

POL 415: WOMEN AND POLITICS

MWF 10:55 am – 12:05 pm

Evans 122

Fall 2015

Dr. Linda M. Beail

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 12:45-1:25; Thursdays 10-noon; other times by appointment

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.

Course requirements:

Midterm exam one – **15%**

Midterm exam two – **15%**

Final exam – **15%**

Research and activism projects (55% of course grade, broken down as follows):

- Political resources/recruitment/participation interview and reflection paper – **15%**
- NGO analysis – **15%**
- Research project (15-18 pages) on issue of particular relevance to gender politics– **25%**

Student Learning Outcomes:

At 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.
- Appreciate and demonstrate awareness of women’s political activism and organization around the globe.

Course policies:

1. Academic Honesty -- Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. As explained in the university catalog, 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. Violations of university academic honesty include cheating, plagiarism, falsification, aiding the academic dishonesty of others, or malicious misuse of university resources. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade

for a) that particular assignment or examination, and/or b) the course following the procedure in the university catalog. Students may appeal also using the procedure in the university catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for further information. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with all of these policies. Please be aware that I take any sort of academic dishonesty very seriously: **Academic dishonesty in any form, including cheating and plagiarism, are grounds for failing the course and disciplinary action by the dean.**

2. Academic Accommodation – My main goal is to help you learn and engage with the material of this course, and I am happy to help meet unique learning needs when I am notified of them. While all students are expected to meet the minimum academic standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic accommodations. At Point Loma Nazarene University, students requesting academic accommodations must file documentation with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. Once the student files documentation, the Disability Resource Center will contact the student's instructors and provide written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate accommodations to meet the individual needs of the student. This policy assists the University in its commitment to full compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act of 1990, and ADA Amendments Act of 2008, all of which prohibit discrimination against students with disabilities and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities.

3. Inclusive Language -- Because of the changing standards of English usage, language that refers appropriately to both men and women inclusively should be used whenever possible. Some simple guidelines include replacing "man" or "mankind" with "humanity," "humankind," "persons," or "people." "He," "him" and "his"--when not referring to an actual male person should be avoided by alternate sentence constructions or replaced with "he or she," "him or her," or "hers or his." Gender specific terms may be replaced by their current alternatives: for example, "Congressman" has been correctly replaced by "Congressperson" or "member of Congress," etc.

4. Class time expectations – While coming to this class will hopefully be an enjoyable experience, it is not like attending a movie, viewing a sporting event, or watching television; your respectful behavior and engaged attention is expected at all times. 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.

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. Cell phones should be turned off during class time, and no electronic devices (including laptop computers and iPads) may be used to surf the web, check email, text, network on Instagram/Facebook/Twitter/etc., play games, or engage in other multi-tasking activities during class; this is distracting to your classmates and the instructor. Please do not leave the room (for a drink, to use the restroom, etc.) unless it is absolutely necessary; no one is allowed to leave the classroom for ANY reason whatsoever during exam periods. 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. All of these behaviors will lead to a more fruitful learning environment for all of us.

Texts:

Julie Dolan, Melissa Deckman and Michele Swers, *Women and Politics: Paths to Power and Political Influence*, 2nd ed. Pearson, 2010.

V. Spike Peterson and Anne Sisson Runyon, *Global Gender Issues in the New Millennium*, 4th ed. Westview, December 2013.

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

Rebecca Traister, *Big Girls Don't Cry: The Election that Changed Everything for American Women*. Simon and Schuster, 2011.

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

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

September 1: Introduction

September 2: Politics and Gender: What Difference Do Women Make?

Vanessa Gezari, "Where To Now?," *Washington Post* 3/15/2009 at

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/06/AR2009030601712.html>

Watch Madeleine Albright interview at

http://www.ted.com/talks/madeleine_albright_on_being_a_woman_and_a_diplomat.html

September 4: Women's Paths to Political Power: Gaining a Voice, Getting the Vote

Dolan chapters 1 and 2

Watch *One Woman, One Vote* film during class (DVD 653)

September 7: Labor Day, no class meeting

September 9: Roots of Women's Participation as Citizens

Discuss Dolan chapter 2 and *One Woman, One Vote*

September 11: Political Participation, Resources and Recruitment

Kay Lehman Schlozman, Nancy Burns, and Sidney Verba, "Gender and the Pathways to Participation: The Role of Resources"

Carol Hardy-Fanta, "Discovering Latina Women in Politics: Gender, Culture and Participatory Theory"

September 14: Voting Participation and Public Opinion: the Gender Gap

Dolan chapter 3

Statistics on women voters in US elections, Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) data at http://cawp.rutgers.edu/facts/voters/gender_gap

September 16: Making the News for More than Hairdos: Media Coverage of Political Women

