Recent electoral events including the path-breaking candidacies of Hillary Clinton and Sarah Palin along with contemporary policy debates – about both domestic and international issues – raise important considerations as to the role of women in politics. What factors enhance the chances for women’s political participation? Do women bring different perspectives to politics and leadership? Do they behave differently while in office? Are their “interests” being adequately represented?

It will be one purpose of this class to consider and disentangle the multiple and sometimes conflicting perspectives on these often difficult questions. In order to do so, we will overview the ways women have been involved in a number of aspects of American political life, examining women’s participation as voters, candidates, officeholders and increasingly, political leaders. In addition, to more fully appreciate the role of women in the contemporary American political system, we must begin at the beginning, getting a sense for the roles women have traditionally played in American society and understanding the historical foundations of their evolving political roles. Thus, the first part of this class examines women’s roles in a variety of areas of society (economic, educational and social spheres) and sets the framework for the current status of women and politics. We then move to a consideration of women in a variety of political roles, examining such topics as elections, legislative activity and leadership in the executive and judicial branches. Most of our study will have a U.S. focus, but we will end the course with an examination of women’s place in some aspects of international politics.

Since this is a writing intensive course, a second (and perhaps fairly intimidating) purpose of this course is to focus on your writing. You will be asked to produce two short (approximately 6 page) and one longer (approximately 12 page) papers. In recognition of the fact that many students find writing difficult, we will engage in a variety of activities designed to facilitate learning and make everyone more comfortable with the job at hand, e.g. affording opportunities for practice and engaging in discussions about specific strategies to make writing easier.
**Required Books**
*All additional readings will be available on Blackboard


**Requirements:**
**Exams:** Midterm, 10/13 15%, Final 11/24 20%

**Papers:** Two short (approximately 6 page) papers, first one due 10/1, 10%; second one due 10/29, 15%; final longer (approximately 12 page) paper due 12/15, 20%.

**Participation, attendance, quizzes:** 20%

**A Note on Plagiarism:** The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Plagiarism is the use of someone else's work, words, or ideas as if they were your own without giving the original author credit by citing him or her. If you have any questions about plagiarism, please contact me before submitting assignments for grading. Plagiarism violations will result in disciplinary action.

*Depending on course progress and student needs, minor changes in readings, dates, and/or due-dates, may occur.*

**Course Schedule and Readings**

**Part I: Social Foundations and Controversies**

1. **Some Central Controversies and Distinctions (9/1-9/15)**
   a. 9/1-9/3 – Introduction

   b. 9/8- Voting Rights and Current Impact:
      McGlen and O’Connor, Intro, Ch. 1

   c. 9/10- Perspectives on Gender:
      Carol Gilligan, *In a Different Voice*, Ch. 1, 2
      Leora Tanenbaum, 2002. *Cat fight: Women and Competition.* (ch.1)

   d. 9/15 – Perspectives on Gender (con’t)
      John Stuart Mill, *The Subjection of Women*, Ch. 1
      Shulamith Firestone. *The Dialectic of Sex*
      Sojourner Truth, *Ain’t I A Woman*
2. Background: Women’s Place in Society and the role of Socialization 9/17-9/29

a. 9/17– Education
   M&O Ch. 3 (pg. 162-172)
   CQ Researcher – Gender and Learning

b. 9/22 – Economic Rights
   M&O Ch. 3 (pg. 128-162)
   CQ Researcher- mothers movement

c. 9/24 – Women and the Media
   Kay Mills, “What Difference Do Women Journalists Make?”
   Shanto Iyengar et al, “Running As a Woman: Gender Stereotyping in Women’s Campaigns”
   Pippa Norris, “Women Leaders Worldwide”
   Beasley, “How Can Media Coverage of Women be Improved?"

d. 9/29 – Additional Social situations
   M&O, choose one of chapters 4-6.

10/1 – First paper (on the media) due, CQ Researcher-Women in Sports

Part II: Women in the Political Process

3. Barriers to Women’s Participation, 10/6-10/8

10/6 – M&O pgs 68-90, and CQ Researcher- Women and Politics

10/8- M&O pgs 90-112
   Carol Hardy-Fanta, “Discovering Latina Women in Politics”
   Henderson & Jeydel, Participation and Protest, Chapter 1
   Review

10/13 – Test # 1

4. Women and Interest Groups, 10/15-10/20

10/15-
   What are women’s interests? Sapiro, “When Are Interests Interesting?” vs. Diamond & Hartsock, “Beyond Interests in Politics”

10/20- Group Participation
   Katherine M. Blee, Inside Organized Racism, Intro & chapter 4
   Ronnee Schreiber, “Injecting a Woman’s Voice”
Jane Mansbridge, “Why We Lost the ERA”

5. Women in American Institutions: Do Women Make a Difference, 10/22-11/12)

a. Congress (10/22-10/27)

10/22-Representation
Susan J. Carroll, “Representing Women: Congresswomen’s Perceptions of Their Representational Roles”
Walsh, Katherine Cramer. “Enlarging Representation: Women Bringing Marginalized Perspectives to Floor Debate in the House of Representatives.”

10/27 -Working in the Institution
O’Connor, Karen, Sarah Brewer and Michael Philip Fisher, Gendering American Politics: Perspectives From The Literature (2006), ch.8
(Werner, Thomas, Lyn, Rosenthal, Swers, and Hawkesworth)

b. – Courts (11/3-11/5)

11/3--
John Gruhl et al, “Women as Policymakers: The Case of Trial Judges”
Donald R. Songer et al, “A Reappraisal of Diversification in the Federal Courts: Gender Effects in the Court of Appeals”
Phyllis Coontz, “Gender and Judicial Decisions: Do Female Judges Decide Cases Differently than Male Judges?”
O'Connor and Segal, “Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and the Supreme Court's Reaction to Its First Female Member”
Barbara Palmer, “‘To Do Justly’: The Integration of Women into the American Judiciary”

11/5 Courts (con’t)
CQ Researcher – Affirmative Action


11/10 Introduction
Whicker, Marcia Lynn and Hedy Leonie Isaacs. “Gendering the Political Executive’s Space: The Changing Landscape
Michael Genovese, ed. *Women as National Leaders* Chpt. 1, and one chapter of your choice on a specific leader. (Blackboard)

**11/12 Cont.**
MaryAnne Borrelli, “Gender, Credibility, and Politics: The Senate Nomination Hearings of Cabinet Secretaries-Designate, 1975-1993”
Julie Dolan, “Political Appointees in the United States: Does Gender Make a Difference?”
Carol Cohn, “Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals”

**6. Women In the International System 11/17-11/19**

- **11/17**- Cynthia Enloe, *Bananas, Beaches and Bases*, Ch.1, 4;
- CQ Researcher – *Human Trafficking and Slavery*

- **11/19**- Henderson & Jeydel – Chapters 2 & 3 and Review

**7. Wrap Up 11/24-12/3**

- **11/24** – Final Exam

- **12/1**- Paper abstract and discussion (1pg abstract)

- **12/3** – Paper presentations and discussion (Resources and Cases/Examples)

- **12/15**- Final paper due