

POS 433Z

Women, Politics & Power

Spring 2011

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Milne #221, Wednesdays 5pm-6pm ; also by appointment.

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.

Insert Thus, the objectives of the class can be summarized as follows: - bullet points!

- 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.

Required Books

McGlen, Nancy, Karen O'Connor, Laura van Assendelf, and Wendy Gunther-Canada (M&O), *Women Politics and American Society*. 5th Edition. Pearson/Longman

*All additional readings will be available on Blackboard

Optional: Karen O'Connor, Sarah Brewer, Michael Fisher. 2006. "Gendering American Politics: Perspectives from the Literature." Longman; contains many of the readings.

Requirements:

Exams: 2 Midterms, 3/11 15%, 4/15 20%

Papers: Two short (approximately 6 page) papers, due 2/18 (10%) and 4/1 (15%) each; final longer (approximately 12 page) paper due 5/10 (the day the class final is scheduled) 20%.

Participation, attendance, quizzes: 20%

Attendance: This course has a great deal of in class and collaborative work. You have to come to class. Each person is allowed two unexcused absences. Any other absence must be excused by the instructor before the absence or excused afterwards based on a medical note. Failure to do so will be noted and will impact your grade.

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.

Students with Disabilities: If you need any class accommodations due to a disability, please utilize University resources as needed, and please let the professor know well in advance of any assignments requiring accommodation(s). It is a function of the University to provide such accommodations as needed.

Course Schedule and Readings

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

Part I: Social Foundations and Controversies

1. Some Central Controversies and Distinctions (1/19-1/28)

a. Introduction (1/19-1/21)

b. Voting Rights and Current Impact: (1/24)

McGlen and O'Connor, Intro, Ch. 1 (History of women obtaining the vote)

c. Perspectives on Gender (1/26)

Carol Gilligan, *In a Different Voice*, Ch. 1, 2

Leora Tanenbaum, 2002. *Cat fight: Women and Competition*. (ch.1)

d. Perspectives on Gender (con't) (1/28-1/31)

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 1/31-2/9

a. Education (2/2)

M&O Ch. 3

CQ Researcher – *Gender and Learning*

2/4

Paper Preparation

Tarshis, How to be Your Own Best Editor, chpt 1-5

b. Economic Rights (2/7- 2/9)

M&O Ch. 3 (pg. 128-162)

CQ Researcher- Mothers Movement

c. Additional Social situations 2/11

M&O, choose one of chapters 4-6.

2/14– CQ Researcher-Women in Sports

2/16- Reading to be announced

2/18- First paper due, paper presentations

2/21-2/25 No classes

Part II: Women in the Political Process (2/28-3/7)

2/28 M&O Chpt 2. (pgs 71-106)

What are women's interests? Sapiro, "When Are Interests Interesting?" vs. Diamond & Hartsock, "Beyond Interests in Politics"

3/2 Mona Lena Krook and Sarah Childs. 2010. "Women, Gender, and Politics: A Reader" Part 3. (on blackboard.)

Carol Hardy-Fanta, "Discovering Latina Women in Politics"

Women in Elections (3/4- 3/7)

3/4 Karen O'Connor, Sarah Brewer, Michael Fisher. 2006. "Gendering American Politics: Perspectives from the Literature." Chapter 7 and Excerpts of 6 (Freeman).

3/7 Anne E. Kornblut. 2009. "Notes from the Cracked Ceiling: Hillary Clinton, Sarah Palin, and What it Will Take for a Woman to Win." (Intro and Conclusion)

3/9 M&O Introduction (pgs. 1-18) and Review

3/11 Test # 1

Women and Interest Groups, 3/14 - 3/16

Jane Mansbridge, "Why We Lost the ERA"

Ronnee Schreiber, "Injecting a Woman's Voice"

Katherine M. Blee, *Inside Organized Racism*, Intro & chapter 4

Mona Lena Krook and Sarah Childs. 2010. "Women, Gender, and Politics: A Reader" Part 4, Baldez.

Part III: Women in American Institutions: Do Women Make a Difference? (3/18-4/6)

a. Congress

3/18 -Representation

Susan J. Carroll, "Representing Women: Congresswomen's Perceptions of Their Representational Roles"

Mona Lena Krook and Sarah Childs. 2010. "Women, Gender, and Politics: A Reader" Part 4 (Articles 24-27).

3/21-Working in the Institution

M&O Chapt 2 (pgs 109-112)

Karen O'Connor, Sarah Brewer, Michael Fisher. 2006. "Gendering American Politics: Perspectives from the Literature." Chapt. 8

Mona Lena Krook and Sarah Childs. 2010. "Women, Gender, and Politics: A Reader" Article 31.

3/23– CQ Researcher- Prostitution Debate

3/25- Discussion of paper, Tarshis chpt 6-10

b. Courts

3/28 Karen O'Connor, Sarah Brewer, Michael Fisher. 2006. "Gendering American Politics: Perspectives from the Literature." (Chpt 9: Gruhl, Songer, Coontz, O'Connor and Segal, Palmer.)

3/30 Courts (con't)

M&O- Chpt 5. (pgs 265-289)

4/1 2nd paper due, and presentations

c. Governing/Executive/National Leaders

4/4 Introduction

M&O Chpt 2 (pgs 112-118)

Michael Genovese, ed. *Women as National Leaders* Chpt. 1, and one chapter of your choice on a specific leader.

4/6 Cont.

Carol Cohn, "Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals"

Part IV. Women In the International System (4/8-4/13)

4/8- Cynthia Enloe, *Bananas, Beaches and Bases*, Ch.1, 4;

4/11 CQ Researcher: Confronting Rape as a War Crime

4/13 M&O chpt 7, and Review

4/15	Test #2
4/18-4/25	No classes
4/27	Final Paper Preparation, Topics due
4/29	Final Paper Preparation con't.
5/2	Final Paper Preparation, list of articles due (Expect to discuss one article in class)
5/6	First Draft of Final Paper Due (5%)
5/11	Final Paper Due