Outline:

Human security, liberty, political voice, economic status, education, health, freedom of expression, access to markets and public spaces as well as institutional behaviour are all fundamentally shaped by gender. This paper aims to introduce students to the various ways in which different understandings of gender (broadly conceived) impact on recent political debates. Rather than presenting holistic theoretical overviews, these lectures will discuss a range of key concepts and debates in relation to current empirical examples. Lectures will be structured by six themes: Political Representation, Rights, Inequality, Conflict and Violence, Social Movements and Radical Politics and finally Power and the Body.

Supervisions:

Supervision for this paper will be centrally organised. Students will be supervised on all six topics of the paper and should have three supervisions in both the Michaelmas and Lent terms.

Assessment:

There will be a one three-hour written examination. Candidates must answer three questions. Example exam papers are available on Moodle.

Lectures Michaelmas Term:

Gender and the Political Subject. Introduction I. [Jude Browne]
Gender and the Political Subject. Introduction II. [Jude Browne]
Gender and Representation I. [Jude Browne]
Gender and Representation II. [Jude Browne]
Gender and Rights I. [Jude Browne]
Gender and Rights II. [Jude Browne]
Gender and Equality I. [Jude Browne]
Gender and Equality II. [Jude Browne]

Lectures Lent Term:

Gender and Equality III. [Lauren Wilcox]
Gender, Conflict and Violence I. [Lauren Wilcox]
Gender, Conflict and Violence II. [Lauren Wilcox]
Gender, Conflict and Violence III. [Lauren Wilcox]
Gender, Social Movements and Radical Politics I. [Lauren Wilcox]
Course Content:

1-2. Gender and the Political Subject: An Introduction

These two introductory lectures will provide students with useful key concepts and ideas relating to a range of perspectives on critical gender debates in politics relevant to the lecture series.

3-4. Gender and Political Representation

Key Themes: representation, democracy, identity, culture, political dialogue and justice.

Suggested supervision question: Can gender be represented in political assemblies?

Core Reading:


Further Reading:


5-6. Gender and Rights

**Key Themes:** human rights, gender-specific rights, minimalist and expansionist models of rights.

**Suggested supervision question:** Does it make sense to have gender-specific rights?

**Core Reading:**


**Further Reading:**


7-9. Gender and Inequality

**Key Themes:** global gender gaps, labour market inequality, the family, causal theories of inequality, poverty, political economy.

**Suggested supervision question:** What causes gender inequality?

**Core Reading:**


**Further Reading:**


https://www.weforum.org/reports/the-global-gender-gap-report-2018

**10-12. Gender, Conflict and Violence**
**Key Themes:** security, protection, gendered dynamics of war, biology versus social construction, soldiering, sexual assault in warfare

**Suggested supervision question:** How should we understand the relevance of ‘gender’ to studies of conflict and security?

**Core Reading:**


**Further Reading:**


### 13-14. Gender, Social Movements and Radical Politics

**Key Themes:** sexuality, radical politics, international and transnational feminist movements, trans-politics.

**Suggested supervision question:** To what extent is political mobilization around the concept of ‘gender’ capable of meeting the challenges of the contemporary political condition?

**Core Reading:**


**Further Reading:**


**15-16. Gender, Power and the Body**

**Key themes:** contemporary modalities of power, bodies, discipline, sexuality, transgender politics, posthumanism.

**Suggested supervision question:** To what extent does the contemporary politics of the body [such as posthumanism, LGBT/queer politics, discipline/biopower] render the concept of gender obsolete?

**Core Reading:**


**Further Reading:**


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**Pol 18 Example Exam Questions:**

1. Should we think of ourselves as gendered interlocutors in political discourse? Discuss with reference to at least one empirical example.

2. Should gender justice be sought primarily in terms of rights? Discuss with reference to at least one empirical example.

3. What practical solutions might we develop to tackle gender equality? Discuss with reference to at least one empirical example.
4. To what extent are contemporary social movements surrounding issues of gender and sexuality related to struggles surrounding race and/or economic relations? Discuss in relation to at least one contemporary issue or movement.

5. Is it useful to consider war to be a practice of male dominance? Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of this approach to theorizing gender and war with reference to at least one armed conflict.

6. Do you agree that Foucault’s concepts of discipline and biopolitics undermine feminist politics? [Also see example questions in each topic description above].

[Also see Moodle for past exam papers. NB: previous title of this paper was POL 17]