

## **POSC346/446 WOMEN AND POLITICS**

Fall Semester 2008

TTh 2:45-4:00pm

Sears 542

### **Karen Beckwith, Professor**

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

Course website: <http://politicalscience.case.edu/faculty/beckwith/kb346.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 2008 is a US presidential election year, we turn to conventional electoral politics, focusing on women's candidacies, their campaigns, and women's voting behavior. In the third section of the course, we consider how women's election to office might translate into public policy outcomes. Finally, we consider women and politics in global perspective, examining 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 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 15 percent of the final grade. Second, students will participate in a group project, focused on a 2008 US election campaign. The specific campaign and group membership will be assigned by the professor. The group project will involve an in-class presentation (worth 20 percent of the final grade) and a written final paper (worth 25 percent of the final grade). Finally, students will complete two short papers, each of which accounts for 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.

**Evaluation of graduate student performance** in this course is based on similar but additional criteria. First, graduate students are 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. Second, graduate students will participate in a research project, focused on a 2008 US election campaign. The specific campaign will be identified in discussion with the professor. The research project will involve an in-class presentation (worth 20 percent of the final grade) and a

written final research paper (worth 40 percent of the final grade). Finally, graduate students will complete two additional literature review papers, each of which accounts for 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:

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*

Pamela Paxton and Melanie M. Hughes,  
*Women, Politics and Power: A Global Perspective*

**Books recommended for this course** (and required for graduate students) include:

Christina Wolbrecht, Karen Beckwith and Lisa Baldez, eds.,  
*Political Women and American Democracy*

**Additional readings** are available through electronic journals or JSTOR, 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 *New York 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 26      **Introduction to the Course**

NOTE: PROFESSOR BECKWITH WILL BE ATTENDING THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION MEETINGS. MEGAN LEIGH WILL DISTRIBUTE AND REVIEW THE COURSE SYLLABUS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS.

August 28      **Gender and Politics As Concepts**

READ: Beckwith, "A Common Language of Gender?," Burns, "Finding Gender," and Htun, "What It Means to Study Gender and the State," all in *Politics & Gender*, I (1), March 2005 [available as electronic journal]

NOTE: NO CLASS MEETING TODAY; PROFESSOR BECKWITH WILL BE ATTENDING THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION MEETINGS.

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September 2      READ: Harris-Lacewell, "Contributions of Black Women in Political Science to a More Just World," and Peterson, "Power, Privilege and Feminist Theory/Practice," in *Politics & Gender*, I (2), June 2005 [available as electronic journal]

September 4      READ: R. W. Connell, "Gender and the State," in Kate Nash and Alan Scott, eds., *The Blackwell Companion to Political Sociology* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2001): 117-126; and Joni Lovenduski, "Gendering Research in Political Science," *Annual Review of Political Science*, I (1998): 333-356 [both available at <http://politicalscience.case.edu/faculty/beckwith/kb346.htm>]

Graduate students should also read Wolbrecht, Beckwith and Baldez, eds., *Political Women and American Democracy*, Chapter 1

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September 9      **Women, Gender and Elections**

READ: Carroll and Fox, "Introduction," Duerst-Lahti, "Presidential Elections," and Fox, "Congressional Elections," in Carroll and Fox, eds., *Gender and Elections*

Graduate students should also read: Lisa Garcia Bedolla and Becki Scola, "Finding Intersection: Race, Class and Gender in the 2003 California Recall Vote," *Politics & Gender*, II (1), March 2006: 1-27; and Kathleen A. Bratton, "Critical Mass Theory Revisited: The Behavior and Success of Token women in State Legislatures," *Politics & Gender*, I (1), March 2006: 97-125 [all available as electronic journals]

September 11      READ: Burrell, "Political Parties and Women's Organizations," Smooth, "African American Women and Electoral Politics," and Sanbonmatsu, "State Elections," in Carroll and Fox, eds., *Gender and Elections*

Graduate students should also read Wolbrecht, Beckwith and Baldez, eds., *Political Women and American Democracy*, Chapters 7 and 8

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September 16 READ: MacManus, “Voter Participation and Turnout,” Carroll, “Voting Choices,” and Bystrom, “Advertising, Websites, and Media Coverage,” in Carroll and Fox, eds., *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 [available as electronic journal]:

Barbara Burrell, “The Faces of Gender: Women’s Campaigns for National Office in 2004 and Beyond, Or Looking for Gender in Contemporary Campaigns for National Office”

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

Susan A. MacManus, “Targeting [Specific Slices of] Women Voters: A Key Strategy of Democrats and Republicans Alike in 2004...and Most Assuredly So in 2008”

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

Wendy Smooth, “Intersectionality in Electoral Politics: A Mess Worth Making”

September 18 DISCUSSION

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September 23 **Women’s Candidacies, Gendered Competition**

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

Graduate students should also read Wolbrecht, Beckwith and Baldez, eds., *Political Women and American Democracy*, Chapter 10

September 25 READ: Lawless and Fox, *It Takes a Candidate*, Chapters 4 through 6

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September 30 READ: Lawless and Fox, *It Takes a Candidate*, Chapters 7 and 8

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

October 2 DISCUSSION

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October 7 READ: Dolan, *Voting for Women*, Chapters 1 through 3

October 9 READ: Dolan, *Voting for Women*, Chapters 4 through 6

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October 14 READ: Dolan, *Voting for Women*, Chapter 7

October 16 DISCUSSION

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October 21 FALL BREAK

October 23 GROUP PRESENTATIONS

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October 28 GROUP PRESENTATIONS

October 30 GROUP PRESENTATIONS

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November 4 GROUP PRESENTATIONS

ELECTION DAY

November 6 DISCUSSION

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November 11 **Women in Congress: Gendered Governance?**

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

Graduate students should also read Wolbrecht, Beckwith and Baldez, eds., *Political Women and American Democracy*, Chapter 9

November 13 READ: Dodson, *The Impact of Women in Congress*, Part II (all)

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November 18 READ: Dodson, *The Impact of Women in Congress*, Part III, Chapters 5 and 6, and Conclusion

Graduate students should also read Mary Hawkesworth, "Congressional Enactments of Race-Gender: Toward a Theory of Raced-Gendered Institutions," *American Political Science Review*, 97 (4): November 2003: 529-550 [available as electronic journal].

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

November 20 DISCUSSION

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November 25 **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; Paxton and Hughes, *Women, Politics and Power*, 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*, I (1), March 2005; and the responses and rejoinders to this essay by Inglehart and Norris, and by Young, *Politics & Gender*, I (3), September 2005 [available as electronic journal]

November 27 THANKSGIVING BREAK

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December 2 READ: Inglehart and Norris, *Rising Tide: Gender Equality and Cultural Change Around the World*, Chapters 3 and 4; Michael L. Ross, “Oil, Islam, and Women,” *American Political Science Review*, 102 (1), February 2008, pp. 107-123 [available as electronic journal].

Graduate students should also read Wolbrecht, Beckwith and Baldez, eds., *Political Women and American Democracy*, Chapters 11 and 12.

December 4 READ: Inglehart and Norris, *Rising Tide: Gender Equality and Cultural Change Around the World*, Chapters 5, 6, and 7

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**FINAL PAPERS DUE IN MY OFFICE, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, BY 3:30PM**