

Government 385: Women and Politics

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Office hours: Thursday, 2:00-4:00

Class meetings: Wednesday, 1:10-4:00; PAC 411

Course overview

Women and Politics is a diverse and lively subfield within political science. The subfield encompasses a wide range of topics, including feminist political theory, voting behavior, comparative public policy, and the study of women's movements. This course, however, will focus specifically on issues surrounding women *in* politics, that is, women as political actors. Furthermore, we will concentrate (though not exclusively) on the subject of women engaged in conventional politics.

The course begins with a brief exploration of women's political participation over time and also of women's voting behavior. We move on to consider the meaning of representation and why it might be important for women to be represented politically. We then examine factors that affect both the "supply" and the "demand" for female candidates. We look at the ways in which the media have covered women campaigning for office. The final sections of the course investigate women in executive office and whether it makes a difference to political outcomes to have more women in politics. This is a course in comparative politics with a strongly cross-national focus. That is, we consider the United States as one country among many, but this is not an American Politics course.

Course Requirements

Participation	15%
Country Wiki Project	10%
Two Topic Papers (5-6 pages, 15% each)	30%
Draft of final paper (due April 19 th)	5%
Presentation on final paper	5%
Final paper (15-20 pages, due May 11 th)	35%

Participation: This course is a seminar and it is vital that you attend every class prepared to talk about the assigned readings. Missing even one class will have a seriously detrimental effect on your participation grade. I expect our discussions to be lively, passionate and fun! I also expect you to listen to each other and to me with courtesy and

respect, even when we disagree. Your participation grade will consist of the following factors: frequency and quality of in-class comments, preparation of discussion questions, and other small assignments that come up over the course of the semester.

Study Questions: Each week two people will prepare two study questions to help guide our discussion of the readings. If it is your week to prepare study questions, you should also come to class prepared to lead discussion. The study questions will need to be posted to the course Blackboard site by 10pm on Tuesday. Everyone will prepare study questions twice over the course of the semester. I will distribute a sign-up sheet next week. Questions should speak both to issues in particular readings and broader themes of the week.

Country Wiki Project: Each of you will become an expert in the politics of a particular country. I will suggest countries, but I'm open to others, selected in consultation with me. Most weeks you will be asked to complete an assignment on your country. Usually these assignments will take the form of investigating empirical information for your country for theories we have studied in class. The results of the group country assignments will become a reference resource for the class. These assignments should be submitted on Blackboard using a Wiki.

Topic Papers: The course requires two topic papers, five to six pages each. Topic papers will be based on the readings of a particular week, though you may include readings from earlier in the semester as well. Everyone must write at least one topic paper prior to spring break. Otherwise, the choice is up to you, but you may want to consider both which topics you are most interested in and which due dates fit your schedule. All topic papers are due on a Monday at 4pm, the week following class discussion. I will distribute a sign-up sheet next week so think about which weeks you would like to write about. Even short papers need a thesis, in other words, need to be making an argument. The thesis is up to you, but the paper should relate to its subunit and make use of the relevant readings. You are welcome to use outside readings as well, but that is absolutely not a requirement. I am very happy to discuss your topic papers with you.

Presentation: We will spend the last two course meetings presenting the work from the research papers. This is a chance to share your research with your classmates, practice public speaking, and get feedback. We will talk more about guidelines for the presentations as we get near the end of the semester.

Final Paper: The main requirement for the course is an original research paper of 15 to 20 pages. You may write the paper on a topic of your choice related to the course and approved by me. There will be a series of short assignments (bibliography, paper description, completed section) leading up to the completion of the draft of the paper (and counting toward your grade on the draft). The draft is due early enough in the semester that substantial re-writing is possible after you receive my comments. I find that this form of writing assignment is more satisfying for me and for you because the end result is much better.

Course Readings

All readings listed on the syllabus are required. They are also all available from Olin library either as a hard copy reserve or as electronic reserve. If you have never used electronic reserve, let me know and I will explain how to access the readings. We will read large sections of the following texts and they are available for purchase at Broad Street Books.

Lawrence, Regina Lawrence and Melody Rose. 2009. *Hillary Clinton's Race for the White House: Gender Politics & the Media on the Campaign Trail*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Liswood, Laura. 2007. *Women World Leaders: Great Politicians Tell Their Stories*. Second edition. The Council Press.

We will also read selections of a yet-to-be-published book. I will distribute hard copies of the following in class:

Murray, Rainbow (ed.). Forthcoming. *Cracking the Highest Glass Ceiling: A Global Comparison of Women's Campaigns for Executive Office*. Praeger. Selections TBA.

