This is a course in Women and American politics. A range of topics will be discussed which should inform you of the role of women in American politics from the Founding to the present including women’s participation as citizens, voters, activists, and elites. Further, we will explore the suffrage movement and the modern women’s movement; women’s activities within the political parties; and the experiences of women candidates and officeholders. We will also place ourselves within the current American political system in an attempt to understand how these systems affect each of us personally in our own lives. We will be engaging with the materials online, which will require a different orientation towards the work. Thus, we will leverage this platform and also analyze how social media and the internet serves as a medium for gendered politics.

**Required Texts:**

Reserve readings: These can be found by accessing our course SAKAI site.

**Engaging Videos:** Each week you will be required to watch videos that illustrate the central themes of the reading in a more dynamic and interesting manner. Though you cannot use these as official sources, they will help you connect with the material and show you how to apply the concepts. All of the videos are available for free via the hyperlinks provided.

**Lectures:** Every Tuesday and Thursday, I will post a video lecture of the critical themes and concepts raised in the text. I will also respond to any questions or points you all have raised through the critical forum.

**Course Requirements:** Participation will be a large part of this course, even if the course is fully online! You will be expected to participate in the Critical Forum discussions, demonstrating strong knowledge of the assigned readings. There will be one midterm exam and one final research paper. You will also follow one race through the term and submit a paper applying concepts discussed in class to your race, as well as make recommendations based on your new expertise in gendered politics. The structure of these examinations will be discussed at least one week prior to the set exam date. This is a reading intensive course.

No late assignments will be accepted. Make-up exams will only be permitted under extreme circumstances under the discretion of the instructor with a note from the Dean.
your college. All statutes of the Academic Code of Conduct apply for this course. A detailed discussion of this policy can be found at http://cat.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html.

**Grading:**
Midterm 15%
Final Research Paper: 30%
Critical Forum Responses: 30%
Election 2014 Campaign Report: 25%

Course Goals:
1. Examine the contributions that women have made and continue to make in American politics.
2. Allow students the opportunity to examine gender roles, expectations, and imagery in an attempt to raise the level of consciousness and awareness of how these factors complicate women’s role in politics.
3. Encourage students to engage actively in classroom discussions so they may gain knowledge about the field of political science.
4. Create an environment of respect where meaningful intellectual exchange, involving critical thinking and historical and social analysis, can take place.
5. Develop students’ knowledge and understanding of racial, sexual, class and cultural diversity among women.

Course Objectives:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the history of women in American politics.
2. Understand basic concepts in political science, including the roles that race, class, gender, and other axes of difference, play in the American political system.
3. Have a base of knowledge and understanding to serve as a foundation for future study in political science.
4. Demonstrate the ability to conduct independent research and apply concepts to the real world political environment.

**Grading:** Please refer to the class Sakai site, under the “Resources” tab—the “Grade Information” folder includes information on the grade scale for this class.
The readings for each date should be read before that date to stay on schedule.

**CLASS COMPONENTS**
I. **Weekly Forums (25%)**
Due to our lack of “live” interaction, you will engage with each other in online forums. In this course, you are required to participate in a Weekly Forum. The Weekly Forum has two components: (1) a forum statement and (2) a forum response. Each week, I will post a brief summary of the central points and a critical question to the class that expands upon the week’s readings. I will post the question on Monday and Wednesday at 6pm.
You must make
(1) a forum statement (that replies to a question I have posed) and
(2) a forum response, which is a reply to one of your peer’s forum statements.

To do this, you will go to the “Forums” tab in the Sakai site. You will locate the week’s question by the title of the post. For example, in Week 2, I will post a brief summary of the critical points of the week’s reading (as your “lecture notes”) and a critical thinking forum question under the title “Week 2 Forum.” Click on the title to see my message, which will have a question for you to answer.

(1) Forum Statements: Each week I will pose two critical thinking questions based on the reading. After reading my questions for the week, you will answer with a forum statement.

Your forum statement must be posted online by 6PM every Tuesday and Friday.

A forum statement answers the question to the best of your ability as informed by the week’s readings. Your forum statement must have the following to receive full credit (10 points):

- Your forum statement must be 2—3 paragraphs long. This translates to 200 to 300 words.
- Your forum statement must be on topic and respond to the question posed by the instructor.
- Your forum statement must use at least one quote from the readings that is cited as such and one piece of evidence from a contemporary news source.
- Your forum statement must be checked for grammar and spelling.

AGAIN- Your forum statement must be posted online by 6PM every Tuesday and Friday. Late posts will be penalized 5 points each day they are late.

For example, after you read the instructor’s question, click on “Reply to Initial Post.” Write your forum statement, then click on “post.”

(2) Forum Response: After the forum statements by the students have been posted, you will respond to ONE of your peer’s forum statements.

Your response to a peer’s forum statement must be posted online by 10am every Monday (for the week prior). You may choose any forum statement.

* Your response must have the following to receive full credit (5 points):
* Your response must be 1—2 paragraphs long. This translates to 100 to 200 words.
* Your response must be on topic and reflect a consideration of your peer’s forum statement.
* Your response must cite the material offered for the week.
Your response must use at least one quote or piece of evidence from the readings that is cited as such.

