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 (the 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 examples from the international sphere are included throughout and we will end the course with an examination of women’s place in some aspects of international politics.

As the course proceeds, particular emphasis will be placed on the differing perspectives and methodologies social and political scientists have brought to bear on these provocative questions.
Learning Objectives:

- To identify key theories, controversies, and perspectives on the role of women in society and politics.
- To increase awareness about gender.
- To overview the history of women’s status in American society and the factors contributing to change.
- To evaluate the current status of women in society and politics; have women made progress?
- To locate yourself on a continuum: where do you stand on some of these debates and controversies? Why?
- To produce high quality research and writing in the area of women and politics.

Texts


Optional Texts


*all other material, including material from the optional books, is available on Blackboard or JSTOR, ProQuest, and the Cambridge website: 
http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=PAG)
Requirements

Two practice “comprehensive exam” questions approximately 6-8 pages. (15% each) (Paper #1 due 2/29, Paper #2 due 4/11)

Final comprehensive exam approximately 10 pages. (20%)

Literature review or research paper, approximately 15 pages. (30%)

Class attendance/participation/weekly questions* (20%)

* Each week, please e-mail (before class) two discussion questions you think highlight a major theme highlighted in the reading. For each of your questions, introduce the question with a short paragraph delineating the debate or issue you wish to highlight. End the paragraph with your question. These questions will be graded as ‘check” (fine) or “minus”. Please as much as possible focus your questions on the debates most important or central to the readings. That is, don’t use these questions to highlight interesting but relatively minor points (which we can also discuss). Focus on the big issues!

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.

Course Schedule and Readings
Note: Depending on course progress and student needs, minor changes in readings, dates, and/or due-dates, may occur. Course Schedule and Readings are subject to amendment given student interest, class discussion etc. In addition, on some weeks where the reading load is heavy, we may split up the material.

I. Central Controversies and Distinctions: Perspectives on the Role of Gender in Society

1/18: Introduction

1/25: Controversies
   Carol Gilligan, In a Different Voice, Ch. 1-2
   John Stuart Mill, The Subjection of Women, Ch. 1
   Shulamith Firestone. The Dialectic of Sex;
   Sojourner Truth, Ain’t I A Woman
Whitaker, Ch. 1 article by Jennifer Ring.

2/1 Background: Perspectives on Women’s Place in Society

2/8 Present Day Conditions
(All readings available on Blackboard)
Maloney, Carolyn B. 2008. “Rumors of our Progress Have been Greatly Exaggerated.” Modern Times.(Intro and Chpt. 5)
Leora Tanenbaum, 2002. Cat fight: Women and Competition. (ch 1)
Whitaker, ch. 2 article by Steuernagel, Oakley, Yatsco and Barnett.

Part II: Women in the Political Process

2/15 Factors influencing Women’s Participation; Attitudinal and socialization
O’Connor, Karen, Sarah Brewer and Michael Philip Fisher, Gendering American Politics: Perspectives From The Literature (2006), ch. 3 Participation (Welch, Costain, Schlozman et al, Hardy-Fanta) (Blackboard)
Fowlkes, Diane, White Political Women: Paths from Privilege to Empowerment (1992), ch. 1,3 (Blackboard)

Optional:
McGlen et al. 2005. Women, Politics, and American Society. Ch. 2 pp. 68-102 (Blackboard)

2/22 Factors Influencing Women’s Participation (con’t); Institutional and Cultural
Mona Lena Krook.2009. “Quotas for Women in Politics: Gender and Candidate
Women in Electoral Politics: Media, elections and mass participation
O’Connor, Karen, Sarah Brewer and Michael Philip Fisher, Gendering American Politics: Perspectives From The Literature (2006), ch.5; articles 1-5. (Gurin, Conover, Cook/Wilcox, Norrander, and Kaufmann/Petrocik.) (Blackboard)
*First comp exam question due

Women and Interest Groups
Lee Ann Banaszak. “Women’s Movements and Women in Movements: Influencing American Democracy from the “Outside”?” (Ch. 6 -Wolbrecht et al.) (Blackboard)
Jane Mansbridge, 1986. “Why We Lost the ERA” (Ch. Preface, 1, 9-12, and 14.) (Blackboard)
O’Connor, Karen, Sarah Brewer and Michael Philip Fisher, Gendering American Politics: Perspectives From The Literature (2006), (Part 5: Schreiber article) (Blackboard)
Katherine M. Blee, Inside Organized Racism, Introduction & chapter 4 (Blackboard)

Part III, Women in American Institutions: Do Women Make a Difference

Congress
O’Connor, Karen, Sarah Brewer and Michael Philip Fisher, Gendering American Politics: Perspectives From The Literature (2006), ch.8 (Hawkesworth article)(Blackboard)
Courts (Readings may be revised)

Optional Readings:
Barbara Palmer. 2001. “‘To Do Justly’: The Integration of Women Into the American Judiciary” PS: Political Science and Politics, Vol. 34: 2 pp. 235-239 (Jstor)
O’Connor, Karen, Sarah Brewer and Michael Philip Fisher, Gendering American Politics: Perspectives From The Literature (2006), (Part IX. All- Gruhl,, Songer, Coontz, O’Connor and Segal articles) (Blackboard)
Whitaker, chapt 7 (all – O’Connor and Martin)and ch 8 Bamberger art. (Blackboard)
Hull and Nelson, “Assimilation, Choice, or Constraint” (Blackboard) (JSTOR, ProQuest, and/or the Cambridge website)
Elizabeth Ellen Gordon, “Alienation of Affection Torts: Love ’Em or Leave ’Em?” Politics & Gender, Volume 3, Issue 04, December 2007, pp 475-498

Executives and Governing
Michael Genovese, ed. Women As National Leaders Ch. 1, and one chapter of your choice on a specific leader. (Blackboard)
Farida Jalalzai, “Women Rule: Shattering the Executive Glass Ceiling.” Politics & Gender, Volume 4, Issue 02, June 2008, pp 205-231 (JSTOR, ProQuest, and/or the Cambridge website)
O’Connor, Karen, Sarah Brewer and Michael Philip Fisher, Gendering American Politics: Perspectives From The Literature (2006), ch.10 (Ferree, Frankovic, Lahti, Borrelli, O’Connor et al, and Julie Dolan.) (Blackboard)

Women and Public Policy

*Comp exam question 2 due*

4/18 Public Policy cont


IV. Women In the International System


Optional Readings: (JSTOR, ProQuest, and/or the Cambridge website)


Sung, Hung-En. “Fairer Sex or Fairer System? Gender and Corruption Revisited” Social Forces, Volume 82, Number 2, December 2003, pp. 703-723
5/2– **Wrap up and conclusions**

5/9 Final Comp Exam Due

5/16 Final Paper Due