

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**COURSE NUMBER: POLS 4040 TITLE: WOMEN AND POLITICS**

**INSTRUCTOR: Dr. MARSHA LYLE-GONGA**

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**Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 9a.m.-11a.m.; Tuesdays & Thursdays 10a.m.-11a.m.**

**Office Location: Clement Building, Room 143B**

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** The role of women in politics. Women and the political process, political institutions, and public policy.

**STUDENT ACADEMIC OUTCOMES** (what the student who successfully and satisfactorily completes the course should know or be able to do):

1. Demonstration of understanding of the history, framework, and function of the Women's Movement in the American political process.
2. Be able to identify various roles of women in the numerous aspects of the judicial, executive and legislative branches of government.
3. Develop a broad familiarity and knowledge of women's contribution to the political institutions of government.
4. Be able to discuss relationships between women and politics and their political participation in government as it pertains to women's issues.
5. Be able to demonstrate in writing and oral presentations, substantial acquisition of the "big" picture of women in the political process and their relationship to/with political maneuverings.

**MEANS OF ASSESSMENT** (how the student's achievement of the above academic outcomes will be evaluated):

<b>ASSESSMENT MEANS USED</b> (Exams, papers, and discussion board.)	<b>OUTCOME(S) ASSESSED:</b>	<b>How counted in final grade:</b>
1. Three examinations	1 - 5	100 points each
2. Book Review	1- 5	50 points
3. Research Paper	1- 5	100 points
4. Discussion Board	3 - 5	50 points

***There are a total of 500 points available***

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR "A" AND "B" GRADES** (what the student must know or do over and above minimal content mastery to demonstrate excellent or high achievement):

Note: No grades will be given, other than an "F" if all assignments 1 -4 are not completed.

**"A":** 450 to 500 points.

**"B":** 400 to 449 points.

**"C":** 350 to 399 points.

**"D":** 300 to 349 points.

**"F":** less than 300 points

**TOPIC OUTLINE, BIBLIOGRAPHY, AND REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:** see attachments

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Instructor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**SCHEDULE-SPRING SEMESTER**  
JANUARY 13 - MAY 6, 2011

**PSCI 4040: WOMEN AND POLITICS**

**REQUIRED TEXTS: WOMEN AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION by M. Margaret Conway, and WOMEN AND POLITICS: The Pursuit of Equality by Lynne E. Ford.**

*The following schedule is intended as a guideline for reading and other assignments, aside from the dates indicated. While a serious attempt will be made to maintain the schedule, certainly the instructor reserves the right to adjust the schedule, including reading assignments, examination dates, etc. However, if adjustment is made, instructor will give sufficient time for students to adjust schedules.*

*The class schedule follows a 7 day schedule with the first day of the week (Day 1/Monday) and the last day of the week (Day 7/Sunday).*

**Day 1** is Monday

**Day 2** is Tuesday

**Day 3** is Wednesday

**Day 4** is Thursday

**Day 5** is Friday

**Day 6** is Saturday

**Day 7** is Sunday

**Week 1: January 13 - 16:** Introduction to course and “each other.”  
*Due by Day 6 (Saturday)*

**Week 2: January 17-23:** Chap. 1, Conway: *Women Culture and Political Participation*.  
**Jan. 17-MLK Holiday- University Closed**  
*Discussion Board questions answered by Day 3 (Wednesday)*

**Week 3: January 24- 30:** Chap. 1, Ford: *The Two Paths to Equality*.  
*Discussion Board questions answered by Day 3 (Wednesday)*

**Week 4: January 31-February 6:** Chap. 2, Conway: *Women, Culture and Political Socialization*. *Discussion Board questions answered by Day 3*

**Week 5: Feb. 7-13:** Chap. 2, Ford: *All Rights are Not Equal: Suffrage versus the Equal Rights Amendment*. *Discussion Board questions answered by Day 3*

**Week 6: Feb. 14- 20:** Chap. 3, Conway: *Gender Differences in Political Attitudes*.  
*Discussion Board questions answered by Day 3. EXAM 1: Conway 1-3 and Ford 1 & 2. Available by Day 5, Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup> 8a.m. until Day 6, Saturday February 19<sup>th</sup> @ 11:55p.m.*