Course Policies

Students are required to complete all readings and attend each class period prepared to talk about the readings. Extensions and incompletes will not be granted under any circumstances other than significant and verifiable personal emergencies (e.g., serious illness, death in family). **Late work will be penalized one full grade per day.**

All work that you submit must be your own. You must cite all sources used in completing the assignments using the standard form of citation that we will go over in class. If you are unsure how to use proper citation form, please ask me. Failure to use proper citation is plagiarism. You must adhere to all aspects of the honor code. Plagiarism is a serious offense. If you have any questions, please come talk to me or see:

www.wesleyan.edu/studenthandbook/3_honorsystem.ctt

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

INTRODUCTION

Jan 27 **Introduction**

Feb 3 **Women and Political Participation: Historical and Contemporary Gender Gaps**

Readings: Conway, M. Margaret, Gertrude A. Steuernagel, and David W. Ahern. 2005. *Women and Political Participation: Cultural Change in the Political Arena*. Second edition. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Press. Chapters 3-5.

Inglehart, Ronald and Pippa Norris. 2000. "The Developmental Theory of the Gender Gap: Women's and Men's Voting Behavior in Global Perspective," *International Political Science Review*, Vol. 21, No. 4, pp. 441-63.

Huddy, Leonie and Tony E. Carey. 2009. "Group Politics Redux: Race and Gender in the 2008 Democratic Presidential Primaries," *Politics and Gender*, Vol. 5, Issue 1, pp. 81-96.

Banducci, Susan A. and Jeffery A. Karp. 2000. "Gender, Leadership and Choice in Multiparty Systems," *Political Research Quarterly*, Vol. 53, No. 4, pp. 815-58.

Feb 10 **What is Representation?**

Readings: Htun, Mala. 2004. "Is Gender Like Ethnicity? The Political Representation of Identity Groups," *Perspectives on Politics*, Vol. 2, No. 3, pp. 439-58.

Weldon, Laurel S. 2002. "Beyond Bodies: Institutional Sources of Representation for Women in Democratic Policymaking," *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 64, No. 4, pp. 1153-74.

Beckwith, Karen and Kimberly Cowell-Meyers. 2007. "Sheer Numbers: Critical Representation Thresholds and Women's Political Representation," *Perspectives on Politics*, Vol. 5, No. 3, pp. 555-67.

Mansbridge, Jane. 1999. "Should Blacks Represent Blacks and Women Represent Women? A Contingent 'Yes,'" *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 61, No. 3, pp. 628-57.

Feb 17 **What Affects the “Supply” of Female Candidates?**

- Readings: Niven, David. 1998. “Party Elites and Women Candidates: The Shape of Bias,” *Women and Politics*, Vol. 19, No. 2, pp. 57-80.
- Fox, Richard L. and Jennifer L. Lawless. 2004. “Entering the Arena? Gender and the Decision to Run for Office,” *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 48, No. 2, pp. 264-80.
- Fulton, Sarah A., Cherie D. Maestas, L. Sandy Maisel and Walter J. Stone. 2006. “The Sense of a Woman: Gender, Ambition and the Decision to Run for Congress,” *Political Research Quarterly*, Vol. 59, No. 2, pp. 235-48.
- Rosenbluth, Frances, Rob Salmond, and Michael F. Thies. 2006. “Welfare Works: Explaining Female Legislative Representation,” *Politics & Gender* Vol. 2, No. 2, pp. 165-92.
- Paxton, Pamela and Sheri Kunovich. 2004. “Women’s Political Representation: The Importance of Ideology,” *Social Forces*, Vol. 82, No. 1, pp. 87-114.

Feb 24 **What Affects the “Demand” for Female Candidates? Electoral Institutions and Quotas**

- Readings: Dahlerup, Drude and Lenita Freidenvall. 2005. “Quotas as a ‘Fast Track’ to Equal Political Representation for Women: Why Scandinavia is No Longer the Model,” *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, Vol. 7, No. 1, pp. 26-48.
- Krook, Mona Lena. 2006. “Reforming Representation: The Diffusion of Candidate Gender Quotas Worldwide,” *Politics and Gender*, Vol. 2, No. 3, pp. 303-27.
- Jenkins, Laura Dudley. 1999. “Competing Inequalities: The Struggle over Reserved Legislative Seats for Women in India,” *International Review of Social History*, Vol. 44(supplement), pp. 53-75.
- Norris, Pippa. 2004. *Electoral Engineering: Voting Rules and Political Behavior*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 8.
- Matland, Richard E. and Donley T. Studlar. 1996. “The Contagion of Women Candidates in Single-Member District and Proportional Representation Electoral Systems: Canada and Norway,” *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 58, No. 3, pp. 707-33.

