POSC346/446 WOMEN AND POLITICS  
Fall Semester 2006  
TTh 2:45-4:00pm  
Sears 372

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Office Hours: Wednesday 2-4:00pm, or by appointment

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.

The second section of the course employs these concepts to understand the (re)emergence of the US feminist movement, its meanings, practices, and goals, and its transformation across US political history. Because 2006 is a midterm election year in the United States, in the third section, we turn to conventional electoral politics, focusing on women’s candidacies, their campaigns, and women’s voting behavior. In the final section of the course, we consider those general factors that might provide for increased gender equality and improved life status for women, in global, comparative perspective.

Evaluation of undergraduate student performance in this course will be based on the following criteria. First, students will complete two short papers, each of which accounts for 25 percent of the final grade. Second, students will complete a final paper, which accounts for 35 percent of the final course grade. Details of these assignments are available in a separate course handout. Finally, 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 the remaining 15 percent of the final grade. Due dates for examinations and assignments are indicated in the reading schedule, below.

Evaluation of graduate student performance in this course will be based on similar but additional criteria. First, students will complete two short papers, each of which account for 20 percent of the final grade. Second, students will complete a final paper, which accounts for 30 percent of the final course grade. Details of these assignments are available in a separate course handout. Each student is, of course, 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. Each student will be responsible
for facilitating one course meeting, leading the course discussion and presenting a brief introductory overview; this will account for 10 percent of the final grade. Finally, each student will construct an annotated bibliography on US women and elections; this will account for 20 percent of the final grade. Details of the bibliography are available in a separate course handout. Due dates for examinations and 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:

Susan J. Carroll and Richard L. Fox, eds., *Gender and Elections*
Debra L. Dodson, *The Impact of Women in Congress*
Kathleen A. Dolan, *Voting for Women*
Ronald Inglehart and Pippa Norris, *Rising Tide: Gender Inequality and Cultural Change Around the World*
Jennifer L. Lawless and Richard L. Fox, *It Takes a Candidate*
Barbara Ryan, *Feminism and the Women’s Movement*

**Additional readings** are available through electronic journals or JSTOR, through the Kelvin Smith Library website. 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 *New York Times*; information concerning subscriptions is available in the University Bookstore.

**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


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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 29</td>
<td><strong>Introduction to the Course</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>August 31</td>
<td><strong>Gender and Politics As Concepts</strong></td>
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NOTE: NO CLASS MEETING TODAY; PROFESSOR BECKWITH WILL BE ATTENDING THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION MEETINGS.

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September 12  **Feminism and the Women’s Movement**


September 14  READ: Ryan, *Feminism and the Women’s Movement*, Chapters 1-3

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September 19  READ: Ryan, *Feminism and the Women’s Movement*, Chapters 1through 3

September 21  READ: Ryan, *Feminism and the Women’s Movement*, Chapters 4 through 6

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September 26  READ: Ryan, *Feminism and the Women’s Movement*, Chapters 7 and 8

September 28  READ: Ryan, *Feminism and the Women’s Movement*, Chapters 9 and 10

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October 3  DISCUSSION

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

October 5  **Women, Gender and Elections**


Graduate students should also read: Critical Perspectives Section on The 2004 Elections and Looking Ahead to 2008 (all), Politics & Gender, II (3), September 2006:


Susan J. Carroll, “Moms Who Swing, or Why the Promise of the Gender Gap Remains Unfulfilled”


Kira Sanbonmatsu, “Gender Pools and Puzzles: Charting a ‘Women’s Path’ to the Legislature”


October 17  **Women’s Candidacies, Gendered Competition**

READ: Lawless and Fox, It Takes a Candidate, Chapters 1 through 3

October 19  READ: Lawless and Fox, It Takes a Candidate, Chapters 4 through 6

October 24  FALL BREAK

October 26  READ: Lawless and Fox, It Takes a Candidate, Chapters 7 and 8
October 31  READ: Dolan, *Voting for Women*, Chapters 1 through 3

November 2  READ: Dolan, *Voting for Women*, Chapters 4 through 6

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November 7  READ: Dolan, *Voting for Women*, Chapter 7

November 9  DISCUSSION

NOTE: SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE IN CLASS

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November 14  **Women in Congress: Gendered Governance?**

   READ: Dodson, *The Impact of Women in Congress*, Part I (all)

November 16  READ: Dodson, *The Impact of Women in Congress*, Part II (all)

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November 21  READ: Dodson, *The Impact of Women in Congress*, Part III, Chapters 5 and 6, and Conclusion


NOTE: GRADUATE STUDENT ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE TODAY IN CLASS.

November 23  THANKSGIVING BREAK

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November 28  **Women, Gender and Politics in Global Perspective**

   READ: Inglehart and Norris, *Rising Tide: Gender Equality and Cultural Change Around the World*, Chapters 1 and 2

   Graduate students should also read Julia Adams and Ann Shola Orloff, “Defending Modernity? High Politics, Feminist Anti-Modernism, and the Place of Gender,” *Politics & Gender*, 1 (1), March 2005; and the responses and rejoinders to this essay by Inglehart and Norris, and by Young, *Politics & Gender*, 1 (3), September 2005 (all)

November 30  READ: Inglehart and Norris, *Rising Tide: Gender Equality and Cultural Change Around the World*, Chapters 3 and 4
December 5  READ: Inglehart and Norris, *Rising Tide: Gender Equality and Cultural Change Around the World*, Chapters 5 and 6

December 7  READ: Inglehart and Norris, *Rising Tide: Gender Equality and Cultural Change Around the World*, Chapter 7

FINAL PAPERS DUE IN MY OFFICE, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, BY 3:30PM