**Week 7: Feb. 21 – 27:** Chap. 3, Ford: *Women as Political Participants* & Chap. 4, Conway *Differences Among Women*. *Discussion Board questions answered by Day 3.*

**Week 8: February 28- March 6:** Chap. 4, Ford: *Women Seeking Political Office*, **Book Review due by Day 3 (Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 11:55p.m. Discussion Board questions answered by Day 3**

**Week 9: March 7-13: SPRING BREAK**

**Week 10: March 14 -20:** Chap. 5, Conway: *Women's Political Participation*. **Discussion Board questions answered by Day 3.**

**Week 11: March 21 –27:** Chap. 5, Ford: *Women as Political Actors*. **EXAM 2: Conway 4 - 5 and Ford 3 – 5. Available Day 5, Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup> 8am until Day 6, Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> @ 11:55 p.m.**

**Week 12: March 28-April 3:** Chap. 6, Conway: *Women as Members of the Political Elite and Ford, Chap.6, Education and the Pursuit of Equality*. **Discussion Board questions answered by Day 3.**

**Week 13: April 4-10:** Chap. 7 & 8, Ford: *Women and Work and The Politics of Family & Fertility* **Discussion Board questions answered by Day 3. Research paper due by Day 1, Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> @ 11:55p.m.**

**Week 14: April 11 - 17:** Chap. 7, Conway: *Women, Politics, and Cultural Change Century*. **Discussion Board questions answered by Day 3.**

**Week 15: April 18 - 24:** Chap. 9, Ford: *New Challenges in the Pursuit of Equality*. **Research paper topic Discussion: Post a brief synopsis of paper to the Discussion board by Day 3. April 22<sup>nd</sup> Good Friday, University Closed.**

**Week 16: April 25 – 27:** **Discussion Board questions due by Day 3. Last day of course, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Course Final available Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> @ 8a.m. until Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> @ 11:55 p.m. Course Final: Conway 6 -7and Ford 6-8.**

**FINAL EXAMINATION WEEK: May 1-6**

### Course Rules and Guidelines

**COURSE LAYOUT:** *Students* are expected to read the chapter and lecture notes as assigned. There is a discussion thread that will correspond to the chapters in the text and lecture notes. If students are having problems with the material, the instructor needs to be notified. The instructor can be reached through email at the address listed above and the telephone numbers listed. The instructor's policy is to reply to emails within 48 hours but it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor by telephone if a response is not given within that time because APMail can be precarious at times.

**DISCUSSION BOARD & ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Regular class attendance is highly recommended if one wishes to complete the course successfully. Participation in the form of discussion on the discussion board is considered essential to the success of the course. Students should be online at least three times a week. Respond to the assigned questions using the lessons and vocabulary found in the reading. Start reviewing and responding to the postings of your classmates as early in the week as possible. Respond to at least two of your classmates. Participate in the discussion by asking a question, providing a statement of clarification, providing a point of view with a rationale, challenging an aspect of the discussion, or indicating a relationship between two or more lines of reasoning in the discussion. **There is no opportunity to make-up missed Discussion Board questions.**

**Discussion Board Points:**

**Week 1 and Week 16: 4 points each = 8 points**

**Week 2 through Week 15: 3 points each week = 42 points**

**Total Points: 50**

<i>Week</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Points possible</i>	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4
<i>Total</i>	4	7	10	13	16	19	22	25	28	31	34	37	40	43	46	50

**THE ROLE OF WRITING:** Of all the skills and substantive information you learn in college, writing is perhaps the most important. Regardless of your career goal, you will need to know how to write well. This course offers numerous opportunities to work toward learning to write better, which includes examinations, research paper, and a book review.

