

COURSE SYLLABUS
POLS/LSJ 327: Women's Rights as Human Rights

Professor Rachel Cichowski
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Cichowski Office Hours: Tuesdays 4:30-5:30 pm and Thursdays 10:30-11:30am
Office Hours Zoom link: <https://washington.zoom.us/j/93330766202>

University of Washington
Winter 2021

Teaching Assistants (TA) and Quiz Sections:

Andrea Cancino Sáenz acancino@uw.edu	AA 9:30-10:20 am	AB 10:30-11:20 am
Dennis Young dyoung4@uw.edu	AC 11:30-12:20 am	AD 12:30-1:20 am
Lauren Collins lec14009@uw.edu	AE 10:30-11:20 am	AF 11:30-12:20 am

All times listed are in Pacific Standard Time (PST)

Course Format: Required pre-recorded lecture videos that will be posted on Canvas on Tuesday and Thursday and required live Zoom meeting Friday quiz/discussion sections as per your enrollment and listed on your course schedule. The course will also include one or more required Live Guest Lectures taking place over Zoom followed by Q&A, join if it fits in your schedule, it will be informative, engaging and fun, but if you can't attend, the recording will also be available. The Guest Lecture times and zoom links will be brought to your attention when the information is available.

Course Description: This course is an elective course for the comparative legal institutions and human rights track of the Law, Societies & Justice major and serves as an elective course in the Group A Data Studies track of the Data Science Minor. There are no pre-requisites for the course. The course is both interdisciplinary and comparative rather than having a United States focus. The purpose of the course is to expose students to the complex issues - social, political, economic and legal - that characterize women's rights around the globe. The course also critically examines the limits and benefits of data science approaches for women's human rights. Students will be asked to think critically about women's rights while thinking comparatively about the varying domestic and international settings that can alter the meaning and practical application of these rights. The course will focus on various substantive policy areas and their intersection with women's rights including health, the environment, gender violence and human trafficking.

Further, students given the opportunity to conduct research on a women's rights topic. The course will provide students with an introduction to and assistance in utilizing primary (data, court cases, treaties, policy reports etc) and secondary (peer reviewed journal articles and books) sources for conducting research.

Course Learning Goals and Objectives

- Analyze and examine global women's rights issues
- Critically assess the limits and benefits of using data to attain women's human rights
- Critically assess policy approaches and solutions for global women's rights issues
- Analyze and examine the impact of gender data on society and policy makers
- Construct and conduct an independent research project using data to examine a global women's rights issue
- Acquire and apply skills to share your research analysis through a Research Paper

Course Canvas site: This will be a place to look for this syllabus, announcements, research links, weekly questions, study guides and assignments: <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1435085>

Research Resources: You will find extensive research resources on the course website. These include how-to tips and videos on conducting social science research using library resources and web based resources. You also will find information on research specific to the course's topic on women's human rights and gender data collection and analysis. We will focus on publicly available databases with an emphasis on gender indicators such as the [OECD Social Institutions & Gender Index](#), [Women's Stats Project](#) or the [World Bank's Gender Stats Database](#).

Required Reading: There are two types of required readings for this course. First, there is one required book: *The Seductions of Quantification* by Sally Engle Merry which is available at the UW Bookstore or through online retailers. Second, a set of required readings including peer reviewed journal articles and primary sources are available through the Course Canvas site under Modules.

Required Lectures: Lectures will be posted each week as pre-recorded Videos and will be uploaded to the Course Canvas site. We also It is advisable to do the readings and view the lecture videos in line with the course schedule as laid out in the Syllabus.

Two important points. First, lectures cover major points taught in the course and may raise important points from the readings, but they are not an adequate substitute for reading assignments. Conversely, material presented in lectures is not always covered in the readings. You are expected to have read the readings assigned in the schedule below and to be ready to discuss the relevant materials in a knowledgeable way. Failure to keep up with readings will limit your ability to learn from the lecture videos and Friday quiz section Zoom meeting interactions. Second, some of the reading assignments are difficult and may take more time than you might otherwise expect. I urge you to stay on schedule. The syllabus tells you what to read and when. Both the TAs and I are here to help you understand the material covered in this course. Please don't hesitate to come visit us in our Zoom office hours if you have any questions, concerns or comments.

