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GENDER AND PEACE

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(A) Basic Information

- Course Title: Gender and Peace
- Next Term: 12th March- 30th May 2013 (12 weeks)
- Work load: 4-5 hours per week
- Course Instructors: Dr. Gal Harmat (Ph.D) and Yotam Ben Meir



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(B) Personal Note:

DR. GAL HARMAT (Ph.D) is a Gender and Peacebuilding Specialist. She has extensive experience in training on issues of conflict analysis, dialogue facilitation and gender empowerment and gender mainstreaming. Since 2004, she is teaching conflict transformation and gender and is Co-Director of the Social Justice and Peace Education Teachers Training Programme of the Kibbutzim Teachers College in Tel Aviv.

In the last 20 years Gal gave hundreds of Peace building and Gender equality and empowerment trainings in conflict zones around the world. She is a lecturer of the Masters Degree courses of World Peace Academy and at Basel University and at the Social nad Art master program in Israel. Gal has been in charge of gender trainings for journalists, young politicians, lawyers and teachers. These comprehensive trainings included field research regarding women's rights violations, centered mainly around violence against women and sexism and the system of war. She is also a regular consultant for intergovernmental organizations such as UN Women and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), corporate donors such as the UBS (Union Bank of Switzerland), Optimus Foundation, and peace organizations such as the Peres Centre for Peace (founded by President of Israel and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Shimon Peres) and Freinds of the Earth Middle East.



Gal worked as General Director, Mahapach – Student Movement for Social Change, Israel. This extensive work included leading a staff of 30 full-time community organizers and 400 students, negotiating with various ministries, academic research regarding social developments in communities. Gal holds a Master of Arts in Gender and Peace-Building from the UN University for Peace in Costa Rica, and a PhD in Education-Gender Analysis of Multi-Cultural Education at Nitra University (Slovakia).

YOTAM BEN MEIR is a peace educator and activist, Jewish-Palestinian dialogue encounters facilitator, a lecturer on peace and leadership at the Tel Aviv University and a feminist, active in the refusal, Peace and anti-occupation movements in Israel over the past 13 years. Have established in 2005 a unique activist men's group, which dealt which issues of ending men's violence against women as much as men's role and room in the feminist movement and the question (and practice) of masculinities. Since 2011 responsible for the development and co-facilitation of a Gender-Sensitive Non-Violent Activism training for mixed groups of men and women from civil society's NGO's, with an emphasis on the realm of masculinities and violence. Yotam holds an EU Masters degree on Human Rights and democratization and a BA on the Philosophy of Ethics from the Tel Aviv University and he teaches Peace and Conflict Studies, Cinema and Philosophy.

(C) Course Content:

This is a comprehensive course researching the relations between gender and peace building, war and militarism. During the course we will map women's role in war, peace building and mediation, while addressing the UN Security Council resolutions on the subject.

The course aims at allowing the student to understand the correlation between gender and positive peace, as much as gender, violence and war. It is a practical as much as a theoretical course aiming that the student will be able to apply her/his understanding into their daily life, proffesional work and activism.

The course includes a reader, films, presentations, discussions a short weekly reflection assignment and a choice between a detailed action plan and/or writing an article as a final assignment.

(D) How is the course designed?

The course consists of: (1) readings (2) online discussions among participants, (3) a weekly short reflection paper (up to half a page) and (4) a choice between a detailed action plan and/or writing an article based on the weekly reflection papers as a final assignment.



(E) Course Format

The students will be advised to share their weekly reflections with the other participants' on the course's forum and initiate feedbacks and discussions. Each week, the weekly discussion will be led with a leading question from the course's facilitators. We believe that sharing experiences from different cultures, expertise and backgrounds on the issues raised is an extremely important source of knowledge and an element of the learning process. Twice during the course online synchronized meetings will take place. The dates will be sent a week before the course begins.

(F) Content Carriers

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Course lecture materials will be in pdf/word format and delivered to the students by email weekly. Some of them will be web-pages and you-tube links. All the videos can be sent as separate video files to participants who do not have stable connection to you-tube. Class discussions will take place in a Web-based discussion forum. Contact with the course directors will be through emails, skype, the course chat rooms and forums and gmail chat.

(G) Course Syllabus and Timetable

Week 1 – Introduction to Gender and Peace and to one another: on Naming, Gender and Nationality.

Week 2 – Conflict and Gender: women in armed conflicts and war.

Week 3 - Introduction to Gender Analysis.

Week 4 – A Gender Analysis of War and Peace – women and militarism, women in peace talks.

Week 5 – United Nations Security Council Resolutions related to women's security in conflicts: Resolutions 1888, 1889, 1325, 1960 and their applications.

Week 6 – Women and Mediation I: women's role in peace building.

Week 7 – Women and Mediation II: Why are there no women in high level mediation?

Week 8 – Women's role in the security forces – The army and Police, Peace keeping missions and NATO – a critical overview.

Week 9 – Peaceful Leadership.

Week 10 – Women and Leadership: Gender roles in times of war. Masculinities and femininities.



Week 11 – Creating Change I: Gender, Privileges and Identity.

Week 12 - Creating Change II: Developing an Action Plan.

Week 13 - Case studies - The Arab Spring, Peace movements in Israel.

The reading materials will be sent every week on Friday 22:00 CET time and will include the weekly assignment.

(H) Study Material and Suggested Readings, videos and websites

The reading materials will be sent every week on Friday 22:00 CET time and will include the weekly assignment and electronic copies of the readings.

(I) Assignments

Deadlines

The weekly direct contact to Course Instructors, the reading materials and assignments will be sent on Friday 22:00 CET time. It will all be posted to the course's forum, as well. The weekly reflection papers are due by the next Thursday night, a day before the next session.

You can easily complete all TPU work from your home or en route as long as you have an internet connection. For this course to be successful, we need to be in contact with each other, to write to each other and to respect deadlines.

Technology

As you understand, you will be an element in an entirely web-based set of courses. In order to allow you to experience a great TPU course, TPU will be cooperating with the Galtung-Institut for Peace Theory and Peace Practice (G-I) which will be providing TPU with a new and improved digital infrastructure. For those of you who have been with us from the beginning, this means that we are moving away completely from moodle.