March 3 **What Affects the “Demand” for Female Candidates? Political Parties and Incumbency**

- Readings: Caul, Miki. 1999. “Women’s Representation in Parliament: The Role of Political Parties,” *Party Politics*, Vol. 5, No. 1, pp. 79-98.
- Levin, Leah Simmons. 1999. “Setting the Agenda: The Success of the 1977 Israel Women’s Party,” *Israel Studies*, Vol. 4, No. 2, pp. 40-63.
- Sainsbury, Diane. 2004. “Women’s Political Representation in Sweden: Discursive Politics and Institutional Presence,” *Scandinavian Political Studies*, Vol. 27, No. 1, pp. 65-87.
- Wiliarty, Sarah Elise. 2008. “Angela Merkel’s Path to Power: The Role of Internal Party Dynamics and Leadership,” *German Politics*, Vol. 17, No. 1, pp. 81-96.
- Schwindt-Bayer, Leslie A. 2005. “The Incumbency Disadvantage and Women’s Election to Legislative Office,” *Electoral Studies*, Vol. 24, No. 2, pp. 227-44.

Mar 24 **Campaigning: Gender and the Media**

- Readings: Huddy, L., and N. Terkildsen. 1993. “The Consequences of Gender Stereotypes for Women Candidates at Different Levels and Types of Office,” *Political Research Quarterly*, Vol. 46, No. 3, pp. 503-25.
- Dolan, K. 2005. “Do Women Candidates Play to Gender Stereotypes? Do Men Candidates Play to Women? Candidate Sex and Issues Priorities on Campaign Websites,” *Political Research Quarterly*, Vol. 58, No. 1, pp. 31-44.
- Jalalzai, Farida. 2006. “Women Candidates and the Media: 1992-2000 Elections,” *Politics and Policy*, Vol. 34, No. 3, pp. 606-33.
- Kahn, K. F. 1994. “The Distorted Mirror - Press Coverage of Women Candidates for Statewide Office,” *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 56, No. 1, pp. 154-73.
- Kittilson, Miki Caul, and Kim Fridkin. 2008. “Gender, Candidate Portrayals and Election Campaigns: A Comparative Perspective,” *Politics and Gender*, Vol. 4, No. 3, pp. 371-92.

Mar 31 **The Role of Gender in the 2008 US Presidential Campaign**

Reading: Lawrence, Regina Lawrence and Melody Rose. 2009. *Hillary Clinton's Race for the White House: Gender Politics & the Media on the Campaign Trail*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Carroll, Susan J. 2009. "Reflections on Gender and Hillary Clinton's Presidential Campaign: The Good, the Bad, and the Misgynic," *Politics and Gender*, Vol. 5, No. 1, pp. 1-20.

Lawless, Jennifer L. 2009. "Sexism and Gender Bias in Election 2008: A More Complex Path for Women in Politics," *Politics and Gender*, Vol. 5, No. 1, pp. 70-80.

April 7 **Campaigning: Executive Office Internationally**

Readings: Murray, Rainbow (ed.). Forthcoming. *Cracking the Highest Glass Ceiling: A Global Comparison of Women's Campaigns for Executive Office*. Praeger. Chapters 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.

Jalalzai, Farida. 2008. "Women Rule: Shattering the Executive Glass Ceiling," *Politics and Gender*, Vol. 4, No. 2, pp. 205-32.

April 14 **Women in Executive Office**

Readings: Liswood, Laura. 2007. *Women World Leaders: Great Politicians Tell Their Stories*. Second edition. The Council Press.

April 21 **What Do Women Accomplish in Office?**

Readings: Bratton, Kathleen A. 2002. "The Effect of Legislative Diversity on Agenda-Setting: Evidence from Six State Legislatures," *American Politics Research*, Vol. 30, No. 2, pp. 115-42.

Swers, Michelle L. 2007. "Building a Legislative Reputation on National Security: The Impact of Stereotypes Related to Gender and Military Experience," *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 32, No. 4, pp. 559-95.

Taylor-Robinson, Michelle M. and Roseanna Heath. 2003. "Do Women Legislators Have Different Policy Priorities than Their Male Colleagues? A Critical Case Test," *Women and Politics*, Vol. 24, No. 4, pp. 77-100.

Bratton, Kathleen A. and Leonard P. Ray. 2002. "Descriptive Representation, Policy Outcomes, and Municipal Day-Care Coverage in Norway," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 46, No. 2, pp. 428-37.

Franceschet, Susan and Jennifer M. Piscopo. 2008. "Gender Quotas and Women's Substantive Representation: Lessons from Argentina," *Politics and Gender*, Vol. 4, No. 3, pp. 393-425.

April 28 **Research Presentations**

May 5 **Research Presentations**