

Political Science 3140
Gender and Politics
Summer 2008
OSH 132

Instructor: Jessica Taverna
Office: OSH 252
Phone: 581-3241
Email: jessica.taverna@poli-sci.utah.edu
Office Hours: Tues and Thurs 11:00-12:00, and by appointment

Course Description:

This course examines American political institutions, political behavior, and public policy through the lens of gender. Our primary focus will be on the ways in which ideas about gender—a social construct concerning behavioral and societal expectations placed on members of a particular biological sex—BOTH influence and are influenced by political processes and political actors. In particular, we will emphasize social and cultural changes in ideas about gender (and women specifically) that have developed both alongside and because of political changes. Over the course of the semester, we will explore the relationship between the social and the political, and the ways in which both have structured the experiences of women and men in the political realm and beyond.

Course Objectives:

In addition to substantive goals—concerning student learning about gender and political institutions, behavior, and policy—I am also concerned with the experience of learning. One of my primary objectives is for students to critically engage with the content of this course. The course introduces you to perspectives and ideas that may be unfamiliar and perhaps uncomfortable. The subjects we will be addressing can be difficult and may pose a challenge to the accepted views and beliefs of students. When I ask that you critically engage the material, I do not mean that you must agree with me or with any of the authors we will be reading, but rather that you must be willing to develop an understanding of the content, be capable of articulating and explaining the ideas and arguments introduced, and recognize that people think differently about a wide range of important political and social topics.

Important Policies and Expectations:

1. I expect you to attend class (which means arriving on time and staying until class is dismissed), turn off cell phones/pagers, put down newspapers or other unrelated materials, and refrain from engaging in “side conversations” during lectures.
2. I expect you to come to class prepared (having done the required readings) and ready to engage in discussions.
3. I expect you to be respectful of the professor and your fellow classmates.
4. If you do miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes or other information from fellow classmates. Please feel free to ask me if you are having difficulty connecting with someone. However, know that I do not make my lecture notes available (they are unlikely to be legible or discernible by anyone other than me!).

5. Please take note of the dates listed for assignments and exams, and make sure you are able to meet them. If an unanticipated and unavoidable conflict comes up later in the semester that causes a scheduling conflict, please notify me as soon as you know about it to make alternative arrangements. In the case of an emergency, you must contact me as soon as possible. Where appropriate, an alternative exam time may be arranged to be taken at the Testing Center.
6. If you are taking this course to fulfill the University's Diversity (DV) requirement, keep in mind that you must receive a C- or better to clear the DV requirement.
7. There are no extra credit opportunities in this course.
8. According to University policy, an incomplete (I) can only be given if a student has a passing grade and has completed 80% of the course.
9. The University of Utah's policies pertaining to Academic Misconduct and Dishonesty will be carefully observed and strictly enforced in this class. This policy can be found in the General Catalog and online at <http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html>. It is your responsibility to know and follow these rules. Anyone caught cheating on an exam or plagiarizing on an assignment will automatically fail that assignment and may fail the entire course.

Required Readings:

The following textbooks are required for the course and are available at the University Bookstore:

- Conway, Steuernagal, Ahern. 2005. Women and Political Participation (Conway #1)
- Conway, Ahern, Steuernagel. 2005. Women and Public Policy (Conway #2)

Additional required readings are assigned over the course of the semester. These readings will be available through electronic reserve and are identified in the course outline by an asterisk (*).

