

Women and Politics

POLS 492-01

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Office Hours: M & W, 11am – 1pm
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Course Description and Objectives

Women often relate to and are affected by the political world differently than are men. Women's political action, often in the form of social movements, reflects not only the needs of women, but of children, family, and society. In many countries, government officials create women's agencies that sometimes assist and sometimes block women's advancement politically and socially. Furthermore, the inclusion of women in the political realm as office holders does not always provide a greater understanding and advancement of women's issues by the government. In addition, the advancement of democratization sometimes fails to insure women's rights. Women's political interests are often diverse, rarely supported by all women, and often progressive in nature, making the study of women's political issues complex and exciting. Through this course, students will gain an understanding of the complexity surrounding women and politics through comparative and international perspectives, centering on how policy affects women, how women affect policy and women as political leaders. Within state, transnational, and international considerations offer an extensive view of women and politics world-wide and within diverse communities.

Course Requirements

The instructor believes that people learn best when they interact with information, thus creating a solid knowledge base. Web pages, videos, discussion boards, quizzes and assignments, will be available to the student online on the bbce platform. Students are expected to check out the online content and to participate regularly on the discussion boards. It is the hope of the instructor that the online atmosphere will in many ways duplicate in-class discussions, so students will want to check back on the posts they have made to see where the discussion has gone. There will be quizzes throughout the course, and one page summaries each week. Students will also have one research/academic argument paper which will include a topic assignment, thesis assignment, and final draft.

The final grade breakdown is as follows:

Quizzes	25%
Research Paper (includes topic assignment, thesis assignment, and final draft)	25%
Summaries	25%
Online Participation	25%

Required Text and Readings

There are multiple aspects to the readings for this course. It is expected that the readings from the texts and/or other sources will be done prior to the class date for which it is assigned, enabling the students and instructor to enter into discussions reflecting information gleaned from the texts. In addition, students are expected to read the New York Times (free online at www.nyt.com – can be delivered each morning to your email address) in order to be current with events. Current Events will be an integral part of the classroom discussions.

Texts:

- Required:*
1. Conway, Margaret et. al. 2005. *Women and Public Policy*. CQ Press.
 2. Conway, Margaret et. al. 2005. *Women and Political Participation*. CQ Press.
 3. McDonagh, Eileen. 2009. *The Motherless State: Women's Political Leadership and American Democracy*. University of Chicago Press.
 4. Additional Readings will be chosen and assigned based on student interests and research areas.

Expectations:

Late papers, quizzes, thesis, etc., will be deducted 10% after the first day and an additional 10% for each subsequent week late. On DQ weeks, students are expected to participate 3 separate days a week with at least two posts on each day separate from the student's posted response to the DQ.

Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted according to university policy. Don't do it. This means students should be sure to submit only original work, and, when writing a paper, be sure to cite any information that is not your own thoughts or well

known information, whether it is a quote or summarized information. Using blocks of words from a source without quotes and then citing the source at the bottom is also plagiarism. **I will give a failing grade to any paper or checkpoint/activity that does not cite sources in text or is plagiarized in any way.**

Disability Accommodation

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify the instructor during the first week of the course of any accommodations needed for the course. Accommodations will be made according to university policy.

Course Outline

Week One 8/24 – 8/30 Introduction to course. Research and course development discussion.

*Students and the instructor will develop the later part of the syllabus during the first week. Students will choose an international/diversity area of interest that they would like to pursue that would likely develop into their research area for the course. Students will find one article/website/video for their topic of interest for course information.

Week Two 8/31 – 9/6 The changing culture of women and the political world I: *Women and Political Participation*, Chapters 1 – 3.

****Topic Assignment Due****

Week Three 9/7 – 9/13 The changing culture of women and the political world II: *Women and Political Participation*, Chapters 4 – 7.

****Quiz #1****

Week Four 9/14 – 9/20 Women and Public Policy—Women’s voice and policy response I: *Women and Public Policy*, Chapters 1 – 3.

Week Five 9/21 – 9/27 Women and Public Policy—Women’s voice and policy response II: *Women and Public Policy*, Chapters 4 – 6.

****Thesis Assignment Due****

Week Six 9/28 – 10/4 Women and Public Policy—Women’s voice and policy response III: *Women and Public Policy*, Chapters 7 – 10.

****Quiz #2****

Week Seven 10/5 – 10/11 Women as Political Leaders I: *The Motherless State*, Chapters 1 & 2.

Week Eight 10/12 – 10/18 Women as Political Leaders I: *The Motherless State*, Chapters 3 & 4.

Week Nine 10/19 – 10/25 Women as Political Leaders I: *The Motherless State*, Chapters 5 – 7.

****Quiz #3****

For this section of the course, the students will develop the syllabus based on their interests and the research they will do. Each student will find one academic reading and the instructor will provide support material on the same topic.

Week Ten 10/26 – 11/1

Week Eleven 11/2 – 11/8

****Rough Draft of Paper Due****

Week Twelve 11/9 – 11/15

****Quiz #4****

Week Thirteen 11/16 – 11/22

11/23 – 11/29

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week Fourteen 11/30 – 12/6

Week Fifteen 12/7 – 12/13

****Quiz #5****

Finals Week 12/14 – 12/17

**** Final draft of papers due 12/15 via assignments folder online.**