

Macalester College
Department of Political Science

POLI 200-01
Women and American Politics
Spring 2008
Class Mtgs: MWF 1:10-2:10pm
Carnegie #204

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Ofc Hours: MW 2:30-4:30pm

Course Description

This course examines the evolutionary role of women in politics - as voters, citizens, candidates, and leaders - from the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848 to the present. Drawing from a variety of theoretical perspectives, we examine women's historical and contemporary roles in US politics, investigate and debate a variety of public policy issues of particular concern to women, and explore the intersection of race and gender in US politics. In addition, we devote significant attention to the current presidential candidacy of Hillary Clinton.

Required Texts

Dolan, Julie, Melissa Deckman, and Michele L. Swers. 2006. *Women and Politics: Paths to Power and Political Influence*. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall. Hereafter referred to as **DD&S**.

McGlen, Nancy E., Karen O'Connor, Laura van Assendelft, and Wendy Gunther-Canada. 2005. *Women, Politics, and American Society*. 4th edition. Allyn & Bacon/Longman. Hereafter referred to as **MOV&G**.

Watson, Robert P., and Ann Gordon, eds. 2003. *Anticipating Madam President*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Additional readings (marked with an '*' throughout syllabus and listed on last page)

Course Requirements

- 1) Active class participation, including a short class presentation for paper #1 (20%)
- 2) One short writing assignment (20%)
- 3) Semester long research project following Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign (60%)
 - annotated bibliography (10%)
 - in-class presentations (15%)
 - final paper (35%)

1) Active Class Participation (20%)

The full participation of all students is expected. This means that students will be on time and well prepared for all class sessions. If you are unable to attend class or have a problem completing an assignment by the due date, you must notify me **before the close of business**

(5:00 pm) the day prior to class. Your participation is essential and if you are not in class, you cannot participate.

Part of your participation grade will be based on a short class presentation. After everyone has chosen a topic for the first paper, I will schedule each student for a presentation on a specific day sometime during the semester.

2) One Short Writing Assignment (20%)

You are required to write one 5-7 page paper. Please choose from the two options below.

Paper #1 (20%)

Please choose **ONE** of the following two paper topics. You are required to write only one of these papers (#1A OR #1B). They are due at different times of the semester, so choose carefully!

1A. Write a paper on a women's interest group of your choice (historical or contemporary). In particular, how does / did this group attempt to improve women's lives or expand women's rights? What sorts of issues do they advocate? How successful do you think they have been? What strategies and tactics did / does the interest group utilize to influence politics in the United States? What have they accomplished?

This paper should also attempt to place the group into the historical context of women's movements in the US – were they active in any of the three phases that we discuss? If so, how? Did the group form around the same time as other women's organizations did (i.e. late 1800s, post WWII)? In addition, the paper should be sure to use sources written by others outside of the group (resist the temptation to use the group's website for all your info!) What do outsiders and other organizations have to say about this organization? **This paper is due on March 28th.**

OR

1B. Write a paper on a woman who has been actively involved in politics in the United States (other than Hillary Clinton). Drawing from our course readings and discussions, discuss whether she fits the "typical" profile of a political woman. In particular, you should pay special attention to the following questions: how and when did she first become active in politics? What public policy issues does she emphasize or advocate? What barriers, if any, has she faced in politics because of her gender? **This paper is due on April 25th.**

*** A note on all written assignments: I expect that all papers will be original work, clearly written, well organized, grammatically correct, free from typographical and spelling errors, will include proper bibliographic citations in the text AND on a works cited page, and will be turned in at the beginning of the indicated class period. Any assignments which are late will be penalized a third of a letter grade for each day they are late (so an A- becomes a B+ if one day late, a C becomes a D if three days late, etc.). **Please plan ahead to avoid problems that will prevent you from turning your assignments in on time.**

3) In-depth Examination of Presidential Candidate Hillary Clinton (60%)

As our semester gets underway, Hillary Clinton is running strong for the Democratic nomination for the United States Presidency. No woman has ever been a front-runner for the

Democratic or Republican party's nomination for the presidency, and so we have a wonderful opportunity to critically assess the women and politics literature in the midst of her campaign. Throughout the semester, we will follow her campaign, compare and contrast her experiences with the literature on women in politics and the literature on presidential candidates and attempt to update the state of knowledge in the field by drawing on her historic run. To do so, each student in the class will complete three related assignments:

a) **An annotated bibliography** on some aspect of presidential campaigns and/or women running for elective office (10%). **Due February 22nd**.

b) **An in-class presentation** that situates Clinton's candidacy within the relevant political science literature (15%) (drawing from the literature covered in your annotated bibliography)

c) **A research paper** that answers the question: how does gender influence running for the president? (also drawing from the literature in your annotated bibliography) (35%) **Due May 9th**.

