Political Science 306
GENDER AND POLITICS IN THE UNITED STATES
Summer I 2010

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday, 3:15-4:00; and by appointment

Course Description
This course explores the role that gender plays in contemporary American politics. The course will examine the historical course of gender politics to see how we have arrived at the present state. We will investigate the activities that women and men play in modern politics—voting, running for office, serving in office, etc., and how women and men perform these activities in different ways. The second portion of the course will focus on major areas of public policy that affect women and men in different ways. The hope is that by the end of this course you will have a much firmer understanding of the importance of gender in shaping modern American politics.

Readings
Women and Politics: In Pursuit of Equality 2nd Ed., by Lynn Ford
Women’s Rights in the USA: Policy Debates and Gender Roles, 3rd Ed., by Dorothy McBride Stetson
The New York Times or The Washington Post on-line
Coursepack, available from Sir Speedy (readings in coursepack denoted by *)

The Ford and Stetson books are both intended to serve as primary texts for this course. The lectures and the texts are intended to complement one another. In order to get the most out of the lectures it is important that you do the assigned reading prior to the appropriate class period. Finally, it is also required that you daily read a major newspaper, such as the New York Times or Washington Post, in order to keep up with important contemporary happenings in American government and to be able to discuss their relevance to class material.

Student Learning Outcomes
By the end of this course, students should be able to…
1) Apply theories of feminism and gender relations to contemporary political debates
2) Properly use and critically evaluate political science data on gender and politics (e.g., public opinion polls, turnout figures, etc.)
3) Analyze issues of contemporary public policy for the impact of gender
4) Apply knowledge about gender and political elites in a theoretical campaign setting
5) Explain the role of gender within American political institutions and within mass political behavior
Requirements and Grading

- Midterm (20%)
- Final Exam (25%)
- Participation (15%)
- Paper assignment I (15%)
- Paper assignment II (25%)

Participation
Class participation is an integral part of the class. At minimum, this means good attendance. Students are also expected to be attentive during lectures and to ask questions and contribute comments to class discussions. You should come to each class having read the required assignment and prepared to discuss and comment upon the issues raised by the readings. It is also your responsibility to remain abreast of current events in American politics, especially as they apply to the contemporary election season. If you want to receive an A for participation, you need to 1) have excellent attendance; 2) contribute regularly to class discussions, and; 3) demonstrate knowledge of assigned readings and current events.

Paper Assignments

Assignment I: Informally discuss the meaning of feminism with at least five people. Make sure to ask them if they are a feminist, why or why not, and what do they think of when they hear the term. How did people respond? Why do you think that people reacted as they did? What did these conversations help you learn about perceptions and reality of feminism in America? You are responsible for the full details on the assignment available at http://faculty.chass.ncsu.edu/shgreene/PS306/paper1.htm 6 pages maximum. Due June 1.

Assignment II: Propose a policy reform for a policy area affecting women or men in an unfair/disproportionate way that you think needs improvement/reform. What are the key issues involved in this policy area? Why do you think this reform would be needed? How/why would it improve things for women/men? What would be the prospects for this reform in becoming law? You are responsible for the full details on the assignment available at http://faculty.chass.ncsu.edu/shgreene/PS306/paper2.htm 7 pages maximum. Due June 22.

General Information: Policies regarding all paper assignments can be found at http://faculty.chass.ncsu.edu/shgreene/PS306/PaperGuidelines.htm. You are expected to read these guidelines before submitting your paper. This will provide more detailed information and grading criteria for the paper assignments.

Late Policy
It is expected that exams will be taken and assignments turned in when they are scheduled on the syllabus. If you unable to take an exam or turn in an assignment at the assigned time for a valid reason, you must let the instructor know in advance in order take a make-up exam. Failure to do so will result in a 0. Assignments will be downgraded a letter grade for each day they are late.
Class Website
The class website at http://faculty.chass.ncsu.edu/shgreene/PS306 is an additional resource designed to assist you in the class. It will contain important announcements and archived lecture outlines as well as basic course information.

Class Email list
On occasion, announcements will be made through email messages. The University has an official email address on file for each of you. It is your responsibility to see to it that you receive email from this account.

