

# Fall 2017 POLI 4028 Gender & Politics

POLI 4028 Gender & Politics  
Class Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays  
9:00 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.  
Class Location: 0015 Atkinson

Instructor: Dr. Nichole Bauer  
Office: Stubbs Hall 208B  
Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:30  
am - 12:30 pm or by appointment  
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## Course Description

For much of American history, politics was an exclusively masculine institution. However, these dynamics have changed dramatically in recent decades. Women are now active political players in every stage of the political process. In fact, women vote at higher rates compared to men in national elections. Yet, women's representation in political institutions is well below gender parity. Women hold less than 20% of seats in Congress, an average of 25% of seats in state legislatures (women hold 15.3% of seats in Louisiana's state legislature), women sit in 6 out of 50 gubernatorial offices, and only one woman ever won the nomination of a major party to run for the presidency. This class will explore the ways in which women and men experience the political world differently as citizens, candidates, and officeholders. We will also examine the ways in which gender intersects with other identities that shape how individuals experience the politics including race, social class, sexual orientation, and gender identity. We will do this through class readings, lectures, in-class activities, and, of course, following current political events.

## Required Textbooks

Bos, Angela L. and Monica C. Schneider. 2016. The Political Psychology of Women in U.S. Politics. New York: Routledge.

## Attendance & Participation

Class sessions will be a combination of lectures, discussions, and other in-class activities. Regular attendance and keeping up with the course readings are necessary to do well in this class.

## Course Objectives & Goals

By the conclusion of this course, each student will be able to:

- Explain the origins of gender roles and identify how these role distinctions affect conceptions of leadership.

- Analyze whether and how political institutions reinforces conceptions of femininity and masculinity.
- Discuss the similarities and differences in how women and men participate in politics as citizens, candidates, and leaders.
- Investigate the intersectional nature of gender to delineate how women differ from each other and how men differ from one another.

## Course Policies

- I do not have an attendance policy, but note that class participation is a substantial part of your grade. If you are not present in class then you cannot participate in class discussions.
- If you do need to miss class be sure to check with a classmate about getting the notes missed from class.
- Participation grades are based on not only regular attendance, but on participation in class discussions. There will be many opportunities for us to discuss the core themes of this class, and I do expect all students to contribute.
- This class has a late policy for turning in assignments. An assignment turned in late will suffer a 10% point deduction for every hour the paper is late. If you turn in a paper 15 minutes late the paper loses 10%, if you turn in a paper 75 minutes late the paper loses 20%. Turn papers in on time.
- The larger academic setting and this course, in particular, requires an open, inclusive, and engaging learning environment in which students feel comfortable expressing their own opinions as well as being exposed to opinions, cultures, viewpoints, and personal experiences different from their own. With this in mind, students are expected to engage one another with respect, courtesy, and sensitivity both inside and outside of this classroom.
- When I use PowerPoint, I will post those slides to the course website **after** class. Note that in order to do well on the exams and assignments you should plan to take notes in addition to these slides.
- Please be sure to silence your cell phone during class. You are welcome to use a laptop for taking notes or accessing the online readings. If it is clear you are using the laptop for another purpose, I will ask you to put it away.
- If you have a disability, I am happy to work with you to provide the appropriate accommodations; however, you do need to let me know right away.

## Grading

Below is the breakdown for how I will calculate your grades. More specific instructions and details for the essays, final project, and exams will be provided on the course website closer to the due dates. I will keep track of your grades on assignments through the class website, and you will have access to this information so that you can calculate your projected grade at any point in the semester. Note that your participation grade will not be calculated until the end of the semester.

100-98 = A+	87-89 = B+	79-77 = C+	69-67 = D+	59 or below = F
97-93 = A	86-83 = B	76-73 = C	66-63 = D	
92-90 = A-	82-80 = B-	72-70 = C-	62-60 = D-	

A - Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.

B - Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.

C - Achievement that meets course requirements in every respect.

D - Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.

F - Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the professor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

## Assignments

Your grade is based on the following four components: Two exams, two short writing assignments, participation, and a group project/presentation.

Mid-Term: 25%

Final: 25%

Political Ambition Interview: 10%

Blog Post Paper: 10%

Research Design Poster: 10%

Research Design Conference Participation 10%

In-Class Participation: 10%

## Key Dates

All the due dates are also included in the course schedule.

Political Ambition Paper: **September 26, 2017**

Mid-Term: **October 17, 2017**

Blog Post Paper: **November 7, 2017**

Research Design Posters: **November 26, 2017**  
Research Design Presentations: **November 28, 2017 & November 30, 2017**  
Final Exam: **December 8, 2017**

## **Extra Credit**

I will offer extra credit to students who participate in the Media Effects Lab experimental subject pool. I will post more details about this extra credit opportunity on Moodle.

From time to time, I will offer extra credit for attending and writing about various events on campus. These opportunities will be discussed in class as they come up, but you must be physically present in class to take advantage of these opportunities.

