

Gender and Politics

Political Science 345/Gender Studies 344

University of Mississippi

Spring 2019

Contact Information

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Course Description

In this course, we will explore central topics in the study of gender and politics, including such issues as political representation, elections, social movements, public policy, and institutions. We will draw on examples from around the world and throughout history. We will examine the agency of women in shaping world politics, and the influence of international relations on the lives of women around the world. In the first half we will focus on women's representation and elected leadership. We will look in-depth at the reasons why women have historically been excluded from politics, as well as the structural challenges and institutional changes that have been made to increase women's representation. We will then move beyond elected office to consider women's participation in politics through social movements. We will examine how international norms regarding gender equality have been enshrined in the operations of international organizations and what effects these norms have had on women's rights and political participation in various contexts.

Course Objectives

- Identify, understand, and apply key themes in women, gender and politics
- Recognize historical barriers to women's access to political institutions and positions of authority
- Critically reflect on the intersection of identities such as gender, race, class, ethnicity, etc.
- Interpret qualitative and quantitative data on women's representation around the world
- Strengthen critical reading skills and analytical writing skills

Expectations

- Come to class. I know that seems like an obvious one, but it's important nonetheless. You will have a tough time passing this course without attending it. Class attendance is not mandatory, but as someone famous once said 80% of success comes from showing up, and so it will likely be in this class.
- Do the readings beforehand; you will find that they provide important background for the lectures. Without that background, you may have a difficult time keeping up during class sessions. Most practically, questions for the exams will come from both the lecture and the readings. Not all relevant material will be duplicated in both sources.
- Keeping up with the world around you is not only important for discussion in this class, it is also important to becoming a good citizen. While not required for this course, I highly recommend keeping up with national political events during the course of the semester. Good resources online include The New York Times (www.nytimes.com), the Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com), CNN (www.cnn.com) or the International Herald Tribune (www.iht.com). Examples for discussion in class or exam questions are likely to be drawn from current events.
- In addition, please show respect to your classmates and to me by turning off all cell phones before entering classroom. Texting or instant messaging during class is also unacceptable. Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in a request to leave the class for the duration of the session.

Readings and Assignments

One book is required for this course and are available at the bookstore or Amazon or wherever. Additional readings will be available on Blackboard.

- Paxton, Pamela and Melanie Hughes. 2017. *Women, Politics, and Power: A Global Perspective*, 3rd edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Requirements

The requirements for this course include two exams and two writing assignment. Along with your contribution to the course, these elements will be weighted as follows:

- First Exam 20%
- Final Exam 25%
- Research Paper 25%

- Simulation and Briefing Papers 15%
- Short Reflections 10%
- Participation 5%

Short Reflections – Each student will upload 3 short (250-350 word) reflections to the relevant Blackboard discussion forum. Each reflection assignment’s grade will be based on content (did you follow instructions?) and quality of the writing.

1. Media Coverage of Female Candidates: Find a newspaper article or broadcast addressing a female candidate (I encourage you to look for races and candidates outside the US). Write a reflection that considers the reporting in light of the readings on media coverage of female candidates. Be sure to include a link to the article in your reflection.
2. Women and Social Media: Reflect on the role of social media as a forum for women’s political participation by finding a hashtag, twitter account, a Facebook page, or a blog that is relevant to women and world politics. Look through some recent posts/tweets. Write a reflection which addresses how your finding fits into our understanding of (global) women’s political participation/rights.
3. You have been tapped by one of the leaders in your region to advise his administration on adopting a “feminist” foreign policy. Pick one policy change that you would present to the president/prime minister. Explain the current policy (you’ll have to do some research for this), the change you’re advocating for, and why this constitutes a pivot toward a feminist foreign policy.

Research Paper – This 10-15 page paper will be due by 11AM on April 30th. Students will write a or an analysis of their focus region’s current foreign policy with predictions for the next ten years. Regardless of the approach selected, students will use the theoretical perspectives discussed in classed to assess the gender and politics in the focus region. A portion of the grade for the research papers will be assigned during the research conference that will be held April 25th and 30th. Additional information about sourcing and intermediate deadlines for rough drafts will be provided by the first week in March.

