Rutgers University
Mondays, Thursdays 12:35-1:55 p.m.
Hickman 201
Office hours: Thursdays 11:15 a.m. -12:15 p.m.
and by appointment

Women and American Politics
Political Science 335/Women’s and Gender Studies 336
Fall 2014

This course examines women’s participation in American politics as citizens, voters, activists, and elites. Topics will include: the mobilization of women into politics through the suffrage movement and the modern women’s movement; the role of gender in shaping public opinion and electoral behavior; public opinion and electoral behavior on gender issues; women’s activities within the political parties; the experiences of women candidates and officeholders; and policymaking on gender issues. We will consider the meaning and nature of gender equality and analyze the ways that gender intersects with other categories such as race and ethnicity. Throughout the semester, we will be following the role of women and gender issues in the 2014 midterm election.

This course is designed to introduce students to the study of gender and U.S. politics including the central questions, concepts, and debates in the field. Students will develop a theoretical framework and analytical tools for studying gender and politics. The course is also intended to teach students about the research process and to strengthen students’ analytic, critical thinking, writing, and oral communication skills.

**Course Requirements**

- 20% Class participation
- 35% Midterm exam (Thursday, October 9 in class)
- 45% Final exam (Tuesday, December 16 at noon)

The format for our class will be a combination of lecture, discussion, and small group work. Please come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Your class participation grade will be based on your oral participation in class and your participation in small group work during class. The midterm exam will be held on Thursday, October 9 and the final exam will be held on Tuesday December 16. The final exam schedule and university policies regarding final exams are available at: [http://scheduling.rutgers.edu/fallfinals.shtml](http://scheduling.rutgers.edu/fallfinals.shtml)

Except under unusual circumstances, I do not give makeup exams. In the unlikely event of a medical emergency on the day of an exam, please be prepared to provide a dean with documentation.

Please make a note that we have class on *Tuesday* November 25, which Rutgers has designated as a Thursday class schedule. (Therefore we will meet Monday and Tuesday that week, November 24 and 25.)
The best way to contact me is by email (sanbon@rci.rutgers.edu). If you wish to meet with me but cannot attend my office hours, please email me to schedule an appointment.

**University Policy: Absences**
Students are expected to attend all classes. If you expect to miss one or two classes, please indicate the date and reason for your absence using the university’s absence reporting website: [https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra](https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra)

This website will automatically send an email to me. In cases where students must miss classes for periods longer than one week, you will need to see a Dean of Students for assistance to help verify these circumstances.

**Required Books**


* Please note that you will need the THIRD edition of the Carroll and Fox book *

**Recommended Book**

The books are available at the Rutgers University Bookstore/Barnes and Noble (732-246-8448) and at NJ Books, 37 Easton Ave (732-253-7666). They will also be available on reserve at the Mabel Smith Douglass Library.

**Required Sakai Readings**
All other readings listed on this syllabus are required and are available on the Sakai system: [https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal](https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal)

To access the readings: Please use your Rutgers NetID and password to access our course worksite. Once you log in (at the upper, right corner of the screen), click on the tab at the top of the page for our course (“Women and Am Politics F14”). Click on “Resources” on the left side of the screen to access the list of readings. (You will find that when you click on some of the journal articles, you will need to log in again to access them through the library webpage with your NetID and password.) “Help” information is available on the website. You can also email questions or problems to: sakai@rutgers.edu

An introduction to Sakai is available at: http://rci.rutgers.edu/~oirt/sakai/helpdocs2/index.php
Week 1, September 4        Introduction and Organizational Meeting

Week 2, September 8        What is gender? What is the current status of women?
What is “gender”? Does gender matter? How is gender created and reproduced? What is gender equality? How is gender related to race/ethnicity, class, and other categories?


September 11
1. Carroll and Fox, Introduction (pp. 1-12)


Week 3, September 15        The Woman Suffrage Movement
Why did it take so long for women to win the right to vote? What role did race play in the suffrage movement? Who supported suffrage? Who opposed suffrage? Why?


