

**Women and American Politics**  
**PS 324-30/WGS 355-30**  
**Summer 2004**

The University of Louisville  
Davidson Hall Room 108  
MTWRF 1:00-2:30  
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs 3:00-4:00  
at Ritazza in Ekstrom and by appointment

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grads/young/teaching.html](http://psweb.sbs.ohio-state.edu/grads/young/teaching.html)

Course Overview

This course is an introduction to women's participation in American political life. The first section will examine women's role as activists in political movements and communities. The second section will focus on women's electoral participation as voters, party activists, and candidates. The third section will examine women elites and women's behavior within governing institutions. The fourth section will address public policy that has a special impact on women. Topics will include the Equal Rights Amendment, Economic Status, Workplace Issues, Reproductive Rights, and Family Issues.

Course Objectives:

1. To introduce basic theories about sex and gender as they apply to U.S. politics.
2. To analyze women's roles as activists, citizens, and elites with respect to gender.
3. To develop a background in several policy areas that have a special impact on women.
4. To improve oral and written skills
5. To increase analytic ability.

\*Successful students will develop an analytic framework for understanding current debates about gender and politics.

Required Text

McGlen, Nancy, Karen O'Connor, Laura van Assendelft, Wendy Gunther-Canada. 2005. *Women, Politics, and American Society*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Longman.  
Whitaker, Lois Duke. 1999. *Women in Politics: Insiders or Outsiders?* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.  
Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.  
Selected readings from website.

Note

I reserve the right to make changes in the syllabus when necessary to meet learning objectives, to compensate for missed classes, or for similar reasons.

Academic Honesty

All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using *anyone* else's words or ideas without proper attribution) will be tolerated. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be handled according to university policy and when appropriate, reported to the university Committee on Academic Misconduct.

Disability

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disabilities Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs.

<u>Course Requirements:</u>		<u>Due Dates</u>	<u>Grading Standards</u>
Class attendance:	20 points	<b>Daily</b>	A = 100-89.5
Biographic Presentation	10 points	<b>Assigned Day</b>	B = 89.4-79.5
Reading Presentation	10 points	<b>Assigned Day</b>	C = 79.4-69.5
Midterm Exam	30 points	<b>July 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 pm</b>	D = 69.4-59.5
Final Exam	30 points	<b>August 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm</b>	F = 59.4-0
Total	100 points		

### Attendance

Twenty percent of your grade is based on attendance, and missing one day of class is equivalent to one point off of your final grade since there are 100 points possible for the class. Since attendance is not taken the first day of class or on exam days, this means that there are actually 21 possible days to receive attendance points. Therefore, you can miss one session without losing any points. You can miss a second session by completing a make-up assignment. Alternatively, you can attend all 21 days for one extra credit point as well as completing the make-up assignment for one extra credit point.

### Biographic Presentations

Ten percent of your grade is based on a biographical presentation. Each student must make one biographical presentation on a woman who is currently (Summer 2004) in office. The students will select the date, office held, and person on the first day of class. No one may present on the same person. The presentation could include background information, policy areas, previous experience, interesting news coverage, etc. Further, the presentation should relate to class discussion in some way. Finally, the student will turn in a two or three page paper on the presentation.

### Reading Presentations

Ten percent of your grade is based on a reading presentation. Each student must make one presentation on that sessions reading assignment. The student will select the date and topic on the first day of class. The student may wish to highlight confusing or interesting points for discussion, and the student should analyze how that session's readings connect to previous readings and discussions. Also, the student should pose at least two questions for class discussion. Finally, the student will turn in a two or three page paper on the presentation.

### Exams

Sixty percent of your grade is based on exams. The midterm exam will be held during class on Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, and the final exam will be held during class on Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup>. Both exams will consist of short answer and essay questions based on the assigned readings and the lecture material. The final exam will NOT be cumulative. Make-up exams will be given without penalty only under dire circumstances. If you have a university-approved absence, you must discuss your situation with me prior to the scheduled examination. In the event of an illness on exam day, documented proof of the illness is required to discuss taking a make-up examination. I reserve the right to change the format and questions on the makeup exam.

Course Outline

**I. Introduction**

- Jul. 6      A. Class Orientation  
                    No assigned reading
- Jul. 7      B. Gender and Politics – Overview and Theory  
                    Whitaker (pages 1-29)

**II. Women’s Political Activism**

- Jul. 8      A. The Woman Suffrage Movement  
                    McGlen et al. (pages 21-40 & 125-135)
- Jul. 9      B. Women in the Civil Rights Movement  
                    Barnett; Evans Ch 3
- Jul. 12     C. The Contemporary Women’s Movement to the Present  
                    Echols; Evans Ch 4
- Jul. 13     D. Responses to the Women’s Movement  
                    Giddings

**III. Participation in Electoral Politics**

- Jul. 14     A. Political Attitudes and Opinion of Women  
                    Whitaker (pages 33-67); McGlen et al (pages 68-76)
- Jul. 15     B. Women’s Electoral Behavior  
                    Whitaker (pages 68-84); McGlen et al (pages 76-88)
- Jul. 16     C. Women and Political Parties  
                    Whitaker (pages 99-118); McGlen et al (pages 83-86)
- Jul. 19     E. Women Candidate Evaluation  
                    Cook; Kaminer; The American Prospect
- Jul. 20     D. Recruitment of Women and Campaign Behavior  
                    Whitaker (pages 85-98); McGlen et al (pages 86-102)

Jul. 21 <b>***Midterm Exam in Class ***</b>
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#### **IV. Women Elites in Governing Institutions**

- Jul. 22 A. Women's Representation in Congress  
Whitaker (pages 171-189); McGlen et al (pages 102-107)
- Jul. 23 B. Women's Representation in the States & Local Office  
Whitaker (pages 121-148 & 190-218)
- Jul. 26 C. Women as Governors  
Whitaker (pages 248-259)
- D. Women in Other Elite Positions: Judiciary & Presidential Appointees  
Whitaker (pages 278-291); McGlen et al. (pages 107-112)
- Jul. 27 E. Women as Presidents and First Ladies  
Whitaker (pages 149-168 & 221-247)

#### **V. Political Rights of Women**

- Jul. 28 A. The Equal Rights Amendment  
Hartmann Ch 5-6
- Jul. 29 B. Status of Women in Education and the Workplace  
McGlen et al (pages 178-227)
- Jul. 30 C. Women's Economic and Education Rights  
McGlen et al. (pages 135-173)
- Aug. 2 C. Women's Economic and Education Rights (continued)  
Whitaker (pages 306-323 & 334-350)
- Aug. 3 D. Women's Place in the Family  
McGlen et al (pages 282-322)
- Aug. 4 E. Women's Reproductive and Familial Rights  
McGlen et al (pages 235-277); Whitaker (pages 294-305)

#### **VI. Conclusion**

- Aug. 5 A. Women's Political Future  
McGlen et al. (pages 329-341)

Aug. 6	<b>Final Exam in Class</b>
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