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 seven themes: Political Representation, Rights, Inequality, Power and the Body, Development and Humanitarianism, Conflict and Violence, and Social Movements and Radical Politics.

Supervisions:

Supervision for this paper will be centrally organised across Michaelmas and Lent terms. Students will be able to sign up for six supervisions of their choosing from the seven key themes.

Supervisors: Jude Browne jmb63@cam.ac.uk  
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Assessment:

There will be a one three-hour written examination. Candidates must answer three questions. Example exam papers are available on Moodle. (Please note that the paper was previously called POL 18.) Revision will be organised in the Easter Term.

Lectures Michaelmas Term:

Gender and the Political Subject. Introduction I. Prof Jude Browne  
Gender and the Political Subject. Introduction II. Prof Jude Browne  
Gender and Representation I. Prof Jude Browne  
Gender and Representation II. Prof Jude Browne  
Gender and Rights I. Prof Jude Browne
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.

[No reading required but handouts will give refs to lectures]

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:**

Abu-Lughod, L. (2013) *Do Muslim Women Need Saving?* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. (available online at UL)


Further Reading:


7-8. 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:


9-12. Gender, Power and the Body

Key themes: embodiment, discipline, desire, sexuality, transgender politics, performativity.

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:


I3-16. Gender, Development & Humanitarianism

Key Themes: global responses to poverty & war, forced migration, the ‘household’, feminization of poverty, empowerment, vulnerability, NGOs, measuring ‘progress’, Women Peace and Security Agenda

Suggested supervision question: How should an understanding of gender shape responses to poverty and ‘humanitarian’ crises?

Core Reading:


Merry, S. E. (2016) The Seductions of Quantification: Measuring Human Rights, Gender Violence and Sex Trafficking. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [Ch 1: A World of Quantification] [available online at UL]


Further Reading:


**17-20. Gender, Conflict and Violence**

**Key Themes:** gendered dynamics of war, continuums of violence, militarization, ‘conflict-related’ sexual violence, militarized women, ‘violent’ masculinities, gender and displacement

**Suggested supervision question:** How does gender shape war or vice versa?

**Core Reading:**


**Further Reading:**


21-24 Gender, Social Movements and Radical Politics

Key Themes: sexuality, queer theory, radical politics, transnational feminist movements, anti-racist feminisms, identity 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:


Corredor, E. (2019) ‘Unpacking “Gender Ideology” and the Global Right’s Antigender Countermovement’, Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society, 44(3), pp. 613-638. (See also the other articles in this special issue on gender and the far-right.)


Fraser, N. (2013) Fortunes of Feminism: From State-Managed Capitalism to Neoliberal Crisis. London: Verso Books. (available online at UL). Especially chapters 6, 7, 8, and 9. (available online at UL)


Further Reading:


[Also see Moodle for past exam papers and Examiners’ Reports]

NB: a previous title of this paper was POL 18]