Course Description

This course surveys central topics in the study of gender and politics, covering such issues as women’s participation in political parties and social movements, women as voters and candidates in political elections, feminism and the state, and gender and international politics. It will draw on examples from various world regions and time periods to analyze similarities and differences across cases around the globe.

Course Requirements

This course aims to introduce students to basic concepts and debates in gender and politics. Grades for the course will be calculated in the following way:

- **Class participation (20%)** Although this is primarily a lecture-style course, you are expected to come to class prepared and to participate actively in all class discussions.
- **Two short take-home ‘midterms’ (20% each)** You will write two short papers – approximately five pages long – on questions stemming from the readings and class discussions. I will distribute a list of questions – of which you will answer one – a week before the assignment is due. **Deadlines:** February 19 and March 28.
- **One final take-home exam (40%)** You will write one final exam – approximately ten pages long – in which you answer two questions from the readings and class discussions. Although you will have some choice in terms of the questions, the first will address materials from the third part of the course, while the second will integrate concepts and debates from the course as a whole. **Deadline:** May 4.

Course Policies

This course seeks to promote active learning and foster a positive classroom environment. To help achieve these goals, you should take note of the following policies:

- **Attendance** is required. The readings serve as a background, not as a substitute, for the lectures and class discussions. Missing sessions will result in a deduction in your class participation grade and will affect your ability to answer the exam questions.
- **Late papers** and **email submissions** will not be accepted. Any requests for exceptions to these rules must be made in advance of the due date (i.e., at least the day before).
- The study and practice of politics is fundamentally about **interpretation and debate**. The aim of class sessions is to acquaint you with **multiple points of view** in order to help you
develop your own arguments in relation to various political phenomena. Therefore, your participation in class discussions is crucial for elaborating the content of the lectures and, in the case of class debates, for integrating the ideas and materials introduced in the course.

Required Readings

All of the readings will be available on ERes with the password “respect.”

Research, Prize, and Internship Opportunities

Students interested in doing further research on gender and politics are welcome to meet with me to discuss possible opportunities for independent and collaborative research. Various kinds of funding for student projects are available through the Office of Undergraduate Research and the Center for the Humanities.

All papers written in the course will be considered for the William Benton Parshall Prize, which is awarded each year by the political science department for the outstanding undergraduate paper on women in politics. Essays handed in before spring break will be entered into this year’s competition, while essays submitted after spring break will be entered into next year’s competition.

Internship opportunities in the St. Louis area are available at the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, at http://www.umsl.edu/~iwpl/. Information on job and internship opportunities in Washington, DC, and elsewhere is available through the Feminist Career Center at http://www.feminist.org/911/jobs/911jobs.asp.

Please feel free to contact me at mlkrook@wustl.edu with questions – or suggestions – regarding these or other opportunities in the field of gender and politics.

COURSE SCHEDULE

INTRODUCTION TO ‘GENDER’ AND ‘POLITICS’

January 17: Introduction to Gender and Politics

No assigned reading – discussion of course aims and introduction to developments in gender and politics worldwide.

January 22: Gendering the Study of Politics


WOMEN’S MOVEMENTS AND POLITICAL PARTIES

January 24: Feminist and Women’s Movements


January 29: Women, Men, and Social Movements


January 31: Women’s Movements and Political Parties


February 5: Women and Political Parties


February 7: Women’s Parties

Class Debate: What are women’s parties – social movements or political parties? What does their existence suggest about mainstream political parties? Why do most women’s parties fail when women form a majority of the population?


**WOMEN, GENDER, AND ELECTIONS**

**February 12: Women and the Right to Vote**

*Film: One Woman, One Vote*


**February 14: Women, Gender, and Voting**


**February 19: Women as National Leaders**

*Guest Lecturer: Farida Jalalzai, Department of Political Science, University of Missouri-St. Louis*


**February 21: Women as Elected Representatives**


**February 26: Women and Men as Candidates**


WOMEN, GENDER, AND POLITICAL OFFICE

February 28: Normative Arguments for Women’s Representation


March 5: Women and Campaigns for Political Office in the United States

Guest Lecturer: Vivien Eveloff, Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life, University of Missouri-St. Louis


March 7: Gender Quotas and Female Candidates Worldwide


Recommended:

March 19: Women Representing Women in Political Office


**March 21: Women’s Descriptive and Substantive Representation**

*Class Debate*: Are women under-represented in elected office? How and why is it important -- or not -- to increase the number of female candidates? What roles do men play in the descriptive and substantive representation of women?


**GENDER, THE STATE, AND PUBLIC POLICY-MAKING**

**March 26: Women, Gender, and the State**


**March 28: Gender, Identity, and the State**

*Guest Lecturer: Erica Townsend-Bell, Department of Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis*


**April 2: Women, Gender, and Public Policies**


April 4: Gender and Democratization in Southern Africa

_Guest Lecturer: Frances Henderson, Department of Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis_


April 9: State Feminism and Gender Mainstreaming

klass Debate: What is state feminism and gender mainstreaming? How do they contribute – or not – to the creation of women-friendly and/or gender-sensitive public policy?


GENDER AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

April 11: International and Transnational Women’s Movements


April 16: International Organizations and Women’s Rights


April 18: Gender and International Conflict


**April 23: Women in Politics in Post-Conflict Societies**

*Film: Cut From Different Cloth: Burqas and Beliefs*


**April 25: Conclusions and Recent Developments in Gender and Politics Worldwide**

No assigned reading – students bring their own articles for class discussion on recent developments in gender and politics worldwide.