



POL4015: Women and Politics (4 units)

Department of History and Political Science

Fall 2023

Meeting days/times: MWF 8:30-9:35 am

Instructor: Dr. Linda Beail (she/her), I prefer being called Dr. Beail

Meeting location: Fermanian School of Business 105

Phone: 619-849-2408

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 13, 7:30-10 am

Email: LindaBeail@pointloma.edu

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 3-4 pm, Tuesdays 1-3 pm, and by appointment

Office location: Colt Hall 116

Getting in touch with me: For short questions – email me at LindaBeail@pointloma.edu. As a general rule, I answer emails during the work day (9-4), and I try to answer emails within 24 hours, except on weekends. If I happen to miss your email, please follow up again with me. I want to make sure I get back to you! For everything else – come to office hours or make an appointment. Office hours are a chance for you to get help on class assignments; ask questions about material covered in class; talk about connections between class material and other ideas; talk about the political science major/possible careers/vocation; and so on. I would love to get to know each of you better and help you succeed in this course, so I look forward to talking with you!

PLNU MISSION: To Teach – To Shape – To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Course Description

This upper-level seminar is designed to answer the question, “What difference does gender make?” It will provide you with a framework for understanding gender as a legitimate subject of political inquiry and an overview of how political science as a discipline has pursued such inquiry. We will examine women’s participation in a variety of aspects of political life, both in the United States and worldwide. We will analyze the goals, motivations, achievements and underlying assumptions of women’s involvement in politics, and the ways that notions of femininity and masculinity shape our understandings of power and the public sphere. We will examine how public policy, security and international development issues have gendered impacts and implications, and we will analyze the causes and solutions to these problems. You will be given the opportunity to read critically, think creatively, argue persuasively and write analytically about these topics.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to

- Describe how women participate in a variety of aspects of political life (such as voting, running for office, or holding legislative, executive and judicial positions) both in the US and around the globe.
- Understand the barriers to women's leadership, how they can be overcome, and describe changes in public policy which may result from women's increased participation in politics.
- Evaluate at least one approach to solving an international health, justice, human rights, development or economic issue that women face.
- Articulate how political and international issues may be "gendered" in their assumptions, implications, and impacts.
- Demonstrate awareness of women's political activism and organization around the globe.

Program Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will

- Understand and critically assess the processes, theories, and outcomes of political institutions and political behavior (exam essays).
- Develop and express ideas in written communication in an effective and scholarly manner (applied writing assignments).

Final Exam Policy

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination **on its scheduled day**. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Class Schedules](#) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

PLNU Academic Honesty Policy

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities. Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will issue an academic accommodation plan ("AP") to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not wish to utilize some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC.

PLNU Copyright Policy

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

Spiritual Care

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

If students have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact your professor or the [Office of Spiritual Life and Formation](#).

Language and Belonging

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality. You may report an incident(s) using the [Bias Incident Reporting Form](#).

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/title-ix.

Campus Resources

The PLNU [Tutoring Center](#) offers support with everything you need to succeed — whether it's learning study strategies and test-taking techniques, getting help from a tutor, using technology to read and write, or editing a research paper. They also offer individual or small group tutorial sessions and special review sessions before exams for several courses. These services are **free** for PLNU undergraduate students. Some helpful **study strategies** that may assist you in this course can be found [here](#).

Research librarians are available to help you with your research papers and projects in Ryan Library. You can reach them by phone at (619) 849-2337, by text at (619)592-8884, or by [email](#). To search the library's databases for books and articles, or to find quick and easy reference to our citation style guide and resources in political science, please visit our department's [research guide](#) from Ryan Library.

Getting feedback from the **Loma Writing Center** while you're in the process of working on an assignment is a great way to improve the quality of your writing and develop as a writer. You are encouraged to talk with a trained writing consultant about getting started on an assignment, organizing your ideas, finding and citing sources, revising, editing for grammar and polishing final drafts, and more. See their website for [information](#) about how to make in-person or online appointments or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.

The Wellness Center is available for medical, counseling and nutrition services to students. Many college students experience strained relationships, stress, anxiety, depression, physical health challenges, and other barriers to learning. The Wellness Center offers help and resources to deal with these kind of issues. T

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an "F" grade.

Class Time Expectations

Class time is precious. It is our opportunity to interact, discuss, and create knowledge together. It is not a passive experience, but one that you should be ready to participate actively in. To make our time together as enjoyable & valuable as possible, I ask for your respectful behavior and engaged attention at all times.

In this spirit, here are a few basic expectations to make the most of our class time together: Please be on time to class each day. Please silence your phones and don't use any devices for multi-tasking during class – social media, email, watching videos, etc. -- since this is distracting to your classmates and the instructor. Because of [research showing the greater value of taking notes by hand](#) rather than using a computer, I would strongly encourage you to just bring your books and a notebook to use in class instead of using a laptop.

