TOPICS IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS:  
GENDER AND POLITICS IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE  
790:360:01  
SPRING 2014

Professor: Mona Lena Krook  
Office: Hickman 314  
Email: m.l.krook@rutgers.edu

Course Time: Mondays/Wednesdays, 2.15-3.35  
Office Hours: Mondays, 12.00-2.00 or by appointment

Course Description

This course surveys central topics in the study of gender and politics, covering such issues as women’s participation in political parties and social movements, women as voters and candidates in political elections, feminism and the state, and gender and international politics. It will draw on examples from various world regions and time periods to analyze similarities and differences across cases around the globe.

Course Requirements

This course aims to introduce students to basic concepts and debates in gender and politics, focusing on developing a variety of analytical skills. Grades for the course will be calculated in the following way:

- **Class participation (20%)** Although this is primarily a lecture-style course, you are expected to come to class prepared and to participate actively in class discussions. You will be assigned dates to bring in news items to share with the class, but you are welcome to come to every class with items to discuss. You should reflect on how the news item relates to class and, as far as possible, provide background for understanding its significance. Everyone is required to bring items on the last day of class. The participation grade will be based on in-class contributions and/or posts to the class Facebook page.

- **Two short take-home “midterms” (20% each)** You will write two short papers – approximately five to six pages long – on questions stemming from the readings and class discussions. I will distribute a list of questions – of which you will answer one – a week before the assignment is due. Deadlines: February 24 and April 7. Papers are due at the beginning of class.

- **One final take-home exam (40%)** You will write one final exam – approximately ten to twelve pages long – in which you answer two questions from the readings and class discussions. You will have some choice in terms of the questions, but the first will address materials from the third part of the course, while the second will integrate concepts and debates from the course as a whole. Deadline: May 14.

Learning Goals

This course employs a variety of formats – lectures, video clips, films, debates, student presentations, and class exercises – to make things more interesting and accommodate different learning styles. The overarching goal is to expose you to a wide range of materials, concepts, and empirical examples and – through the course assignments – help you make sense of the “bigger picture” in terms of how we can better understand the political world through the lens of gender. Each set of assignments, in addition, seeks to help you develop a broader set of analytical and life skills:

- The **participation grade** is intended to encourage your attendance and active engagement with the class materials – and through the news items, to help you to make links between classroom concepts and the political world outside. You cannot do well in this course without attending to this component of the overall grade: in addition to being worth the same as an exam, the exams require you to integrate materials from the readings, the lectures, and the news.

- The **take-home exams** present an opportunity to revisit the materials covered in each section of the class, giving you a week to process how various parts might fit together in a coherent whole. Students might therefore provide very different answers to the same question.
Course Policies

This course seeks to promote active learning and foster a positive classroom environment. To help achieve these aims, you should take note of the following policies:

- **Attendance** is required. The readings serve as a background, not as a substitute, for the lectures and class discussions. Missing sessions will result in a deduction in your class participation grade and will affect your ability to answer the exam questions.
- If you are **absent or late to class**, you are responsible for the news items, announcements, handouts, and notes from the portion or session you missed. Please consult your classmates or me for these materials.
- **Bring a copy of the readings** to each class session. Although we will not necessarily draw extensively from the readings in each class, they will be a useful reference from time to time.
- **Late papers and email submissions** will not be accepted. Any requests for exceptions to these rules must be made in advance of the due date (i.e., at least the day before).

Required Readings

All of the readings will be available on the course website, with the exception of two books that are available for purchase at the campus bookstore:

Krook, Mona Lena and Sarah Childs, eds. 2010. *Women, Gender, and Politics: A Reader*. New York: Oxford University Press (available in paperback; *indicates readings from this volume).


Facebook Page

I have created a class page on Facebook as a way to post video clips that I show in class and for students to have additional opportunities to improve their participation grade. You are encouraged to post news items as well as to comment on the posts of other students – but are only required to post a news item on the day that you are responsible for bringing a news item to class.

During the first two weeks of the semester, the group will have the status of “closed” in order to assist you in joining the group without having to “friend” me. Once all students have joined, I will change the status to “secret” so that the group is not visible in any way to the outside world. To join the group, enter “Gender and Politics 2012” in the search box at the top of your Facebook account and click “Ask to Join Group” at the top right of the page. I am listed as the “Admin” of the group in case additional groups with this name appear in your search.

Extra Credit Assignments

Occasionally throughout the semester, I will offer opportunities for extra credit assignments. While doing these may or may not influence your final grade, I encourage you to do at least one, as it gives you a chance to further explore the topics introduced in class (you may also incorporate these materials in your exam answers). I will announce possibilities from time to time, as I learn about invited speakers and other special events planned on campus. Please do forward any announcements you receive regarding relevant events so that I can pass them along to the class. In addition, I am also happy to recommend that you view various films (listed distributed on the first day of class). To get the extra credit, you should write a one- to three-page reflection of how the event you attended, or the film you watched, touched on themes raised in the course. **Extra credit papers may be turned in at any time during the semester.**
COURSE SCHEDULE

INTRODUCTION TO “GENDER” AND “POLITICS”

January 22: Introduction to Gender and Politics

No assigned reading – discussion of course aims and introduction to developments in gender and politics globally.

January 27: Gendering the Study of Politics


WOMEN’S MOVEMENTS AND POLITICAL PARTIES

January 29: Feminist and Women’s Movements


February 3: Women’s Suffrage Campaigns

*Film: One Woman, One Vote


February 5: Women, Men, and Social Movements


February 10: Women’s Movements and Political Parties


**February 12: Women and Political Parties**


**February 17: Sexuality and Politics**


**WOMEN, GENDER, AND ELECTIONS**

**February 19: Women, Gender, and Voting**


**February 24: Women as Elected Representatives**


**February 26: Women and Men as Candidates**


March 3: Female Politicians and the Media

Film: Miss Representation


March 5: Women as National Leaders


WOMEN, GENDER, AND POLITICAL OFFICE

March 10: Normative Arguments for Women’s Representation


March 12: NO CLASS

March 24: Women Representing Women in Political Office


March 26: Gender Quotas and Female Candidates Worldwide


March 31: The Impact of Electoral Gender Quotas


GENDER, THE STATE, AND PUBLIC POLICY-MAKING

April 2: Women, Gender, and the State


April 7: Women, Gender, and Public Policies


April 9: State Feminism and Gender Mainstreaming


Read one of the following:


GENDER AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

April 14: Female Leaders in Transitioning Societies

Film: Iron Ladies of Liberia

April 16: International Organizations and Women’s Rights


April 21: Gender and the Military


April 23: Femininity, Masculinity, and War


April 28: Women, War, and Peace

*Film: War Redefined*


April 30: Women in Politics in Post-Conflict Societies


*Read one of the following:*


May 5: Conclusions and Recent Developments in Gender and Politics Worldwide

No assigned reading – students bring their own articles for class discussion on recent developments in gender and politics worldwide.