Late Assignments: All work for the course must be handed in on time. All late assignments will be penalized on FULL LETTER GRADE for each day past the deadline. If papers will be late due to illness or other serious impediment to school work, please let me know as soon as possible and an extension may be offered at my discretion.

Makeup Exams: Requests to take examinations at times other than those listed above must be made in advance and will be granted at the discretion of the instructor. If a student fails to take

an exam, the decision to allow a makeup and the penalty associated with that makeup, if granted, is again at the discretion of the instructor.

Academic Integrity: Students will be expected to adhere to the university honor code for all assignments. Work handed in by any student should be solely the work of that student – end of story. If you draw on the ideas of others, please cite them. Failure to do so will result in a zero for the assignment at the very least.

ADA: Any student with a learning disability or physical handicap that might affect class performance should notify me as soon as possible. Ole Miss can make a variety of accommodations and arrangements that help insure equal opportunity. It is your right and we are glad to work with you on this. For necessary accommodations to be made, please let me know prior to the first exam.

Grading for Political Science Majors and Minors: It is the policy of the political science department that no grade lower than a C can be counted towards either a major or minor in political science. This course will be graded using the plus/minus scale. This course will be graded using the plus/minus system.

Attendance Verification: “The university requires that all students have a verified attendance at least once during the first two weeks of the semester for each course. If attendance is not verified, then a student will be dropped from the course and any financial aid will be adjusted accordingly. Please see <http://olemiss.edu/gotoclass> for more information.”

Course Outline

January 22: Course Introduction

January 24: Why Study Gender?

- Enloe, Cynthia. *Bananas, Beaches, and Bases.*, Ch. 1
- Hudson, Valerie. 2012. “What Sex Means for World Peace,” *Foreign Policy*

January 29: Where are the Women?

- Paxton and Hughes, Chapter 1.

January 31: Women’s Representation

- Paxton and Hughes, Chapter 3.

February 5: Representation and Intersectionality

- Paxton and Hughes, Chapter 9.

- Smooth, Wendy. 2011. “Standing for Women? Which Women? The Substantive Representation of Women’s Interests and the Research Imperative of Intersectionality.” *Politics and Gender*.

February 7: Cultural and Social Influences

- Paxton and Hughes, Chapter 4 & 5.

February 12: Political Influences

- Paxton and Hughes, 151-169.
- Kranthak, Kristin and Jonathan Woon, 2015. Blog Post based on “Why Women Don’t Run”

February 14: Political Influences - Quotas

- Paxton and Hughes, 169-201.
- Choose one of the following articles:
 - Clayton, Amanda and Par Zetterberg. 2018. “Quota Shocks: Electoral Gender Quotas and Government Spending Priorities Worldwide”
 - O’Brien, Diana and Johanna Rickne 2016. “Gender Quotas and Women’s Political Leadership.”
 - Bauer, Gretchen and Jennie Burnet. 2013. “Gender Quotas, democracy, and Women’s Representation in Africa: Some insights from democratic Botswana and autocratic Rwanda.” *Women’s International Forum*.
 - Franceschet, Susan and Jennifer Piscopo. 2008. “Gender Quotas and Women’s Substantive Representation: Lessons from Argentina.” *Politics & Gender*.
 - Krook, Mona Lena & Pippa Norris. 2014. “Beyond Quotas: Strategies to Promote Gender Equality in Elected Office.” *Political Studies*.

February 19: Female Executives

- Gwynn, Thomas and Melinda Adams. 2010. “Breaking the Final Glass Ceiling: The Influence of Gender in the Elections of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and Michelle Bachelet. *Journal of Women. Politics & Policy*.
- O’Brien, Diana Z., Matthew Mendez, Jordan Carr Peterson, and Jihyun Shin. 2015. “Letting down the ladder or shutting the door: Female prime ministers, party leaders, and cabinet ministers.” *Politics & Gender*.

February 21: Political Behavior

- Abendschon, Simone, and Stephanie Steinmetz. 2014. “The gender gap in voting revisited: Women’s party preferences in a European context.” *Social Politics*
- Isaksson, Ann-Sofie, Andreas Kotsadam, and Mans Nerman. 2014. “The gender gap in African political participation: Testing theories of individual and contextual determinants.” *Journal of Development Studies*.