My expectation is that we will all strive to treat one another with respect, kindness and professionalism, which includes listening carefully and responding thoughtfully and with grace to the thoughts and opinions of our colleagues, creating a fruitful learning environment for us all.

Style Guide

In political science, the most common form of citations is the "**author-date**" format from the [Chicago Manual of Style](#). Please use this style if using citations in this class – examples are available at the hyperlink. For our short response papers and in-class exams, if you are referring to something from our shared syllabus, simply indicate the author's name or title as you are writing – you do not need formal footnotes or works cited. (For example: "As Karen Brodtkin explains in her essay, 'How Jews Became White Folks,' racial categories changed meaning over the course of the twentieth century.")

Graded Course Requirements and Assignments

All papers and assignments should be submitted via our course's Canvas site. Weekly reading responses are due *before 8:30 am on Wednesdays* (class time) and *cannot be accepted late/made up*. All essays and papers should be submitted by 11:59 pm on the date due (unless noted below – final paper due at final exam time, 10 am Wednesday December 13). Late papers/projects will lose 10% of the assignment's worth for every calendar day that your essay or project is late.

Assignment	Percent of Final Grade
Weekly reading responses and participation in class discussions/activities	10%
Three in-class exams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam one Friday September 29 (15% of grade) • Exam two Friday November 10 (15% of grade) • Exam three Friday December 8 (10% of grade) 	40%
Political resources/recruitment/participation interview and reflection paper (work in pairs) – due Sunday September 24	10%
“Seat at the Table” project and artist’s statement – due Friday October 27	15%
Comparing approaches to the problem of sex trafficking around the globe (work in small groups, presentation) – due Monday November 27 in class	10%
NGO strategy and policy analysis – due Wednesday December 13	15%
TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale (based on percentage of points earned):

A	93-100%	C	73-76%
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%
B	83-86%	D	63-66%
B-	80-82%	D-	60-62%
C+	77-79%	F	0 -59%

Course Texts:

The Vote, PBS American Experience, 2020. Available to [rent via Amazon](#) (\$4.99) or free with PBS trial.

Julie Dolan, Melissa Deckman and Michele Swers, *Women and Politics: Paths to Power and Political Influence*, updated 4th edition, Rowman & Littlefield, 2023.

Anne Sisson Runyon, *Global Gender Politics, 5th ed.* Routledge, 2019.

Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, Random House, 2010.

REQUIRED articles (available online or via course Canvas site) and documentary films as assigned.

Course Outline (subject to revision as the semester unfolds):

	DATE	PREPARATION FOR CLASS	ASSIGNMENT DUE
WEEK 1	August 28	Introduction	
What Does Gender Have to Do with Politics?	August 30	Politics & Gender: What Difference Do Women Make? Dolan, Deckman & Swers, chapter 1 Mattie Khan, " Gretchen Whitmer Would Like You To Meet ‘Governor Barbie,’ " NYTimes July 20, 2023	

	September 1	Women’s Paths to Political Power: Gaining a Voice, Getting the Vote Dolan, Deckman & Swers (pp. 13-22) Watch The Vote Episode One (PBS American Experience, 112 minutes)	
WEEK 2 Entering Electoral Politics: The Suffrage Movement	September 4	Labor Day – no class meeting	
	September 6	Watch The Vote Episode Two (PBS American Experience, 112 minutes) Corinne McConnaughy, “ Forget Susan B. Anthony ”	
	September 8	Women’s Participation Post-Suffrage: are women just less political? Dolan, Deckman & Swers, chapter 2 (p. 22-54) Corder and Wohlbrecht, “Was Women’s Suffrage a Failure?”	
WEEK 3 Public Opinion and Participation	September 11	Gender Differences in Political Attitudes and Behavior Dolan, Deckman & Swers, chapter 3 Statistics on the gender gap in US Presidential elections , Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP)	
	September 13	Strachan chapter 4 (on Canvas) Claire Cain Miller, “ It Really Does Get in Your Head ,” <i>New York Times</i> November 5, 2016	
	September 15	Political Ambition Fox and Lawless, “Girls Just Wanna Not Run” (Intro through page 17) Campbell and Wolbrecht, “See Jane Run: Women Politicians as Role Models for Adolescents , <i>Journal of Politics</i> 68(2):233-247, May 2006	
WEEK 4 Who Runs? Political Ambition and Opportunity	September 18	Work in pairs on political resources, recruitment and ambition project	
	September 20	Running as a Woman: Opportunities, Resources and Results Dolan, Deckman & Swers, chapter 5 “Name It, Change It” Women’s Appearance study (read key findings, pp. 1-10) CAWP fact sheet on women in elective office in US	