Academic Integrity
Students are expected to complete their assignments with due regard to academic integrity. In order to do so they should familiarize themselves with the relevant sections of the student code of conduct (Sections 7-13). By signing all work submitted on paper, or by identifying themselves in work submitted electronically, students affirm that they neither gave nor received unauthorized aid. Collaboration on assignments among students may only occur when explicitly authorized by an instructor.

In particular the Department of Political Science takes plagiarism very seriously. Plagiarism is “the representation of another's works or ideas as one's own; it includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrasing of another person's work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person's ideas.” Students found guilty of academic misconduct will at a minimum receive a 0 for the assignment and have their conduct reported to the office of student affairs. Depending on the severity of the infraction, it is possible that you will automatically fail the course.

Disability
Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services for Students at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509, 515-7653
# Schedule of Topics and Assigned Readings (Subject to Revision)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assigned Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 24</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
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<td>May 25-26</td>
<td>Gender Differences/Feminism</td>
<td>Ford, chapter 1</td>
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<td>Coburn, “Don’t Cry for Feminism”*</td>
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<td>London, “The Future of Feminism”*</td>
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<td>Booth, “Gender? It’s a Gray Area”*</td>
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<td>Read or watch, <a href="http://www.edge.org/3rd_culture/debate05/debate05_index.html">http://www.edge.org/3rd_culture/debate05/debate05_index.html</a></td>
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<td>May 27-28, June 1</td>
<td>Women and Political Equality</td>
<td>Stetson, chapter 2; Ford chapter 2</td>
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<td>Friedan, chapter 1 of <em>The Feminine Mystique</em></td>
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<td>Listen to “Prohibition Life: Politics, Loopholes And Bathtub Gin” at: <a href="http://n.pr/b71QpX">http://n.pr/b71QpX</a></td>
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<td>June 1</td>
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<td>Paper #1 Due June 1</td>
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<td>June 2-3</td>
<td>Political Behavior and the Gender Gap</td>
<td>Ford, chapter 3</td>
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<td>Kaufmann, “The Gender Gap”*</td>
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<td>June 4</td>
<td>Women as Political Candidates</td>
<td>Ford, chapter 4</td>
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<td>Lawless and Fox, “Why are women still not running for office?”*</td>
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<td>Meyerson, “Beyond Hillary: Woman versus Machine”*</td>
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<td>Cottle, “Pink Elephants”*</td>
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<td>June 7</td>
<td>Women in the Executive and Judicial Branches</td>
<td>Whicker and Issacs, “The Maleness of the American Presidency”*</td>
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<td>Smith and Paul, “No Place for a Woman…”*</td>
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<td>Gerhart, “The Supreme Court needs more mothers”*</td>
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<td>June 8-9</td>
<td>Women and Legislatures</td>
<td>Ford, chapter 5</td>
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<td>Schroeder, chapter 2 from <em>24 Years of Housework</em>... *</td>
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<td>Cocco, “This is What a Speaker Looks Like”*</td>
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<td>June 10</td>
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June 11-14  Gender and Education
Ford, chapter 6
Stetson, chapter 5
Poe, “The Other Gender Gap”*
Young, “It’s Payback Time”*
Giuoso et al., “Women and Math: The Gender Gap Bridged”
Weistart, “Equal Opportunity? Title IX and Intercollegiate Sports”*
Rhoads, “Sports, sex, and Title IX”*

June 15-16  Gender and the workplace
Ford, chapter 7
Stetson, chapter 7
Miller, “Out of the Loop in Silicon Valley”*
Brown, “US Maternity Leave Benefits still Dismal”

June 17-18  Family Policy
Stetson, chapters 6 & 8
Harford, “The Economics of Marriage”*
Leung, “Married women should say ‘I don’t’”*

June 21  Guest Speaker

June 22-23  The Politics of Reproduction and Abortion
Ford, chapter 8
Stetson, chapter 4
Bell, “Oral contraceptives have had broad impact”*
Collins, “What every girl should know”*
May, “Promises the pill could never keep”*
Vaida, “Abortion Wars Return”*
Rosen, “The Day After Roe”*
Paper #2 Due June 22

June 24  Video: XY Factor: History of the Wife

June 25  Future Prospects
Ford, chapter 9
Dowd, “What’s a Modern Girl to do?”*

June 29, 1:00pm  FINAL EXAM