Short Course Description

Instructor: Cristina Gherasimov  
Class Meetings: M/H 10:55-12:15pm, HSB-201, D/C  
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Office Hours: Thursdays 4:00-5:00 pm, & by appointment

Course Description:

Women & Public Policy course surveys central public policy issues that affect women and explain gender relations. This covers topics such as reproductive rights and abortion, labor policy, welfare policy, sexual and domestic violence. During this course we will analyze the process by which issues of importance to gender equality have historically emerged on the public agenda, the ways in which policy debate is shaped once an issue becomes a public problem, and the competing policy paradigms surrounding these controversial policy issues.

We will address a number of important questions that will lead our inquiry over the Spring semester. To what extent has state policy reinforced or challenged the social, political and economic foundations of gender inequality? What are the trade-offs feminists face when using the state for feminist ends? The format for our class will be a combination of lecture, seminar, small group work, and presentations. You are going to be learning a little bit about various topics by participating in class discussions, and doing your own research on topics of your choice. Through examination of the major policy issues of concern to women, we will learn about the overall policy process and gain a better understanding of the interrelationship between gender, power and public policy.

Course Requirements:

- 20% Class participation
- 30% Short essay assignments
- 15% Class presentation
- 35% Final paper