Assessment:

Midterm Exam	25%
Research paper (9-10 pages)	30%
Final Exam	25%
Quiz Section Assignments/Participation	20%

Assessment in this course will be based on the above criteria. Receiving a zero on any one of the three main course assignments, will result in a failing grade for the course. In addition to your performance on the exams and paper, 20 percent of your course grade will be based on your class participation and assignments turned in quiz section. You will be expected to turn in writing assignments (1-2 pages) in your quiz sections. Weekly Reading Questions are posted on the Course Website on Fridays for the following week. The TA alone has responsibility over this element of the final grade. Please inform me or your TA as soon as possible of any circumstances that will affect your ability to meet assignment deadlines. We are here to help. The syllabus marks clearly when assignments are due, enabling all students to schedule their quarter accordingly. If you have conflicting commitments, please speak with me as soon as possible so accommodations can be made.

Research and Writing: This course aims to develop research skills. In particular, students will be instructed in and given time to utilize library resources in order to develop and complete a research paper. Further, students will also be asked to do a significant amount of writing and your ability to formulate and express a rigorous argument will be central to your success. You are encouraged to speak with the TA and me about your writing and to use the Political Science Writing Center. They have handouts on their website (<http://depts.washington.edu/pswrite/>) and you can schedule an individual Zoom meeting with them for writing consultations. Subsequently, students are expected to produce polished papers that are thoroughly revised, proofread, and spell-checked. Students are expected to cite their sources properly, and failure to do so will result in a grade reduction and a possible zero on the assignment.

Access and Accommodations: Your experience in this class is important to us, and it is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. Remote learning and this time of pandemic presents challenges to all of us. Please reach out immediately if you need any extra assistance to support your learning in this course. If you experience barriers based on disability, please seek a meeting with DRS to discuss and address them. If you have already established accommodations with DRS, please communicate your approved accommodations to your instructor at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course. Disability Resources for Students (DRS) offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and DRS. If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary or permanent disability that requires accommodations (this can include but not limited to; mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS at 206-543-8924, Mary Gates Hall 011, uwdrs@uw.edu or disability.uw.edu.

Religious Accommodation: Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at Religious Accommodations Policy (<https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/>). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the Religious Accommodations Request form (<https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>).

Counseling and Support: The Counseling Center and Hall Health are excellent resources on campus that many UW students utilize. Students may get help with study skills, career decisions, substance abuse, relationship difficulties, anxiety, depression, or other concerns.

- Counseling Center <https://www.washington.edu/counseling/>
- Hall Health <https://wellbeing.uw.edu/>

Academic Conduct. We will enforce strictly the University of Washington's Student Conduct Code, including the policy on plagiarism. Violations of the Student Conduct Code, including plagiarism, can result in a variety of disciplinary actions, including suspension or permanent dismissal from the University. The entire code can be found at <http://www.washington.edu/cssc/for-students/academic-misconduct/>

The instructor and TAs in this course are here to help you utilize proper citation techniques, please seek out their assistance. This course will use the SimCheck platform to help support student learning and proper citation practices. Students will be given the chance to check and edit their research paper in

advance. The Political Science Writing Center has an excellent handout on best practices for citation and how to avoid plagiarism. <http://depts.washington.edu/pswrite/Handouts/Plagiarism.pdf>

Notice: *The University has a license agreement with SimCheck, an educational tool that helps prevent or identify plagiarism from Internet resources. Your instructor may use the service in this class by requiring that assignments are submitted electronically to be checked by SimCheck. The SimCheck Report will indicate the amount of original text in your work and whether all material that you quoted, paraphrased, summarized, or used from another source is appropriately referenced.*

COURSE SCHEDULE

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Lesson 1: Women's Rights as Human Rights: History, Theory, Laws and Data

This lesson introduces women's rights as human rights: its origins as both a movement and a policy approach. The lesson identifies the key historical developments of the women's human rights movement and also a set of pre-requisite factors for attaining women's human rights. We will also introduce key international laws and conventions governing women's rights. The lesson also explores the theoretical approaches to studying women's human rights. Finally, we will introduce students to the role data science plays in policies and societal understandings of women's rights. This discussion will provide a basis for the critical questions and approaches we will continue to engage as we examine substantive areas of women's human rights throughout the course.

Tuesday, January 5:

- Bunch, *Women's Rights as Human Rights*

Thursday, January 7

- Merry, *The Seductions of Quantification*, Chap 1 ([A World of Quantification](#))

Lesson 2: Women's Rights and Health

This lesson examines the ways in which women's health and access to healthcare can affect the status of women's rights. If girls are not surviving childhood and women are not surviving childbearing years, civil and political rights are meaningless. We will also critically examine the inequalities experienced in global health crises (e.g. COVID-19 pandemic) and the role that data collection and analysis can play in government and societal responses.

