies of militarization and its impact on transforming social structures.]

2 weeks, 4 readings: Lecture Method; 1 reading: Student Group Seminar

6 hours

Readings


6. ‘Lawless law’: gender, violence and AFSPA

[This unit focuses on the impact of law as the site of gender-based violence. Drawing on experiences of the enactment of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in Northeast India, this unit sensitizes students to the different ways in which women and indigenous communities are subjected to increasing marginalization and vulnerability through processes that grant impunity to perpetrators of violence.]

2 weeks, 3 readings: Lecture Method; Any two reading: Student Group Seminar

10 hours

Readings


Further readings


