



Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice
(in association with the Gender Studies Program)

POLS 4160 / POLS 6160, Section A
Women and Politics
Spring Semester 2012
TTh 5:30-6:55 p.m.

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Office Hours: MW 2:30-4:30 p.m., TTh 2:40-3:40 p.m.

Course Description:

This course examines the role of women in politics, focusing on how and to what extent women participate in politics, barriers to women's involvement in politics, and how the political system treats women's issues. Specific topics include the history of the women's-suffrage movement, feminism, the impact of gender on elections and the dynamics of legislatures, and public-policy issues relevant to women.

Purpose

Unmoved by the pleas of forward-looking women that the new American federal system should admit women to full citizenship and participation, the framers of the U. S. Constitution opted to put nothing into the document that would disturb the patriarchal, discriminatory status quo. Instead of entering the new system as equals, women remained without access to social, economic, political, and professional opportunity, injustices that would require decades and centuries to address and rectify.

The "What if . . .?" questions can occupy our thought process for quite a while. What if women had been enrolled as voters and elected to the first Congress in 1789? . . . Would the slavery problem have persisted until the 1860s, and would the resolution have involved such a cataclysmic bloodbath? Would American society have suffered the hurtful separate-but-equal absurdity, the Vietnam debacle, the Watergate and Lewinsky scandals, and any number of other events with which our social and political system was beleaguered?

Female activists have had to negotiate their way through a system dominated and designed by men--a system that rewards confrontational conduct, fight-to-the-finish and winner-take-all rituals, and majority/minority thinking. The unbearably slow progress experienced by women in this inhospitable system has often provoked some women's-rights activists into blistering rhetoric of their own. Courses in history and political science tend to devote scant attention to the women's experience in American society. In this course, we will focus on this generally neglected facet of our political past.

Learning Objectives

- Know the history of discrimination of women in politics, government, and law; employment; social life; and other aspects of life.
- Be able to describe the reasons for discrimination of women, the implications of such discrimination for women, and the implications of such discrimination for society in general.
- Be able to explain who have been instrumental in alleviating the level and scope of discrimination, and how they have accomplished their objectives.
- Be able to describe what female activists and officials have accomplished in resolving discrimination, changing public policy, and opening doors for women in the future.

Information literacy

Concerning NGCSU's Information Literacy Learning Outcomes (based on NGCSU's Quality Enhancement Plan): These are the five outcomes.

1. The information-literate student determines the nature and extent of the information needed. *Know*
2. The information-literate student accesses needed information effectively and efficiently. *Access*
3. The information-literate student evaluates information and its sources critically and incorporates selected information into his or her knowledge base and value system. *Evaluate*
4. The information-literate student, individually or as a member of a group, uses information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose. *Use*
5. The information-literate student understands many of the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information and accesses and uses information ethically and legally. *Ethical/legal¹*

The reading and written assignments are designed to contribute to these outcomes.

Course Requirements

Notice about distinct standards for graduate students: Graduate students are expected to perform at a level that is better informed and more sophisticated relative to undergraduates, based on the

¹ Learning Outcomes adapted from the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) standards.

graduate students' completion of a bachelor's degree and the availability to them of more skill and experience.

1. REQUIRED READINGS

Two books are required for purchase by all members of the class. They are:

- Carroll, Susan J., ed. *Women and American Politics: New Questions, New Directions*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002/3.
- Dolan, Julie; Deckman, Melissa; and Swers, Michele L. *Women and Politics: Paths to Power and Political Influence*. 2d ed. New York: Longman / Pearson Education, Inc., 2011.

There is one *optional* textbook, which contains a skeptical critique of the modern feminist leadership.

- Bennett, James T. *The Politics of American Feminism: Gender Conflict in Contemporary Society*. Lanham, Md.: University Press of America, Inc., 2007.

Study the assigned readings on a timely basis in accordance with the attached schedule. To "study" does *not* mean to scan; rather, to "study" involves careful reading and note-taking (or underlining) to facilitate retention of facts and to facilitate review for the examination.

2. EXAMINATIONS

There will be two examinations *during* the semester (as opposed to the final examination, which will be described below). They will occur on Tuesday, February 14, and Tuesday, March 27. The format will be short-answer.

3. BOOK REPORT

Graduate students enrolled in this course are required to submit a book report. This assignment is *optional* for undergraduate members of the class. The student should select a book about a woman who was or is prominent in American politics or about a women's political movement in the United States. The usual length of this assignment is four to six pages of double-spaced text. It is due on Tuesday, February 21. Please prepare to make an oral presentation in class as well. The score for late papers will be reduced by 2 points per calendar day.