## **Course Schedule**

### *Gender & Citizenship*

August 22, 2017: Introduction & Overview

August 24, 2017: Sex vs. Gender

Bittner, Amanda and Goodyear-Grant, Elizabeth. forthcoming. "Sex isn't Gender: Reforming Concepts and Measurements in the Study of Public Opinion." *Political Behavior* (on course website)

August 29, 2017: Gender & Social Roles

Eagly, Alice H. 1987. Sex Differences in Social Behavior: A Social Role Interpretation. Chapter 1 (on course website)

Bos & Schneider Chapter 3

August 31, 2017: **No Class**

September 5, 2017: Competing Definitions of Feminism

Betty Friedan, The Feminine Mystique, Chapter 3 (on course website)

Melissa Deckman, Tea Party Women, Chapter 5 (on course website)

September 7, 2017: Race & Feminism

bell hooks, Feminist Theory from Margin to Center , Chapter 2 (on course website)

September 12, 2017: Political Socialization of Women

Bos & Schneider, Chapter 2

Cassese, Erin. "The wage gap is about women's opportunities, not just their choices." *Washington Post* Monkey Cage Article. (on course website)

September 14, 2017: Women & Political Participation  
Nancy Burns, Kay Schlozman, and Sidney Verba, The Private Roots of Public Action: Gender, Equality, and Political Participation, Chapter 10 (on course website)

September 19, 2017: Gender Gaps in Public Opinion  
Bos & Schneider, Chapter 4

September 21, 2017: Gender, Race, and Ethnicity  
Bos & Schneider, Chapter 7

### *Running for Office*

September 26, 2017 Gender Gaps in Ambition  
Bos & Schneider, Chapter 8

Political Ambition Project Due via email by 9:00 a.m. via email

September 28, 2017: Candidate Recruitment  
Bos & Schneider, Chapter 9

Wolbrecht, Christina and David Campbell. "Did Jeannette Rankin inspire other women to enter politics?" *Vox Mischiefs of Faction*. (on course website)

October 3, 2017: Voter Bias  
Bos & Schneider, Chapter 10

October 5, 2017: Race, Gender, and Running for Office

Philpot, Tasha S. and Hanes Walton, Jr. 2007. "One of Our Own: Black Female Candidates and the Voters Who Support Them." *American Journal of Political Science* 51(1): 49-62. (on course website)

Krupnikov, Yanna and Spencer Piston. 2015. "Racial Prejudice, Partisanship, and White Turnout in Elections with Black Candidates." *Political Behavior* 37: 397-418. (on course website)

October 10, 2017: October 3, 2017: Candidate Strategy  
Bos & Schneider, Chapter 11

Yanna Krupnikov and Nichole Bauer. "Voters only punish female candidates who use negativity in their campaigns if the voters are from the opposing party." LSE. (on course website)

October 12, 2017: Media Coverage

Lawrence, Regina. "Do the Media Give Women Candidates a Fair Shake." (on course website)

Hayes, Danny & Lawless, Jennifer L. "Rethinking and reassessing gender differences on the campaign trail." (on course website)

October 17, 2017: **Take home mid-term, no class**

October 19, 2017: **No Class, Happy Fall Break!**

### *Women in Office*

October 24, 2017: Women & Representation

Pitkin, Hannah. "The Concept of Representation." (on course website)

Clayton, Amanda, Diana O'Brien, Jennifer Piscoppo. "Americans don't like it when men (and only men) make decisions about women." *Washington Post* Monkey Cage. (on course website).

October 26, 2017: Issue Advocacy in Office

Bos & Schneider, Chapter 12.

Dittmar, Kelly, Kira Sanbonmatsu, and Susan Carroll. "You can try to silence women of color in Congress, but it won't work." *Vox* Mischiefs of Faction. (on course website)

October 31, 2017: Gender in the State House

Osborn, Tracy L. 2012. How Women Represent Women, Chapter 2 (on course website)

November 2, 2017: Gender & Judicial Politics

Bos & Schneider. Chapter 13

November 7, 2017: Gender, Deliberation, and Small Group Dynamics

Mendelberg, Tali, Karpowitz, Christopher, and Nicholas Godert. 2014. "Does Descriptive Representation Facilitate Women's Distinctive Voice? How Gender Composition and Decision Rules Affect Deliberation." *American Journal of Political Science* 58(2): 291-306. (on course website)

**Blog Post Due via email by 9 a.m.**

November 9, 2017: Introduction to Research Design &

In Class work on group research design

Baglione, Lisa. 2012. *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science*, Chapter 2 (on course website)

November 14, 2017: Analytical Methods in Gender and Politics

In Class work on group research design

Baglione, Lisa. 2012. *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science*, (on course website)

November 16, 2017: In Class work on group research design

November 21, 2017: In Class work on group research design

November 23, 2017: No class, Thanksgiving Break

November 26, 2017: **Research Design Poster file due via email by 5 p.m.**

November 28, 2017: **Research Conference**

November 30, 2017: **Research Conference**

December 7, 2017: **Final Exam Due by 230 pm via email**