Dolan chapter 4

"Name It, Change It" Women's Appearance study (key findings, pp. 1-10) at

http://wmc.3cdn.net/Od817481d880a7de0a_60m6b9yah.pdf

Vanessa Friedman, "For Michelle Obama, Girlie Clothes that Lean In," *Washington Post* March 24, 2015 at <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/26/fashion/for-michelle-obama-girlie-clothes-that-lean-in.html>

Silenced: Gap in 2012 Election Coverage at

<http://www.4thestate.net/female-voices-in-media-infographic/>

Obama comments on Kamala Harris' appearance at <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-obama-sorry-for-kamala-harris-good-looking-comment-20130405,0,4152251.story>

September 18: Running for Office: Women as Candidates

Dolan chapter 5

CAWP data at http://cawp.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/resources/pressrelease_11-05-14-electionresults.pdf

and http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/resources/can_histsum.pdf

Fox and Lawless, "Girls Just Wanna Not Run" at

http://www.american.edu/spa/wpi/upload/Girls-Just-Wanna-Not-Run_Policy-Report.pdf

Campbell and Wolbrecht, "See Jane Run: Women Politicians as Role Models for Adolescents," *Journal of Politics* 68(2):233-247, May 2006.

September 21: *Miss Representation* documentary DVD 864

September 23: A Different Kind of Female Candidate? Pitbulls with Lipstick and Mama Grizzlies

Excerpt from *Framing Sarah Palin*, Linda Beail and Rhonda Longworth

September 25: Winning Office: Women Candidates Worldwide

Pamela Paxton and Melanie Hughes, "Explaining the Political Representation of Women," *Women, Politics and Power: Global Perspective* chapter 5.

September 28: Women as Legislators

Dolan chapter 7

Political Resources/Recruitment/Participation Analyses Due

September 30: Women as Legislators

October 2-5: "Madam President?" Women in the White House and Executive Positions

Dolan chapter 8

Chisolm '72: Unbossed and Unbowed documentary in class

October 7: Farida Jalalzai, "Women Rule: Shattering the Executive Glass Ceiling," *Politics & Gender* 4: 2 (June 2008).

October 9: MIDTERM EXAM ONE

October 12: Law and Gender: Women in the Judiciary

Dolan chapter 9

October 14: Jeffrey Toobin, "Heavyweight: How Ruth Bader Ginsburg has moved the Supreme Court," *The New Yorker* March 11, 2013 at

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2013/03/11/heavyweight-ruth-bader-ginsburg>

October 16, 19: Public Policy: Shaping, and Shaped by, the Experiences of Women

Readings on gender and public policy TBA

October 21: Health Care Policy and Women

Sue Tolleson-Rinehart, "Women Get Sicker; Men Die Quicker: Gender, Health Politics, and Health Policy," in *Gender and American Politics*, ed. Tolleson-Rinehart and Josephson, Sharpe 2005.

- October 23:** *Fall Break - no class meeting*
- October 26:** **Gender and Global Issues**
Peterson and Runyon chapter 1
- October 28:** **“Where are the Women?” Gendered Lenses on IR**
Peterson and Runyon chapter 2
- October 30:** **Gender and Global Governance**
Peterson and Runyon chapter 3
- November 2-4:** **Gender and Global Security**
DVD 0657 Pray the Devil Back to Hell
Peterson and Runyon chapter 4
Watch Cynthia Enloe talk on women and Iraq war
at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WTFaxobkVps> (minute 9:30-49)
- November 6:** **Women, Development and International Political Economy**
Peterson and Runyon chapter 5
- November 9:** **Resisting Gender Inequality around the Globe**
Peterson and Runyon chapter 6
- November 11:** **Women’s Political Status Around the Globe**
Pamela Paxton and Melanie Hughes, “Not All Regions are Created Equal,” *Women, Politics and Power: Global Perspective* chapter 8
Michael Ross, “Oil, Islam and Women,” *American Political Science Review* 102 (February 2008)
pp. 107-123.
- November 13:** **MIDTERM EXAM TWO**
- November 16:** **Politics of the Missing**
Kristof and WuDunn, *Half the Sky* introduction and chapters 1-3
- November 18:** **Politics of Sexual Control and Exploitation**
Kristof and WuDunn, *Half the Sky* chapters 4-5
- November 20:** **Politics of Maternal Health**
Kristof and WuDunn, *Half the Sky* chapters 6-8
- November 23:** **NGO Analysis Due**
- November 25-27:** **Thanksgiving Break – No Class**
- November 30:** **Politics of Education and Microfinance**
Kristof and WuDunn, *Half the Sky* chapters 9-11
- December 2:** **Politics of Solutions, Obstacles, and Equality**
Kristof and WuDunn, *Half the Sky* chapters 12-14

December 4: Gender Politics Today and Tomorrow
Traister, introduction and chapters 1-3

December 7: Traister chapters 4-6

December 9: Traister chapters 7-9

December 11: The future of women and politics
Traister chapters 10-12

FINAL RESEARCH PROJECT DUE

FINAL EXAM: Monday December 14, 10:30 am – 1 pm