4. RESEARCH PAPER

A research paper is required for this course. The research paper must be based on and must make specific reference to literature of political science and, possibly, other social-science disciplines (i.e., your textbooks, lecture notes, monographs, articles in political-science journals, etc.). A substantial amount of reference to *both* of your textbooks is required, as is the use of other peer-reviewed sources. A graduate student enrolled in this class is required, additionally, to gather some useful data pertaining to the topic and apply a substantial statistical method to the data in order to develop an analytically noteworthy result. (Undergraduates are encouraged to do this as well.) At least 12 pages of double-spaced text will be necessary to address any topic productively.

You must use full-blown APA style in this research paper. You are advised to obtain a copy of the style manual if you don't already own one. It is available, for example, at this Web page:

<http://www.apastyle.org/pubmanual.html>

A really helpful resource is the accompanying software to the APA style manual. The software is available by direct download or by purchase of an actual CD-ROM. *I strongly advise the purchase of the CD-ROM rather than the direct download.* The software is available, for example, at this Web page:

<http://www.apastyle.org/stylehelper/>

I would appreciate it if you would use the *modifications* to APA style that appear at this Web page:

<http://organization.northgeorgia.edu/MPAprog/APAmd.html>

Please place a staple (no paper clip) in the upper-left corner of each written assignment. Do not submit any report covers or manila folders. Please submit two copies of your paper. Also, please be prepared to make an oral presentation about your paper in class. The paper is due on Thursday, April 12. The score for late papers will be reduced by 2 points per calendar day.

5. FINAL EXAMINATION

The final examination will be a short-answer examination. The final exam will occur on Thursday, April 26, from 5:30 to 6:55 p.m.

6. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Class participation and proper conduct are both expected, and will determine 8 percent of the course grade.

Attendance is compulsory. You are considered responsible for being attentive to lectures and class discussions, for taking notes, and for being aware of the content of all class announcements. Please take note of the university's policy on "Class Attendance" (2011-2012 *Undergraduate Bulletin*, pp. 85-86) which is incorporated herein by reference. A student who accumulates more than three unexcused absences on this one-session-per-week schedule can expect to receive a "W" or "WF," or to sustain a reduction in the course grade.

Do not bring to class items that will emit audible signals, such as cell phones and watches that announce the top of the hour. If you have such an item in your possession, and it emits a sound, your course grade will be reduced by 1½ to 3 percentage points (depending on volume, with the instructor's evaluation being final) for each incident; your participation score may also be affected. During an examination, if you have such an item in your possession, and it emits a sound, you must turn in your examination immediately and leave; failure to follow this instruction will result in a score of zero and, possibly, a disciplinary complaint.

Sarcasm; rudeness; sleeping in class; conversing with other students; reading books, newspapers, or other documents not related to the course; doing assignments for another class; and other behaviors that indicate disrespect for the instructor, classmates, and/or the learning process will tend to have an adverse effect on your participation score and may lead to ejection and/or a disciplinary complaint.

7. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

a. Incorporation of other controlling authority. All of the rules, regulations, and standards published in the undergraduate and graduate bulletins of North Georgia College & State University are incorporated by reference in this document.

b. Cheating and plagiarism. NGCSU's integrity code--"On my honor, I will not lie, cheat, steal, plagiarize, evade the truth, or tolerate those who do"--reflects the university's commitment to academic integrity. The "Academic Integrity Policy"² is incorporated herein by reference. Please note that in this course, as in all others at NGCSU, plagiarism and other forms of cheating are expressly prohibited. Any student who commits plagiarism or cheating may receive a reduced grade, which may involve a failing grade, and a report of the incident will be

² 2011-2012 *Undergraduate Bulletin*, p. 97; see also the *Student Handbook*. Graduate students may refer to the 2011-2012 *Graduate Bulletin* at [http://www.northgeorgia.edu/2011-12/Graduate Catalog/index.htm](http://www.northgeorgia.edu/2011-12/Graduate%20Catalog/index.htm) .

provided to the university’s Academic Integrity Council. The council and the vice president for academic affairs may take additional action, which may include a formal reprimand, probation, suspension, or expulsion from the university.

c. Disabilities and accommodations. North Georgia College & State University is committed to equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an accommodation, reasonable *prior* notice needs to be given to the instructor and the Office of Student Disability Resources. In this case, contact Thomas McCoy, coordinator of student disabilities resources, in the Stewart Student Success Center, Room 313 (706-867-2782).

d. Online students’ evaluation of course. Course evaluations at NGCSU are now conducted online through BANNER. Evaluation of the class is considered a component of the course and students will not be permitted to access their course grade until the evaluation has been completed. The evaluations will be accessible beginning one week prior to the final-exam week.

e. Course grades. Course grades are available on BANNER Web 2000 within about two days of the end of final examinations. Except in emergency situations, please do not request grades by telephone, E-mail, or similar method.

