

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Bodies, Sex, and Death in International Relations
Status: Definitive
Code: **6107IRP** (128506)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Megan Armstrong	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ6
Credit Value: 20
Total Delivered Hours: 33
Total Learning Hours: 200
Private Study: 167

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	11
Seminar	22

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	2000 literature review	35	
Exam	AS2	Take-home Exam	65	

Aims

To analyse how the body is understood in international relations theory
To recognise how understandings, recognitions, and erasures of the body impact upon policy making and decisions.
To understand the body as site of power, domination, marginalisation, and erasure.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Generate a specific analysis of world politics through critical international theories.
- 2 Critically reflect upon how specific people or groups of people are differentially impacted by policy regimes.
- 3 Demonstrate mastery of interdisciplinary analytic skills to address real-world problems through conceptual frames.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

2000 literature review	1	2	
Take-home Exam	1	2	3

Outline Syllabus

Topics discussed could include:

- *Theorising the body in international relations*
- *Agamben's theory of necropolitics*
- *Foucault's theory of biopolitics*
- *Feminist theorisations of the body (Butler, Kristeva)*
- *Contagion, pandemics, and panic: international (in)securities*
- *Migration, borders, and permeability: leaky bodies of the state*
- *The weaponization of the body in conflict*
- *Bodies of pain: The brutalisation of the body in conflict*
- *Race, Orientalism, and the War on Terror*
- *Vulnerability and the Responsibility to Protect*
- *Signal failures and queer bodies*
- *Sex and Death in militarisation*

Learning Activities

Learning activities will be divided between one one-hour interactive lecture and one two-hour, student-led seminar per week. Student groups will be assigned weeks 3-6, 8-11 to prepare and lead activities (weeks 1, 2, and 12 will be run by the module leader). Lectures will provide theoretical and analytic grounding for discussing the relevant theme in the seminar. The first assessment invites students to consider a selection of readings they have encountered so far, and discuss what they understood and didn't, what they found useful and didn't, in order to foster a sense of confidence in forming normative critiques of the international and to become comfortable with the idea that not understanding something is a gateway to asking interesting research questions. The second assessment, the take-home exam, will give students 48 hours to answer a set essay question that ties together the aims

and themes of the course, and allows students to reflect upon issues that they find meaningful and important.

Notes

This module explores the body as a site of international relations through critical theoretical engagement, with particular emphasis on feminist, postcolonial, and queer theories of the body. It questions the work that bodies are made to do politically through analyses of war, security, public health, migration, terrorism, and genocide. It contributes directly to research-led teaching initiatives as the module drawn from the expertise of the module leader and an ongoing book project. It will be important for students particularly engaged with international and non-governmental organisation that are responsible for policy recommendations and initiatives, in that it will allow them to critically assess the inclusivity of their work.