Tuesday, January 12

- United Nations, *COVID-19 and Ending Violence Against Women and Girls*
- Yasmin, *The Ebola Rape Epidemic No One is Talking About*

Thursday, January 14

- D'Ignazio & Klein, *Introduction: Why Data Science Needs Feminism* (their book *Data Feminism*, MIT 2020)

Tuesday, January 19

- Artiga et al., *Racial Disparities in Maternal and Infant Health*

Thursday, January 21

- **LIVE Zoom Lecture: 10:00-11:30am PST:** Guest lecture with Lauren Hanna, Project Coordinator, Kosovo Women's Network (Pristina, Kosovo) (live lecture followed by Q&A, join if it fits in your schedule, it will be informative, engaging and fun, but if you can't attend, the recording will also be available).
- Reading: TBD

Lesson 3: Women's Rights and the Environment

This lesson explores the connections between the environment, natural resource management, access to clean water and women's empowerment. Building on our discussion in the previous lessons, we focus on the basic needs and infrastructure and how these provide the foundation for women's attainment of rights and equal status. Clean water and sanitation are inextricably linked to women's empowerment. This lesson puts in stark relief the need to ground rights reforms firmly in a larger discussion of access to basic life needs. We cannot build one without the other.

Tuesday, January 26:

- McDonald, *Women and the Right to Water* (speech, United Nations Human Rights Council)

Thursday, January 28:

- United Nation Foundation's Data2X, *Mapping Gender Data Gaps in the Environment*
- Merry, *The Seductions of Quantification*, Chap 2 (Indicators as a Technology of Knowledge)

Tuesday, February 2

- Arora-Jonsson, *Virtue and Vulnerability: Discourses on Women, Gender, and Climate Change*

Wednesday, February 3 Midterm Exam available 9:00 am on Canvas

Thursday, February 4: No lecture video or readings. Work on Midterm Exam. **Midterm due at 11:00 pm on Canvas.**

Lesson 4: Women's Rights and Violence

This lesson will cover the issue of women's rights and violence against women. The lesson is both historical and contemporary covering major innovations in international laws and domestic legal instruments regarding gender-based violence. Gender violence has always played a role in wartime atrocities, but we are beginning to open the chapter on justice as both perpetrators and victims are better understood. The lesson also couches this examination of gender violence and human rights in a larger conversation on the role of data and data science in responding to this persistent violation. The lesson includes the opportunity to explore the role of an international court in adjudicating gender violence claims and the use of large n qualitative databases to examine these legal cases.

Tuesday, February 9:

- Merry, *The Seductions of Quantification*, Chap 3 (Measuring Violence against Women)

Thursday, February 11:

- Merry, *The Seductions of Quantification*, Chap 4 (Categorizing Violence against Women: The Cultural Work of Commensuration)

Tuesday, February 16:

- No lecture videos and readings. Work on research paper analysis and writing.

Thursday, February 18:

- No lecture videos and readings. Work on research paper analysis and writing.

Friday, February 19: Research Paper due at 10:00 am on Canvas.

Tuesday, February 23:

- Cichowski, *The ECHR, Amicus Curiae and Violence Against Women*

Thursday, February 25

- Caprioli, *Primed for Violence: The Role of Gender Inequality in Predicting Internal Conflict*

Lesson 5: Women's Rights and Global Trafficking

This lesson focuses on the issue of global trafficking and the effects on women's rights. We will cover labor trafficking and sex trafficking and explore this phenomenon at the local, state and international level. Data collection and analysis of human trafficking patterns is particularly challenging. We will discuss new developments in data science in the area of trafficking and critically reflect on issues of measurement and policy development and impact.

Tuesday, March 2

- Merry, *The Seductions of Quantification*, Chap 5 (Measuring the Unmeasurable: The US Trafficking in Persons Reports)

Thursday, March 4

- Merry, *The Seductions of Quantification*, Chap 6 (Knowledge Effects and Governance Effects of the Trafficking in Persons Reports)

Tuesday, March 9

- Merry, *The Seductions of Quantification*, Chap 8 (Conclusions)

Thursday, March 11

- No readings.

Friday, March 12: Final Exam available 5pm on Canvas

Monday, March 15: Final Exam due at 11:00pm on Canvas.