Feminists now walk the halls of power. By no means all feminists: some forms of feminism disqualify their proponents from inclusion in the power elite. But you can get a job in the UN, in the World Bank, in the local prosecutor’s office for espousing dominant strands of feminism. This form of feminism – known as Governance Feminism - arose precisely when national and international governance bodies were increasingly incorporating non-traditional political actors (such as NGOs) in their governance structures. Feminists helped to foment this trend in a wide array of international and national concerted efforts.

What forms of feminism “make sense” to previously entirely male power elites, find their way into legal institutions, and change legal thought and legal operations? Once feminists gain a foothold in governance, what do they do there and which particular legal forms are they most heavily invested in? What are the distributive consequences of the partial inclusion of some feminist projects? Where does feminism succeed in mainstreaming its policies? Can feminism foster a critique of its own successes? These are among the primary questions we will address in the course.