POSC346/446: WOMEN AND POLITICS

Karen Beckwith, Professor

Fall Semester 2010
TTh 2:45-4:00pm
Nord 213

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Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00-3:00pm, or by appointment
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Course Webpage: http://politicalscience.case.edu/faculty/beckwith/kbusso280.htm

COURSE OUTLINE AND REQUIREMENTS

POSC346/446, Women and Politics, involves a critical examination of the impact of gender on the forms and distributions of power and politics, with primary reference to the experience of women in the United States. Major concerns of the course include what we mean by "sex," "gender," and "politics;" the relationship between women and the state; how women organize collectively to influence state policies; and how the state facilitates and constrains women's access to and exercise of political power. The course is organized around four foci central to the study of women and politics. The first section of the course focuses on what we mean by “women,” “gender,” and “politics.” In this section, we will consider how these concepts intersect and the ways in which each may be used to deepen our understanding of the workings of governments and political systems, and of women’s relative political powerlessness.

In the second section of the course, we will employ these concepts to understand the gendered nature of elections in the United States. Because 2010 is a US election year, we turn to conventional electoral politics, focusing on women’s candidacies, their campaigns, and women’s voting behavior; we also consider how women’s election to office might translate into public policy outcomes. The third section of the course focuses on women’s movements and women’s organizing. Finally, we consider women and politics in global comparative perspective, examining those general factors that might provide for increased gender equality and improved life status for women.

Evaluation of undergraduate student performance in this course is based on the following criteria. First, each student is expected to attend class and to be prepared for each class meeting by having read, in advance, the materials assigned for that day. Students should be prepared to discuss the material in detail in class every day, and all students are expected to participate. Informed participation in class discussion accounts for 10 percent of the final grade. Second, students will facilitate two in-class discussions of course readings. The specific dates and readings will be assigned by the professor. Each discussion facilitation is worth 15 percent of the final grade. Third, students will complete two short papers, each of which accounts for 20 percent of the final grade. Finally, each student will complete a final paper, which accounts for the remaining 20 percent of the final grade. Details of these assignments will be available in separate course handouts. Due dates for assignments are indicated in the reading schedule, below.
**Books required for this course** are listed below and are available for purchase in the University Bookstore:


Eileen McDonagh, *The Motherless State*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009. (Used copies of this book may be purchased.)

Christina Wolbrecht, Karen Beckwith and Lisa Baldez, eds., *Political Women and American Democracy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008. (Used copies of this book may be purchased.)

**Additional readings** are available through electronic journals (e-journals), through the Kelvin Smith Library website, or on the course website at [http://politicalscience.case.edu/faculty/beckwith/kb346.htm](http://politicalscience.case.edu/faculty/beckwith/kb346.htm). Each student should print a hardcopy of every additional assigned reading for his or her own research purposes. Please note that this is a requirement of the course.

Students are encouraged to subscribe to and to read the *Financial Times*.

**Standards of academic integrity** are an integral component of this course. Students are reminded that they are obliged to understand, to uphold, and to comply with the Academic Integrity Policy of the University. A copy of the Code may be found online at [http://www.case.edu/provost/ugstudies/acintegrity.htm](http://www.case.edu/provost/ugstudies/acintegrity.htm). Students who do not understand this Policy after having read it should make an appointment to see me to discuss it; indeed, I welcome this discussion and encourage students to see me in advance of any assignment about which they have doubts or questions. It is a course requirement that students read the University’s Academic Integrity Policy.

**SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>August 24</th>
<th>Introduction to the Course</th>
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<td>August 26</td>
<td>Women, Gender and Politics</td>
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August 31  **Women and US Electoral Politics**


September 2  **NO CLASS MEETING; PROFESSOR ATTENDING AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION MEETINGS**

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September 14  **READ: Sanbonmatsu, “Representation by Gender and Parties;” and Dolan, “Women as Candidates in American Politics;” both in Wolbrecht, Beckwith and Baldez, eds., *Political Women and American Democracy*.**


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September 21  **READ: “The Role of Gender Stereotypes in US Senate Campaigns,” *Politics & Gender*, 5 (3), September 2009: 301-320 (available through e-journals); and Fox and Oxley, “Does Running with a Woman Help?,” *Politics & Gender*, 1 (4), December 2005: 525-546 (available through e-journals).**

September 23  **READ: Palmer and Simon, “When Women Run against Women,” *Politics & Gender*, 1 (1), March 2005: 39-63 (available through e-journals).**

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September 28  **Women Making Public Policy**


**NOTE: FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE IN CLASS**

October 5  **Women Organizing and Women’s Movements**


October 7  READ: Katzenstein, *Faithful and Fearless*, “Part I: Prologue” (Chapters 1 and 2)

October 12  READ: Katzenstein, *Faithful and Fearless*, “Part II: The Military” (Chapters 3 and 4)

October 14  READ: Katzenstein, *Faithful and Fearless*, “Part III: The Church” and “Part IV: Epilogue” (Chapters 5, 6, and 7)

October 19  NO CLASS MEETING; FALL BREAK

October 21  READ: Banaszak, *The Women’s Movement*, Chapters 1, 2 and 3

October 26  READ: Banaszak, *The Women’s Movement*, Chapters 4, 5 and 6

October 28  READ: Banaszak, *The Women’s Movement*, Chapters 7 and 8

November 2  ELECTION DAY

**NOTE: SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE IN CLASS**

November 4  **Women, Gender and Politics in Comparative Perspective**

READ: McDonagh, *The Motherless State*, Chapters 1 and 2

November 9  READ: McDonagh, *The Motherless State*, Chapters 3 and 4

November 11  READ: McDonagh, *The Motherless State*, Chapters 5, 6 and 7

November 16  READ: Inglehart and Norris, *Rising Tide*, “Part I: The Causes of the Rising Tide” (Chapters 1, 2, and 3)
November 18  READ: Inglehart and Norris, *Rising Tide*, “Part II: The Consequences of the Rising Tide” (Chapters 4, 5, and 6)

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November 23  READ: Inglehart and Norris, *Rising Tide*, “Conclusions” (Chapter 7)
November 25  THANKSGIVING BREAK

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November 30  DISCUSSION
December 1  DISCUSSION

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December 7  FINAL PAPER DUE BY 3:30, IN MY OFFICE