POSC 391: Women and Politics in Global Perspective
Fall 2017
Tuesday, Thursday 1:00-2:15pm
Class location: Clark 103

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Office Hours: Mon. 1:00-2:30 or by appointment
Course website: canvas.case.edu

Course Description
This course is an introduction to the comparative study of women and politics. It is designed as a seminar to provide students with an opportunity to read, think critically, and discuss a wide range of scholarship on topics that are of central importance to political science, while focusing on issues related to women and politics in global context. Please note that this is not a course on feminist theory. Our primary focus will be on women’s political participation and representation and the challenges women face in these processes. Some questions that we will discuss are: Does having more women in office benefit women? Do men and women have different policy preferences? And once in office do women govern differently than men? What factors favor the election of women? How have different countries designed gender quotas and what impact do they have on implementing women-friendly policies? In order to answer these questions, students will read and discuss theoretical frameworks and empirically explore a variety of key topics in the larger field of women and politics.

Required Texts


All other required readings will be available on the course website.

Assignments
Reading presentations: You will present to your peers on additional readings related to the weekly topic. You should choose one reading not listed on the syllabus that is relevant to the topic of the week of your choice. You should consult with the instructor about the reading you select before you start preparing the presentations. You should present a summary of the article, including its research question, motivation, method, and results. You should also provide your own reflections of the reading and how it relates to our class discussions. You are required to present twice throughout the semester. You do not need to provide a separate written report but you should have presentation slides or handouts. We will upload those on the course website. Generally speaking, students will present on the second session of the week they choose.
**Critical response papers:** You will be required to write five critical response papers throughout the course that reflect on the readings for the week. The purpose of these assignments is to help you synthesize the lecture material and readings and think critically about the issues. It should also help you engage in class discussions. You should not summarize the readings. These should be no more than 3 pages. You may choose the weeks you would like to submit your papers. Hard copies of papers should be submitted in the first session of the weeks you choose.

**Final research paper:** The main written assignment for this course is to write an original research paper. For example, you may choose to analyze a transnational issue directly concerning women’s lives or investigate a particular area of women and politics in comparative perspective. You should narrow down your topic and pose an interesting research question. You should be able to clearly state your research question in your paper. Your paper should also have a thesis, literature review, evidence/data, and conclusion. Your final paper should be no more than 15 pages double spaced. You will be required to submit your topic in the middle of the semester. I will not read any drafts of your final paper during office hours, however you are highly encouraged to come and talk to me about your topic.

**Final research presentation:** You will be required to present your work to your peers toward the end of the semester. For the presentation, you do not need to have complete findings and conclusions. However, you should have an interesting question and motivation as to why you decided on this topic. Your peers will have a chance to ask you questions about your project.

**Grading**

Your grade will be determined as follows:

- Class participation: 10%
- Reading presentation (10% each): 20%
- Critical response papers (5% each): 25%
- Final paper presentation: 5%
- Final paper: 40%

**Week 1 (Aug. 29, 31): Introduction**

Browse through these websites:

- Inter-Parliamentary Union: [www.ipu.org](http://www.ipu.org)


**I. Representation**

**Week 2 (Sept. 5, 7): The Concept of Representation**

Topics: descriptive representation, substantive representation


**Week 3 (Sept. 12, 14): Issues in Representation**

Topics: critical mass debates, identity politics


**Week 4 (Sept. 19, 21): Influences on Women in Politics**

Topics: comparative analysis, political culture, political parties

- **Note:** Presentations will start this week.


**Week 5 (Sept. 26, 28): Gender Quotas**


**Week 6 (Oct. 3, 5): Case Studies on the Impact of Gender Quotas: India, Rwanda, and Argentina**


II. Political Participation

**Week 7 (Oct. 10, 12): Political Participation**


**Week 8 (Oct. 17, 19): Voting**

- **Note:** Oct. 19 Be prepared to discuss your topic for the final paper


**Week 9 (Oct. 26): Women’s Movements**

- **Note:** Fall break, no class on Oct. 24


**Week 10 (Oct. 31, Nov. 2): Women’s Movements continued**

- Nov. 2: Independent study. Work on your final paper. You should have a reading list and outline.


III. Women and Policies

**Week 11 (Nov. 7, 9): Gender Differences in Policy Preferences**


**Week 12 (Nov. 14, 16): Women and Development**


Lee, YuJung. “Gender, Electoral Competition, and Sanitation in India,” Comparative Politics (forthcoming)

Wolfe, Lauren. 2014. “Why are so Many Women Dying of Ebola?” Foreign Policy, 20 August


**Week 13 (Nov. 21): Women and Security: Case Study on Boko Haram**

- Note: No class on Nov. 23 due to Thanksgiving Holiday


**Week 14 (Nov. 28, 30): Final Paper Presentation**

- Be prepared to discuss your progress on the final paper.


**Week 15 (Dec. 5, 7): Women and Migration**

Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie Russell Hochschild, 2003. eds., Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy

Final Paper due on Dec. 14th by 1pm.