	September 22	Political Systems – Paxton, Hughes and Barnes ch.7	Reflection on political resources, recruitment and ambition interviews due Sunday Sept. 24 by 11:59 pm on Canvas
WEEK 5	September 25	Krook, Mona Lena. 2017. " Violence against Women in Politics. " <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 28(1): 74-88. (For additional resources on violence against women in politics, see vawpolitics.org)	
Who Wins? Women and Men on the Campaign Trail	September 27	Pamela Paxton and Melanie Hughes, "Explaining the Political Representation of Women," <i>Women, Politics and Power: Global Perspective</i> chapter 5	
	September 29	Exam One – in class	Exam One
WEEK 6 Gender in Elected Office	October 2	Women and Men as Lawmakers Dolan, Deckman & Swers, chapter 7 CAWP fact sheet on women in Congress CAWP fact sheet on women in state legislatures Conroy, Thomson-Deveaux, Wiederkehr, "Women of Color Were Shut Out of Congress For Decades Now They're Transforming It," <i>FiveThirtyEight</i> , January 18, 2021. Women in Parliament 2020 report on regional progress and differences (download via link)	
	October 4	Women in the Executive Branch Dolan, Deckman & Swers chapter 8 Watch <i>Chisolm '72: Unbought and Unbossed</i> documentary in class – 85 minutes	
	October 6	Farida Jalalzai, "Women Rule: Shattering the Executive Glass Ceiling," <i>Politics & Gender</i> 4: 2 (June 2008) Beail and Goren, " Women, the Presidency and Popular Culture " from <i>Madam President? Gender and Politics on the Road to the White House</i> , ed. Han & Heldman, 2020	

WEEK 7 Gender, Law and Social Movements	October 9	Gender, Judges and Law Dolan, Deckman & Swers chapter 9 Watch RBG (95 minutes) or <i>On the Basis of Sex</i> (streaming rental, 120 minutes)	
	October 11	Women Making Change Listen to “The Women Behind the Montgomery Bus Boycott” (35 minutes) Sara Burnett on “Mama Bears” in 2024 election , AP	
	October 13	Excerpt from Mattie Khan, <i>Young and Restless: The Girls Who Sparked America’s Revolutions</i>	
WEEK 8 Gender and Public Policy	October 16	Public Policy and Economic Equality Readings TBA	
	October 18	Public Policy, Sexuality and Reproductive Justice Readings TBA	
	October 20	Fall Break – no class meeting	
WEEK 9 Gender and Global Governance	October 23	Where are the Women? Gender in World Politics Runyon chapter 1	
	October 25	Watch Pray the Devil Back to Hell documentary (70 minutes)	
	October 27	Seat at the Table Gallery – Presentations	“Seat at the Table” projects and artists’ statements due in class today
WEEK 10 Gender Issues in International Development	October 30	Gendered Lenses on International Relations Runyon chapter 2	
	November 1	Global Governance: Crisis of Representation Runyon chapter 3	
	November 3	Crisis of Security Runyon chapter 4	
WEEK 11	November 6	Crisis of Sustainability Runyon chapter 5 Michael Ross, “Oil, Islam and Women,” <i>American Political Science Review</i> 102 (February 2008) pp. 107-123	
	November 8	Engendering Global Justice Runyon chapter 6	

	November 10	Exam Two – in class	Exam Two
WEEK 12 Girls, Trafficking, and Sexuality in Global Politics	November 13	Politics of the Missing Kristof and WuDunn, <i>Half the Sky</i> introduction and chapters 1-2	
	November 15	Sex Trafficking and Human Rights Smith-Cannoy, Rodda & Smith, <i>Sex Trafficking and Human Rights</i> , Introduction and chapter one (pp. 1-29)	
	November 17	Work in groups on approaches to combatting trafficking in India, Thailand, Russia, Nigeria or Brazil (readings from Smith-Cannoy, Rodda & Smith, <i>Sex Trafficking and Human Rights</i> for each group on Canvas)	
WEEK 13	November 20	Politics of Sexual Control and Exploitation Kristof and WuDunn, <i>Half the Sky</i> chapters 3-5	
	Nov. 22-24	Thanksgiving Break – no class meetings	
WEEK 14 Health, Education & Human Rts.	November 27	Global solutions to trafficking and human rights (Group presentations and discussion)	Group presentations
	November 29	Politics of Maternal Health Kristof and WuDunn, <i>Half the Sky</i> chapters 6-8 Current data on global maternal mortality and country comparisons from UNICEF here . Roni Rabin, " Global Declines in Maternal Mortality Have Stalled ," NYTimes, February 22, 2023	
	December 1	Politics and the Girl Effect: Education and Microfinance Kristof and WuDunn, <i>Half the Sky</i> chapters 9-11	
WEEK 15 Gender and the Political Future	December 4	Politics of Solutions, Obstacles, and Equality Kristof and WuDunn, <i>Half the Sky</i> chapters 12-14	
	December 6	Where do we go from here?	
	December 8	Exam Three – in class	Exam Three
FINALS WEEK	Wednesday December 13, 10 am		Final Papers Due via Canvas no later than 10 am