Course Description
The main goal of this course is for students to design and conduct an original research study about the role of race and/or gender in U.S. senatorial and gubernatorial elections, culminating in a final research paper. Students will learn about the process of conducting political science research as they work on their projects and will develop expertise in electoral behavior, campaigns, and officeholding. The course also examines the history of gender and race in American politics and the political participation of women and racial minorities. The main course requirement is the research paper; other requirements are class participation and a midterm exam.

Course Requirements

20% Class participation (including a class presentation on April 30)

15% Assignment #1 (Research Question and Hypotheses) (Due February 19)
Assignment #2 (Methodology Write-up (draft)) (Due April 2)

25% Midterm exam (March 12)

40% Research Paper (Due April 30)
Expected length: 12-20 double-spaced pages (excluding bibliography and any figures, tables, and appendices, using 12 point Times New Roman font, 1” margins)

The main course requirement is a research paper about the role of gender and/or race in the 2012 elections (please see the “Research Paper Instructions” handout for details). We will discuss the research process and the nuts and bolts of your research projects during class time throughout the semester. To this end, we will spend half of two class sessions at a Loree IML (Instructional Microcomputer Lab) (March 5, March 26).

You will submit two assignments related to your research projects during the semester (Assignments #1 and #2). Detailed instructions about Assignments #1 and #2 will be provided in class. Research papers are due on the last day of class. Students will make brief presentations of their research papers on that day (April 30).
The format for our class is a seminar. Please come to each class prepared to discuss the assigned readings; your regular class participation is expected and is an important part of the course.

NOTE: Assignments # 1 and # 2 and the research paper are due at the start of class. I will not accept late assignments; I also do not accept assignments by email.

Late research papers will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade each day that it is late. (Note that I will only accept your final research paper by email if you have made prior arrangements with me to do so.) In the unlikely event that you have a family or personal medical emergency on a due date for an assignment, please report your absence on the university system and be prepared to provide documentation.

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

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.

I will hold office hours in Hickman (Hickman 609). If you wish to meet with me but cannot attend my office hours, please email me (sanbon@rci.rutgers) to schedule an appointment. Please note that if we meet by appointment, we may meet at my office at the Eagleton Institute of Politics (3rd Floor, all the way down the hallway on the left).

Required Books


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 are also 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

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 (“01:790:395:09 Sp14”). 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

Recommended Books (on reserve at the Mabel Smith Douglass Library)


Week 1 January 22 Introduction

Week 2 January 29 Gender, the Women’s Movement, and U.S. Politics
What is gender? What can Douglass College women teach us about political socialization? According to Jenkins, how has the women’s movement influenced young women’s views about politics? Does Jenkins find that mothers influenced their daughters with respect to gender roles and the women’s movement?


Week 3 February 5 Studying Race in American Politics
What is “race”? What are some of the challenges that scholars face in studying race? How is the United States changing in terms of race and immigration?


2. Bowler and Segura Chapter 2.


Week 4 February 12 Are there Gender Differences in Media Coverage?
Does the media treat men and women candidates equally? How have political scientists studied media coverage? What is content analysis?


**Week 5 February 19 Racial and Gender Politics**

*What do Schmidt et al. mean by “racialization”?*

*What is the data source and methodological approach of the Poised to Run report? How do women reach state legislative office? How can more women reach office in the future?*

* Assignment # 1 due at the start of class: Research Question and Hypotheses *


**Week 6 February 26 * Individual Research Paper Proposal Meetings *\**

I will meet with you individually in Hickman 129 in lieu of our regular class in order to discuss Assignment # 1 (you will sign up for an appointment time on February 19).

**Contemporary Party Politics**

*How are the parties positioning themselves on current racial issues? What is motivating the Tea Party? How are racial minorities situated with respect to party politics?*


2. Bowler and Segura Chapters 3 and 4.

Week 7  March 5  Race and Political Participation
* Please come to Hickman 129 for the first half of class. We will go to Loree IML Room 27 for the second half of class. *

Are racial minorities participating equally in politics? How do racial categories interact with U.S. elections and mass political participation?

1. Bowler and Segura Chapters 5-8.

2. We will review and discuss your February 26 readings.

Week 8  March 12  * Midterm Exam *

Week 9  March 19  * No Class * Enjoy your spring break!

Week 10 March 26  Intersectionality: How Should We Study Gender and Race?
* Please come to Hickman 129 for the first half of class. We will go to Loree IML Room 27 for the second half of class (2:00 – 3:35 p.m.).

Can we study gender without also thinking about race? Can we study race without also thinking about gender?


**Week 11  April 2  Gender Stereotypes and the Gender Gap**

* Assignment # 2 due at the start of class: Methodology Write-up (draft) *

What are gender stereotypes? What are the implications of these stereotypes?
Are there “women’s issues”? Should women’s organizations and candidates promote “women’s issues”?


**Week 12  April 9  Race, Immigration, and Representation**

What does Kim mean by racial triangulation?
Do racial minorities have common values and interests?
What is at stake in the contemporary debate about immigration?


**Week 13  April 16  Descriptive Representation: Symbols and Substance**

Is descriptive representation important? How do women and minorities behave once elected to office? How do race and gender intersect within legislatures? What role does political party play?


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Week 14  April 23  Millennials and New Directions

How important are generational differences to understanding American politics? What does the future hold for the political participation of women and minorities?


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Week 15  April 30  Conclusion: Student Presentations

* Final papers are due at the start of class.

* Students will give brief presentations of their final papers.