Description:
This course examines the biological and social aspects of being male or female and their implications on aggression, violence and war. Each week students will be introduced to a variety of subjects including humans and violence, women in combat, homosexuals in the military, discourse, attitudes towards war, rape, and female and male roles in the conduct of war. The course aims to provide students with solid theoretical and historical foundations of sex and war, and to highlight the policy implications.

Office hours:
A sign-up sheet will be posted outside of Professor Toft’s door. Her office is L376, telephone 495-5154, e-mail mtoft@wcfia.harvard.edu.

Course requirements:
This is a graduate-level course. Grades will be based on class attendance, preparation, participation, and written assignments. In addition to one formal presentation, there are eleven written assignments: ten one-page memoranda and a longer research and policy paper. Details of assignments will be explained in class.

Attendance and participation: 10% of grade
Formal presentation: 10% of grade
Memoranda—a total of 10: 30% of grade
Research and policy essay: 50% of grade

Course materials:
Course packets will be available for purchase at the Course Materials Office. Required books will be available for purchase at the Harvard Coop. Copies of the readings will be on reserve at the KSG library. There are five texts:


Enrollment:
Enrollment is open and there are no prerequisites. Auditors may be permitted at the discretion of the instructor.
## Overview of course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Humans and war</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Feb 5 thu</td>
<td>Overview of the course: sex versus gender</td>
<td>1st memo</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Feb 10 tue</td>
<td>The nature of war and killing</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Feb 12 thu</td>
<td>Humans and violence</td>
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<td>II. Nature versus nurture</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Feb 17 tue</td>
<td>Males and a violence gene?</td>
<td>2nd memo</td>
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<td>Feb 19 thu</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Feb 24 tue</td>
<td>Socialization and violence</td>
<td>3rd memo</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>III. Roles in warfare</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Mar 2 tue</td>
<td>Men as killers?</td>
<td>4th memo</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Mar 4 thu</td>
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<td>5th memo</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Mar 9 tue</td>
<td>Women as peacemakers?</td>
<td>6th memo</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Mar 11 thu</td>
<td>continued</td>
<td>7th memo</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Mar 16 tue</td>
<td>Women in combat</td>
<td>8th memo</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Mar 18 thu</td>
<td>continued</td>
<td>9th memo</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Mar 23 tue</td>
<td>Homosexuality and military service</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Mar 25 thu</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Mar 30 tue</td>
<td>Spring break</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Apr 1 thu</td>
<td>Spring break</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Apr 6 tue</td>
<td>Impact of war on women</td>
<td>12th memo</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Apr 8 thu</td>
<td>Impact of war on men</td>
<td>13th memo</td>
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<td>IV. Discourse and diplomacy</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Apr 13 tue</td>
<td>Views of diplomacy and war, in the lab</td>
<td>14th memo</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Apr 15 thu</td>
<td>Views of diplomacy and war, in the office</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Apr 20 tue</td>
<td>Opinion on war – gender gap?</td>
<td>16th memo</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Apr 22 thu</td>
<td>International relations theory and feminist thought</td>
<td>17th memo</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Apr 27 tue</td>
<td>War discourse</td>
<td>18th memo</td>
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<td>V. Societal features and war propensity</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>May 4 thu</td>
<td>Equality and war</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>May 6 thu</td>
<td>Wrap-up</td>
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May 7 Fri  
Research and policy paper due at noon
# Course Readings

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continued


III. Roles in warfare

8 Mar 2

*Men as Killers?*


9 Mar 4

*Continued*


10 Mar 9

*Women as Peacemakers?*


11 Mar 11

*continued*


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**Women in combat**


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**continued**


Elshtain, Jean Bethke. “‘Shooting’ at the Wrong Target: A Response to Van Creveld.”


Miller, Laura and Charles Moskos. “Humanitarians or Warriors?: Race, Gender, and Combat Status in Operation Restore Hope.” *Armed Forces and Society* 21, no. 4 (Summer 1995): pp. 615-635.


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**Homosexuality and military service**


**continued**


Mar 30 tues  
Spring break  
Apr 1 thur  
Spring break  
Apr 6 tues

Impact of war on women


Impact of war on men


IV. Discourse and diplomacy

18 Apr 13 tues Views of diplomacy and war, in the lab

19 Apr 15 thur Views of diplomacy and war, in the office
Ehrenreich, Barbara. “Men Hate War Too.”
Pollitt, Katha. “Father Knows Best.”
Ferguson, R. Brian. “Perilous Positions.”
Tiger, Lionel. “Prehistory Returns.”

Apr 20 tues Opinion on war – gender gap?

21 Apr 22 thur International relations theory and feminist thought
Keohane, Robert O. “Beyond Dichotomy: Conversations Between International Relations and Feminist Theory.”
Marchand, Marianne. “Different Communities/Different Realities/Different Encounters: A Reply to J. Ann Tickner.”

22 Apr 27 tues War discourse: sex and games

V. Societal features and war propensity

23 Apr 29 thur Sex ratios and war

24 May 4 tues Equality and war

25 May 6 thur Wrap-up