DETERMINATION OF COURSE GRADES

<u>Event</u>	<u>No Book Report</u>	<u>Book Report</u>
First Exam	20%	15%
Book Report	--	14%
Second Exam	20%	15%
Research Paper	28%	25%
Final Exam	24%	23%
Participation	8%	8%

Schedule of Reading Assignments

NOTE: In the reading assignments, “C” indicates the Carroll reader, “DDS” indicates the Dolan/Deckman/Swers textbook, and “B” indicates the Bennett book.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
T	Jan. 10	Introduction Discussion of Research Methods	C Introduction (pp. 1-3, 21-29) DDS Ch. 1

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Th	Jan. 12	Women's Political Participation Before 1920	C Introduction (pp. 12-15) DDS Ch. 2 (pp. 10-17)
T	Jan. 17	Rise of the Feminist Movement Participation by New Female Voters	C Introduction (pp. 8-12, 15-18) DDS Ch. 2 (pp. 17-25) C Ch. 1, 9
Th	Jan. 19	Women in Political-Party Organizations	C Ch. 5 (pp. 127-145) DDS Ch. 2 (pp. 39-54)
T	Jan. 24	Women in Professional Life Guest Speaker: Dr. Brenda K. Findley , personnel director Fairness in Employment: Policy Changes in the 1960s	DDS Ch. 6 (pp. 212-226)
Th	Jan. 26	Women in State Legislatures	DDS Ch. 7 (pp. 227-238)
T	Jan. 31	Women as State Executive Officers	DDS Ch. 8 (pp. 263-264, 275-278, 283-286)
Th	Feb. 2	Women in Congress	DDS Ch. 7 (pp. 238-262)
T	Feb. 7	Women as Presidential Appointees	DDS Ch. 8 (pp. 278-283, 286-288)
Th	Feb. 9	Women and Interest Groups	C Ch. 5 (pp. 111-127) DDS Ch. 2 (pp. 30-39)
T	Feb. 14	FIRST EXAMINATION	
Th	Feb. 16	Women as Voters Women and the News Media	C Ch. 6 DDS Ch. 3 (pp. 55-73) C Ch. 7 DDS Ch. 4

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
T	Feb. 21	BOOK REPORT DUE Women's Portrayals in Arts and Entertainment <i>Guest Speaker: Carrie Schrader, film-studies instructor, writer, director, and actor</i>	
Th	Feb. 23	Female Candidates' Election Campaigns Mother's Milk of Politics	C Ch. 2 (pp. 53-62, 65-71) DDS Ch. 5 C Ch. 2 (pp. 62-64), Ch. 3
T	Feb. 28	Women in Local Politics Women in Local Politics	DDS Ch. 6 (pp. 181-201) DDS Ch. 6 (pp. 201-211)
Th	Mar. 1	Reproduction	
T	Mar. 6	Women as Judges Women and the Law	DDS Ch. 9 (pp. 304-308, 312-345) DDS Ch. 9 (pp. 308-312)
Th	Mar. 8	Opinions of Men About Women's Rights <i>Film: Kisses for My President</i>	
T	Mar. 13	No Class - Spring Break	
Th	Mar. 15		
T	Mar. 20	Layers of Discrimination: Lesbian Rights <i>Guest Speaker: Dr. Kathleen A. Dolan, sociologist and lesbian-health expert</i>	Friedman letter to the editor ³
Th	Mar. 22	Layers of Discrimination: Female Members of Minority Groups	C Ch. 8
T	Mar. 27	SECOND EXAMINATION	

³ My letter to the editor about Barry Goldwater and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act is available on a Web page at <http://faculty.northgeorgia.edu/bfriedman/Studies/ENDA.html> .

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Th	Mar. 29	Women's Opinions: Monolithic or Diverse?	C Introduction (pp. 5-8) DDS Ch. 3 (pp. 73-85)
T	Apr. 3	Women's Influence on Public Policy	C Ch. 4 DDS Ch. 8 (pp. 288-294)
Th	Apr. 5	Women's Rights Here and Abroad <i>Guest Speaker: Dr. Dlynn F. Armstrong-Williams,</i> director of the NGCSU Center for Global Engagement	C Introduction (pp. 18-21)
T	Apr. 10	Women in the Military Women as Leaders <i>Guest Speaker: Dr. Michele B. Hill,</i> leadership-program coordinator	DDS Ch. 8 (pp. 294-303) NGCSU
Th	Apr. 12	RESEARCH PAPERS DUE Women as Vice Presidents and Presidents <i>Guest Speaker: Dr. Cristian A. Harris,</i> professor and scholar in Latin American politics	DDS Ch. 8 (pp. 264-275)
T	Apr. 17	Women as First Ladies <i>Guest Speaker: Susan C. Thompson,</i> educator of middle-school social-science teachers	
Th	Apr. 19	Proposed Equal Rights Amendment <i>Guest Speaker: Deborah Johnson Evans,</i> pro-ERA activist and battered-women's advocate	DDS Ch. 2 (pp. 25-30)
T	Apr. 24	No Class - Academic Review Day	
Th	Apr. 26	FINAL EXAMINATION	