**ASSIGNMENTS: All writing assignments should be turned in to the Digital Drop box.**

**BOOK REVIEW:** A book review is required for successful completion of this course. The book selected for review should be a book that reflects women’s political achievements. The review should be no more than 3-5 pages in length with appropriate citations and follow APA style format. **The book review is due Week 8. See Schedule for the specific date and time.**

<b>Grading Criteria for Book Review</b>	<b>Maximum Points</b>
Selected a book that reflects women’s political achievements.	10
Reviewed the book by giving a brief synopsis of the contents and the writer’s view point.	20
Provided an opinion of the book.	10
Used vocabulary relevant to the assignment and proper grammar.	5
Justified ideas and responses by using the correct APA format.	5
<b>Total:</b>	<b>50</b>

**RESEARCH PAPER:** Each student will be assigned a state in order to conduct research on the status of women in that state. Issues that must be covered in the research are, women's leadership in the State's Legislature, how they have helped to shape that State's politics, women's political participation, the issues that are of most concern to women in that State for example, education, childcare, and the outlook for women in that State. The paper should have a minimum of five sources from texts, scholarly articles, and state web sources. **The paper should be double-spaced, minimum 7 pages, with appropriate citations and form is required for completion of this course, APA style only, 12 point Times Roman font.** **The 7 pages do not include the cover page and reference page, so in essence the paper will be a total of 9 pages.** The paper should have a minimum of five (5) sources from texts and scholarly articles which must be used throughout the body of the paper. The paper is to be based on the State assigned Week 2 of this course. **Papers are due Week 13. If a paper is turned in late, 10 points will be deducted for every day that the paper is late.**

Grading Criteria for the Research Paper:

Grading Criteria for Research Paper	Maximum Points
Conducted research on the status of women in the state assigned by presenting an historical view of women and their political leadership within the state.	25
Analyzed how women have shaped the State's politics and the issues facing women in the State.	25
Discussed the outlook for women in the State.	25
Used vocabulary relevant to the assignment and proper grammar.	10
Justified ideas and responses by using appropriate examples and references from 5 sources (textbooks, Web sites, other references, or personal experience) and cited the sources in the correct APA format.	15
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100</b>

**EXAMINATIONS:** All exams will be essay, but will include some choices or options from questions in the exam. The examinations will test learning objectives from required readings and class meetings. The three examinations will be worth 300 points total of your final grade. **Examinations will be given Weeks 6, 11, and 16.** See Schedule for the exact date and time.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Extra credit work will be assigned as appropriate for additional points towards examinations. Extra credit may be worth 5-10 points on an exam.

**SPECIAL POLICIES:** Students who miss examinations may be given the opportunity to make-up the exam with an approved excuse. Accommodations will be made for students with a disability. "Any student who has a condition that may affect his/her academic performance is encouraged to make an appointment with me or with the Disability Service Office at 221-6230 to discuss this matter."

**SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY & PLAGIARISM:** For the purpose of this course, scholastic dishonesty includes any effort to seek assistance during examinations or on assigned projects from other persons or materials. Plagiarism is the act of stealing the ideas or words of another and making it your own, or not crediting the source. A grade of “F” for the course is the mildest penalty considered for a case of scholastic dishonesty in this course. Another important area within scholastic dishonesty is plagiarism. Students will be given an “F” if they are caught using someone else’s ideas or words as their own.

**GUEST SPEAKERS:** Throughout the semester, we may have several guest speakers that will participate in our class. They may include local and state women politicians as well as the local president of the NOW organization. Instructor will announce the date and times.

**GROUND RULES FOR CLASS DISCUSSION on the Discussion Board:**

1. Acknowledge that oppression (i.e. racism, sexism, and classism) exists.
2. Acknowledge that one of the mechanisms of oppression (i.e. racism, sexism, classism, and heterosexism) is that we are all systemically taught misinformation about our own groups and about members of both dominant and subordinate groups.
3. Agree not to blame ourselves or others for the misinformation we learned in the past, but accept responsibility for not repeating misinformation after we have learned otherwise.
4. Agree not to blame victims for their oppression.
5. Assume that people (both the groups we study and the members of the class) always do the best they can.
6. Actively pursue information about our own groups and those of others.
7. Share information about our groups with other members of the class and never demean, devalue, or in any way “put down” people for their experience and opinions.
8. Agree to actively combat the myths and stereotypes about our own groups and other groups so that we can break down the walls that prohibit group cooperation and group gain.
9. Create a safe atmosphere for open discussion. If members of the class wish to make comments that they do not want repeated outside the classroom, they can preface their remarks with a request and the class will agree not to repeat remarks.