

POSC346/446: WOMEN AND POLITICS

Karen Beckwith, Professor

Spring Semester 2012
TTh 2:45-4:00pm
Clark Hall 210

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 Webpage: <http://politicalscience.case.edu/faculty-listings/professor-beckwith-political-science-courses/>

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 several issues central to the study of women and politics. The first sections of the course concern women, gender and elections, focusing on women’s candidacies for national legislative office, the legislative behavior of elected women, and the meaning of women’s political representation, including consideration of women’s movement organizing and influence. We will employ these concepts to understand the gendered nature of elections in the United States. Because 2012 is a US election year, we turn to conventional electoral politics, focusing on women’s candidacies and their campaigns; we also consider how women’s election to office might translate into public policy outcomes.

The second section of the course focuses on gender and political institutions. In this section, we will consider how political institutions, in their construction, may constrain women’s access to political representation and power, with specific attention to constitutional arrangements and the gendered impact of facially neutral institutions, to deepen our understanding of the workings of governments and political systems, and of women’s political empowerment. In the final section, we conclude the course by considering 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 10 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. The final paper assignment includes the written completed paper itself, which accounts for 20 percent of the final grade, and an in-class presentation of the paper's finding, which accounts for remaining 10 percent of the course 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.

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.)

Helen Irving, *Gender and the Constitution*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

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-listings/professor-beckwith-political-science-courses/>. 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

January 17 **Introduction to the Course**

January 19 **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).

January 24 **Women, Gender and Elections**

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*.

January 26 READ: "The Role of Gender Stereotypes in US Senate Campaigns," *Politics & Gender*, 5 (3), September 2009: 301-320 (available through e-journals); and Danny Hayes, "When Gender and Party Collide: Stereotyping in Candidate Trait Attribution," *Politics & Gender*, 7 (2), June 2011: 133-165.

January 31 READ: Palmer and Simon, "When Women Run against Women," *Politics & Gender*, 1 (1), March 2005: 39-63 (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).

February 2 **Women and Political Representation**

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

February 7 READ: Mansbridge, "Should Blacks Represent Blacks and Women Represent Women? A Contingent 'Yes'," *Journal of Politics*, 1999, 61 (3): 628-657; Dovi, "Preferable Descriptive Representatives: Will Just Any Woman, Black, or Latino Do?," *American Political Science Review*, 96 (4), December 2002: 729-743.

February 9 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).

February 14 **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); and Banaszak, *The Women's Movement Inside and Outside the State*, Chapters 1, 2 and 3

February 16 READ: Banaszak, *The Women's Movement*, Chapters 4, 5 and 6

February 21 READ: Banaszak, *The Women's Movement*, Chapters 7 and 8

February 22 FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE IN MY OFFICE BY 3:00PM

February 23 NO CLASS MEETING; Professor at Research Seminar at Texas A&M University

February 28 **Gender and Political Institutions**

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*.

March 1 READ: Irving, *Gender and the Constitution*, Introduction and Chapter 1: Framework

March 6 READ: Irving, *Gender and the Constitution*, Chapters 2-4

March 8 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

READ: Irving, *Gender and the Constitution*, Chapters 5-6

March 12-16 SPRING BREAK

March 20 READ: Irving, *Gender and the Constitution*, Chapters 7-8

March 22 READ: Irving, *Gender and the Constitution*, Chapters 9-10

March 23 SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE IN MY OFFICE BY 3:00PM

March 27 **Women, Gender and Politics in Comparative Perspective**

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

March 29 READ: McDonagh, *The Motherless State*, Chapters 3 and 4

April 3 READ: McDonagh, *The Motherless State*, Chapters 5, 6 and 7

April 5 READ: Inglehart and Norris, *Rising Tide*, “Part I: The Causes of the Rising Tide”
(Chapters 1, 2, and 3)

April 10 READ: Inglehart and Norris, *Rising Tide*, “Part II: The Consequences of the Rising Tide” (Chapters 4, 5, and 6)

April 12 NO CLASS MEETING; Professor attending Midwest Political Science Association meetings

April 17 READ: Inglehart and Norris, *Rising Tide*, “Conclusions” (Chapter 7)

April 19 IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS

April 24 IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS

April 26 IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS

FINAL PAPER DUE IN MY OFFICE: THURSDAY, MAY 3, BY 3:30PM