September 18  Women’s Interest Groups and the Modern Women’s Movement
Why did the modern women’s movement emerge when it did? What have been the main policy accomplishments of the women’s movement? What challenges do women face in working together as women? What role has women’s labor force participation played in the women’s movement?


Week 4, September 22


September 25  The Other Women’s Movement
How have conservative women shaped American politics? Why have socially conservative women opposed the women’s movement?


Week 5, September 29  The Impact of Women in Elective Office
Should more women be elected to office? Why or why not? Does it matter which women are elected? Does election to office guarantee influence? Can gender be studied in isolation, separately from other identities?


**October 2**


**Week 6, October 6**
**What are Women’s Interests?**
How should scholars study women’s interests? What approaches are suggested in these essays? Which do you find most persuasive?


**October 9**
*Midterm Exam*

**Week 7, October 13**
**Women’s Election to the State Legislatures**
Why study state legislatures? How do women reach the legislature? Why don’t more women serve as state legislators? How have scholars studied these questions?

1. Carroll and Fox, Chapters 6 and 10 (chapters by Smooth and Sanbonmatsu)

2. CAWP Fact Sheet: “Women in State Legislatures 2014”

**October 16**
**Women of Color and Electoral Politics**
What role did race and gender play in the 2008 presidential election? Is it possible to study gender without also studying race? Can race be studied without gender?


**Week 8, October 20**  
Party Politics and Women’s Election to Congress  
*How do women fare in congressional elections? How do congressional elections differ from state legislative elections? What role do parties play in the election of women to office? How have the parties’ positions changed over time on women’s rights issues?*

[http://jofreeman.com/polparties/feminfluence.htm](http://jofreeman.com/polparties/feminfluence.htm)

2. Carroll and Fox, Chapter 8 (chapter by Burrell)

**October 23**  
1. Carroll and Fox, Chapter 7 (chapter by Fox)

2. CAWP Fact Sheet: “Women in the U.S. Congress 2014”

**Week 9, October 27**  
Media Coverage of Women Candidates  
*Do media cover male and female candidates in the same way? What role does the media play in elections?*

1. Carroll and Fox, Chapter 9 (chapter by Bystrom)

**October 30**  
The Gender Gap in Public Opinion and Voting Behavior  
*What is the gender gap? How has women’s voting behavior changed over time? What are the main policy issues that divide men and women? How do other categories intersect with the gender gap?*

1. Carroll and Fox, Chapters 3, 4, 5 (chapters by MacManus, Carroll, and Sampaio)

**Week 10, November 3**  
November 6  Public Opinion and Women’s Equality

How has public opinion changed with respect to women’s rights? What role do stereotypes play in women’s election to office? Why are women’s rights issues prominent in elections today?


2. Wilson, Reid. 2014. “Women could be critical to key races, and both parties are going all out to get their votes.” April 27. Washington Post.


Week 11, November 10  Women’s Grassroots Participation

How does gender shape political participation? What role did gender play in these case studies? What are the implications for women’s political participation?


November 13


Week 12, November 17  Case Studies: Gender and Public Policy
How is gender related to public policy? Can some public policies be considered “women’s policies”? How can women affect public policy?


November 20


Week 13, November 24  Women, Work, and Public Leadership
What is the argument of Sandberg’s book? What are the implications? Is Sandberg sufficiently attentive to differences among women?

1. Sandberg, Introduction and Chapters 1-6 (pp. 3-91)

November 25 (Tuesday)
* Note that Tuesday November 25 is a THURSDAY schedule at Rutgers *
1. Sandberg, Chapters 9-11 (pp. 121-172)


Week 14, December 1  Women’s Campaigns and Gender Stereotypes
Does gender matter in campaigns? How do women and men candidates think about gender when they run for office? Should they think about gender?

December 4

Week 15, December 8  
**A Woman President?**

*Why has it been so difficult for women to compete for the presidency? How do gender and race interact to shape presidential campaigns? Would it matter if the U.S. had a female president?*


2. Carroll and Fox, Chapters 1 and 2 (chapters by Duerst-Lahti, Dittmar and Carroll)

* FINAL EXAM *

Tuesday, December 16, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.