

## POSC346/446: WOMEN AND POLITICS

**Karen Beckwith, Professor**

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

Office: 223 Mather House

Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00-3:00pm,  
or by appointment

[For appointments and office hours, sign up here.](#)

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### 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:

Lee Ann Banaszak, *The Women's Movement Inside and Outside the State*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Susan J. Carroll and Richard L. Fox, eds., *Gender and Elections: Shaping the Future of American Politics* (2nd Edition). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010. (Please do not purchase the first edition of this book.)

Ronald Inglehart and Pippa Norris, *Rising Tide: Gender Equality and Cultural Change Around the World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. (Used copies of this book may be purchased.)

Mary Fainsod Katzenstein, *Faithful and Fearless: Moving Feminist Protest inside the Church and Military*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1998. (Used copies of this book may be purchased.)

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>. 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>. 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

August 24            **Introduction to the Course**

August 26            **Women, Gender and Politics**

READ: Beckwith, "A Common Language of Gender?" *Politics & Gender*, 1 (1), March 2005: 128-137 (available through e-journals); and Lovenduski, "Gendering Research in Political Science," *Annual Review of Political Science*, 1, 1998: 333-56 (available on course webpage).

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August 31

**Women and US Electoral Politics**

READ: Wolbrecht, "What We Saw at the Revolution;" and Ritter, "Gender as a Category of Analysis in American Political Development;" both in Wolbrecht, Beckwith and Baldez, eds., *Political Women and American Democracy*.

September 2

NO CLASS MEETING; PROFESSOR ATTENDING AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

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September 7

READ: Carroll and Fox, "Introduction: Gender and Electoral Politics in the Early Twenty-First Century;" and Duerst-Lahti, "Presidential Elections: Gendered Space and the Case of 2008;" both in Carroll and Fox, eds., *Gender and Elections*.

September 9

READ: Huddy, Cassese and Lizotte, "Gender, Public Opinion and Political Reasoning," in Wolbrecht, Beckwith and Baldez, eds., *Political Women and American Democracy*; and Carroll, "Voting Choices: The Politics of the Gender Gap," in Carroll and Fox, eds., *Gender and Elections*.

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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*.

September 16

READ: Carroll and Dittmar, "The 2008 Candidacies of Hillary Clinton and Sarah Palin," in Carroll and Fox, eds., *Gender and Elections*; and Miller, Peake and Boulton, "Testing the Saturday Night Live Hypothesis," *Politics & Gender*, 6 (2), June 2010: 169-198 (available through e-journals).

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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**

READ: Reingold, "Women as Office-Holders," in Wolbrecht, Beckwith and Baldez, eds., *Political Women and American Democracy*.

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

September 30 READ: Simon and Palmer, "The Roll Call Behavior of Men and Women in the US House of Representatives," *Politics & Gender*, 6 (2), June 2010: 225-246 (available through e-journals).

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

READ: Beckwith, "Beyond Compare? Women's Movements in Comparative Perspective," *European Journal of Political Research*, 37 (4), June 2000: 431-468 (available through e-journals).

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

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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)

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October 19 NO CLASS MEETING; FALL BREAK

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

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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

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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

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

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

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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**