Course Requirements/Assignments:

1. Quizzes: There will be 7 quizzes over the course of the semester, each worth 10 points. These are designed to encourage you to read consistently and carefully, attend lectures regularly, and participate actively in discussions; the quizzes will assess your understanding of the material. They will consist of short answer and/or identification questions—if you have been doing the reading and attending class, the quizzes should not be difficult. They are meant to ensure your ongoing engagement with and comprehension of the course content, and as such serve as advance preparation for the final exam.
DATES: 5/27, 6/3, 6/10, 6/26, 7/3, 7/10, 7/22
2. Paper Assignment: Gender and the 2008 Presidential Election. The paper will be worth 30 points and will consist in analyzing media and other popular culture coverage of the 2008 presidential campaign (and candidates Clinton, Obama, and McCain) through the lens of gender, utilizing core concepts introduced in the first half of the semester. The paper must be 5-7 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins. Additional information and instructions will be distributed later.
DUE DATE: 6/19
3. Final Exam: The final exam will be worth 40 points and will consist of short-answer questions. The exam will be cumulative, covering material through the semester.
DATE: 7/31 from 10am-12pm

4. Attendance/Participation: Attendance will be taken at each class session and will serve as the basis for this portion of your grade. In addition, you are expected to participate during the semester in various small and large group discussions that will take place as supplements to my lectures.

Grade Breakdown:

Quizzes = 70 points (10 points each)
Paper = 30 points
Final = 40 points
Attendance = 10 points
Total = 150 points

Course Outline and Reading Assignments:

May 13: Introduction to course and each other; explanation of assignments and course expectations

May 15: Key concepts: gender/sex, feminism, consciousness, intersectionality

Conway #1 Chapter 1

*Sapiro, "The Women's Movement and the Creation of Gender Consciousness"

Part I: Gender in Theories of the State

May 20: Gender in Ancient Political Thought

*Coole, "Plato and Aristotle: The Status of Women in the Just State"

May 22: Gender in Liberal Political Thought

*Coole, "Rousseau and Wollstonecraft: Female Virtue and Civic Virtue" and "J.S. Mill: Political Economist, Utilitarian and Feminist"

May 27: Gender and Democratic Theory

*Sparks, "Dissident Citizenship: Democratic Theory, Political Courage, and Activist Women"

QUIZ #1: Gender and Political Theory

Part II: Gender and Political Life: Voters, Candidates, Elected Officials

May 29: Culture and Socialization

Conway #1 Chapter 2

June 3: Gender Gap: Attitudes and Participation

Conway #1 Chapter 3 and 5

QUIZ #2

June 5: Gender Identification

Conway #1 Chapter 4

*Lien, "Does the Gender Gap in Political Attitudes and Behavior Vary Across Racial Groups?"

June 10: Women as Political Elites

Conway #1 Chapter 6
QUIZ #3

June 12: Gender and Political Institutions

*Hawkesworth, "Congressional Enactments of Race-Gender"

*Swers, "Transforming the Agenda: Analyzing Gender Differences in Women's Issues Bill Sponsorship"

June 17: Gender and Political Institutions continued

* Harrison, "Women in the Executive Branch"

June 19: Small Group Discussion of gender and the presidential election

[I will distribute some short news articles before this class meeting to help the discussion. You should also be prepared to discuss the findings from your papers.]

Assignment Due in class: 2008 Presidential Election Analysis

Part III: Gender and Public Policy

******For each week in this section, please check out at least one of the suggested websites listed at the end of each chapter, and be prepared to briefly discuss what you found******

June 24: Overview

Conway #2 Chapter 1

*Schneider and Ingram, "Social Construction of Target Populations"

June 26: Education Policy

Conway #2 Chapter 2

QUIZ #4

July 1: Health Care Policy

Conway #2 Chapter 3

July 3: Reproductive Policy

Conway #2 Chapter 4

QUIZ #5

July 8: Employment Policy

Conway #2 Chapter 5

July 10: Economic Equity

Conway #2 Chapter 6

*McLanahan and Kelly, "The Feminization of Poverty: Past and Future"

QUIZ #6

July 15: Gender and the Family

Conway #2 Chapter 7

July 17: Child Care

Conway #2 Chapter 8

July 22: Gender, Politics, and Cultural Change
Conway #1 Chapter 7
Conway #2 Chapter 10
QUIZ #7

July 24: NO CLASS (Pioneer Day)

July 29: Wrap-up: In-Class Review

FINAL EXAM: Thurs, July 31 from 10am-12pm