Your response must be checked for grammar and spelling.

You must follow the basic standards of NETIQUETTE:
The Core Rules of Netiquette are excerpted from the book Netiquette by Virginia Shea. Click on each rule for elaboration.

- **Introduction**
- **Rule 1: Remember the Human**
- **Rule 2: Adhere to the same standards of behavior online that you follow in real life**
- **Rule 3: Know where you are in cyberspace**
- **Rule 4: Respect other people's time and bandwidth**
- **Rule 5: Make yourself look good online**
- **Rule 6: Share expert knowledge**
- **Rule 7: Help keep flame wars under control**
- **Rule 8: Respect other people's privacy**
- **Rule 9: Don’t abuse your power**
- **Rule 10: Be forgiving of other people's mistakes**

http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html

Your response cannot be a simple agreement to your peer’s forum statement (“I agree with Kim that the unilateral executive is a problematic!”). Add details, expand the point, and make an argument. Simple agreements will receive no credit.

**Your FORUM RESPONSE must be posted online by 10am every Monday.** Late responses will be penalized 2.5 points every day they are late.

For example, to reply directly to a peer’s forum statement (which will have a bright green left-hand border), click on “Reply” next to the author’s name. Write your forum response, then click on “post.”

**You will be posting to the message board on Tuesday, Thursday, and on Monday for a total of THREE posts every week (unless otherwise indicated).**

II. Midterm (25%)
The midterm exam for this course will be held via Sakai on Tuesday, June 13th, 2014. It will be composed of 5 essay questions. The exam will be timed and will be performed on the Sakai site, under “Tests and Quizzes.” This will be an open book exam but the allotted time will be very short so students must come prepared. Furthermore, we will use turnitin.com to check for originality and will compare the timing of student submissions to check for inappropriate collaboration.

III. Election 2014 Campaign Report: (25%)
You will select one US House, Senate, or statewide 2014 race for US Congress where at least one woman is running. I must first approve the race. You will examine how gender and party matter for the campaign, applying the theories covered in the reading. In a 4-5 typed, double-spaced page paper, you must summarize how gender matters for the campaign and election outcome of your race (advertisements, issues, and in the electorate).

IV. Final Research Paper (25%)
Your final research paper will be an opportunity for you to build upon the course readings. You must use at least three readings from class and three outside academic texts. I will provide several prompts for the final research paper and post the options under the “Assignments” tab, and the final critical essay is due no later than 10 PM on Thursday, July 3rd.
Schedule of Readings

WEEK ONE (5/27-5/30)

HISTORY OF WOMEN AS CITIZENS
* Differing racial histories of women * Suffrage * Abolition * Immigration * Marriage *
* What is political? What do we mean by women? What is the role of gender as a process? *

Tuesday
- Declaration of Independence
- Declaration of Sentiments, 1848 Seneca Falls Convention
- Ain’t I a Woman? Speech by Sojourner Truth

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

MOVIE: One Woman, One Vote
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwEWTsJcJgQ

For fun:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYQhRCs9IHM

Women and Values
Week 2 (6/2-6/6)

Monday
Politics of Marriage: From the Private Sphere to the Public Realm
Cott, N. Public Vows. Chapters 6, 7, 8
  a) Consent, The American way
  b) The Modern Architecture of Marriage
  c) Public Sanctity for a Private Realm
Tuesday


Wednesday


Thursday
**Political Attitudes and Public Opinion**


Movie: Women’s Movement in the USA in the 1950s and 60s
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amZD8XxTsiQ

**Week 3: Gender and Political Education**
(6/9-6/13)

Monday
**Women and Political Knowledge**


Tuesday
**Gendering Political Knowledge and Political Participation**


Wednesday
**MIDTERM**
Thursday
**Gender Consciousness, Power and Politics**


EXTRA CREDIT MOVIE REVIEW, Options:
North Country
Chisholm ’72: Unbought and Unsold
Anita

**Week Four: Women and Electoral Politics**
(6/16-6/20)

Monday

Introduction and Chapter 1

Tuesday
Chapters 2 and 3

Wednesday
Carroll and Fox, Chapters 4 and 5

Thursday
Carroll and Fox, Chapter 6

**Women and Parties**
http://www.jofreeman.com/conventions/feminfluence.htm

**Movie: Game Change**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDjfmzzSpnE

**Week 5**
(6/23-6/27)

Monday
**Gender Stereotypes and Women’s Campaigns**
Carroll and Fox, Chapter 7

Tuesday
Carroll, S. 2009. “Reflections on Gender and Hillary Clinton’s Presidential Campaign: The Good, the Bad, and the Misogynic” in Politics and Gender volume 5


Wednesday
Stalsburg, Brittany L. "Voting for mom: the political consequences of being a parent for male and female candidates." Politics & Gender 6.03 (2010): 373-404.


Thursday:
Carroll and Fox, Chapter 8

Optional
Movie: Miss Representation (available on reserve at Rutgers Library)

ELECTION CAMPAIGN REPORT DUE Friday, 6/27 by 10pm

Week 6: Impact in Office
(6/30-7/3)

Monday


Tuesday


Wednesday

Thursday


FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE THURSDAY, JULY 3rd