February 26 & 28: Simulation Activity

March 5: Simulation Debrief and Exam Review

March 7: Midterm Exam

***** Spring Break, March 9 - March 17 *****

March 19: Do Women Make a Difference?

- Paxton and Hughes, Chapter 8
- Angevine, Sara. 2016. Representing All Women: An Analysis of Congress, Foreign Policy, and the Boundaries of Women’s Surrogate Representation. *Political Research Quarterly*.

March 21: Do Women Make a Difference?

- Paxton and Hughes, Chapter 8
- Koch, Michael and Sara A. Fulton. 2011. “In the Defense of Women: Gender, Office Holding, and National Security Policy in Established Democracies.” *Journal of Politics*.

March 26: International Women’s Movement and Women’s Right

- Paxton and Hughes, Chapter 7.
- CEDAW text (which United States has signed but not ratified.)

March 28: Class Cancelled – Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association

April 2: Women and Autocracies

- Sika and Khodary. 2012. “One Step Forward, Two Steps Back? Egyptian Women within the Confines of Authoritarianism.” *Journal of International Women’s Studies*

April 4: Women and Democratization

- Waylen, Georgina. 1994. "Women and Democratization Conceptualizing Gender Relations in Transition Politics." *World Politics*
- Baldez, Lisa. 2003. "Women's Movements and Democratic Transition in Chile, Brazil, East Germany, and Poland." *Comparative Politics*

April 9: Women and Economic Development

- Ekbrand and Hallerod. 2018. "The More Gender Equity, the Less Child Poverty? A Multi-level Analysis of Malnutrition and Health Deprivation." *World Development*
- Students focusing on Africa or Latin America might want to look at papers by Boaz Anglade on the Gender Wealth Gap as alternative readings. One is focused on Ecuador, the other is on Ghana.

April 11: Women and Economic Development

- Beath, Andrew, Fotini Christia, and Ruben Enikolopov. 2013. "Empowering Women through Development Aid: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Afghanistan." *American Political Science Review* 107: 540-57.

April 11: War and Conflict

- Thomas, Jakana L., and Kanisha D. Bond. 2015. "Women's participation in violent political organizations." *American Political Science Review*
- Kidder, Katherine. 2016. "THE HARD QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SELECTIVE SERVICE HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH WOMEN IN COMBAT" War on the Rocks

April 16: War and Conflict

- Karim, Sabrina and Kyle Beardsley. 2013. "Female Peacekeepers and Gender Balancing: Token Gestures or Informed Policymaking?" *International Interactions*.
- Carpenter, Charli. 2003. "'Women and Children First': Gender, Norms, and Humanitarian Evacuation in the Balkans 1991-95." *International Organization*.

April 18: War and Conflict

- Cohen, Green, and Wood. "Wartime Sexual Violence: Misconceptions, Implications, and Ways Forward" A Special Report by the United States Institute of Peace.
- Cohen, Dara Kay. 2013. "Explaining Rape During Civil War: Cross National Evidence (1980-2009)." *American Political Science Review*.

- Beber, Bernd, Michael J. Gilligan, Jenny Guardado, and Sabrina Karim. 2017. “Peace-keeping, compliance with international norms, and transactional sex in Monrovia, Liberia.” *International Organization*

April 23: Women and Post-Conflict Reform

- Huber, Laura and Sabrina Karim. 2017. “The Internationalization of Security Sector Gender Reform in Post-Conflict Countries.” *Conflict Management and Peace Science*.
- Hughes, Melanie, and Aili Mari Tripp. 2015. “Civil War and Trajectories of Change in Women’s Political Representation in Africa, 1985-2010.” *Social Forces*.
- Shair-Rosenfield, Sara and Reed Wood. 2017. “Governing Well After War: How Improving Female Representation Prolongs Post-Conflict Peace.” *Journal of Politics*.

April 25 and 30: Research Presentations

May 2: Wrap Up and Review

- Paxton and Hughes, Chapter 16.

***** Final Exam – May 7, Noon *****