

LECTURE / DISCUSSION / DEBATE  
POSTMODERNISM / FEMINIST THEORY

**Terms and concepts to know:**

Androcentric	Constructivism
Deconstruction	Epistemology
Gender	Gender roles
Hermeneutics	Positivism
Postmodernism	Post modern feminist
Social constructivism	Subtext

**Discussion and study questions:**

1. Discuss some of the criticisms of feminist theories. How do these criticisms compare to the other theories of IR?
2. Discuss the affects of postmodernism and critical theory in the debate over IR theories?
3. How does Lapid define the third debate and does this categorization make sense from a theoretical standpoint? For Lapid, what is the major difference between positivism and post-positivism?
4. What does Wendt mean by the phrase “social structures”? Why is it central to understanding his theory?
5. According to Tickner, why does a feminist perspective on international relations continue to remain outside the mainstream of traditional approaches to IR theory? How would a feminist analysis of global terrorism differ from that of a realist?
6. According to Keohane, what are the primary weaknesses of feminist approaches to IR theory? How might a proponent of feminist IR theory respond to Keohane’s critique?
7. From the Khattak article, how does a “women-centered perspective” on the U.S. military intervention in Afghanistan differ from that of a male-centered perspective? Is this distinction useful in formulating IR theory?
8. What are your thoughts and opinions concerning the Sonneborn film? Did it present a different picture of war and conflict?

**Readings:**

Genest. *Conflict and Cooperation*, chapter 5, pp. 257-370.

**Video:**

*Regret to Inform*, a documentary film by Barbara Sonneborn.