Further details will be handed out in class at a later date.

Academic Integrity

Standards of academic integrity are set forth in the Macalester College Student Handbook. Students are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the College Honor System as violations will be taken very seriously. Students who are uncertain as to what constitutes cheating should contact the Dean of Academic Programs.

Course Schedule

January 28 **Course Overview**
Reading: Read entire syllabus

Assignment: Make a xeroxed copy of your student id and write an essay about yourself – due January 30th.

Women as Candidates for Elective Office

January 30 **Women Running for President and Vice President**
Reading: Watson and Gordon, Chapters 1-3
DD&S, Chapter 8, pp. 269-275

February 1 **Women Running for President: Gender and Race**
Reading: Watson and Gordon, Chapters 5 and 13
McClain, Carter and Brady "Gender and Black Presidential Politics: From Chisholm to Moseley Braun"*

February 4 **Women Running for President: Gender and Race (continued)**
Reading: Sigelman and Welch, “Race, Gender and Opinion Toward
Black and Female Presidential Candidates”*
Find and read one article about Condoleezza Rice

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH - SUPER TUESDAY – MINNESOTA CAUCUSES HELD

February 6 **Political Party Support**
Reading: Watson and Gordon, Chapter 6 (Hausman)

Assignment: Identify a women’s organization or political woman you will write about for your first paper.

February 8 **Why Don’t More Women Run?**
Reading: DD&S, Chapter 5, pp. 136-156
MOV&G, pages 90-105
Watson and Gordon, Chapter 4 (Falk and Jamieson)

February 11 **Media Coverage and Strategies of Female Candidates**
Reading: DD&S, Chapter 4, pp. 113-118; Chapter 5, pp. 166-172
Watson and Gordon, Chapter 11 (Heith)

February 13 **Media Strategies Used by Female Candidates**
Reading: Watson and Gordon, Chapters 8, 9 and 14

February 15 **Voter Stereotypes**
Reading: DD&S, Chapter 5, pp. 156-166
Lawless, “Women, War and Winning Elections”*
Watson and Gordon, Chapter 12 (Kennedy)

February 18 **Voter Stereotypes, continued**
Reading: Dolan, “Hillary and Condi”*
Watson and Gordon, Chapters 16-17

February 20 **Fundraising**
Reading: DD&S, Chapter 5, pp. 173-178
Watson and Gordon, Chapter 7 (Farrar-Myers)

February 22 **The Effect of the Gender Gap on Women Running for Office**
Reading: DD&S, Chapter 3, pp. 90-93
Brians, “Gender and Party Bias in Voting for Female
Candidates”*

***** Annotated bibliographies due*****

Historical Overview of Women's Movements for Political Equality

- February 25** **Film:** *“Boys and Girls are Different”*
Reading: DD&S, Chapter 1
- February 27** **1st Phase of Women's Movement**
Reading: McGlen and O'Connor (MOV&G), pp. 1-6
DD&S, Chapter 2, pp. 11-17
Sojourner Truth, “Ain't I a Woman?”*
- February 29** **2nd Phase - Struggle for the Vote**
Reading: MOV&G, pages 6-8; 21-40
DD&S, Chapter 2, pp. 17-24
“Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton”*
- March 3** **Guest Speakers from Humphrey Institute**
Reading: TBA
- March 5** **Film:** *One Woman, One Vote*
- March 7** **After the Vote – Women in the Workforce**
Reading: MOV&G, pages 128-141
DD&S, Chapter 2, pp. 24-35
Freeman, “From Protection to Equal Opportunity...”* (read only up to “Turning Point” Section)
- March 10** **Film:** *The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter*
- March 12** **3rd Phase - Struggle for Equal Rights**
Reading: MOV&G, pages 8-17; 40-67; and 141-148
DD&S, Chapter 2, pp. 36-41
Excerpt from “Feminine Mystique” (handout)
“Freeman, “From Protection...”* (read remainder of article)
- March 14** **Free day – Catch up**
- March 17-21** **No class -- Spring Break**
- March 24** **Legal Interpretations of Sex as a Class**
Reading: TBA
- March 26** **A Fourth Phase of the Women's Movement on the Horizon?**
Reading: DD&S, Chapter 2, pp. 41-56
Read one policy paper from the IWF; one from NOW

Additional Readings and their locations:

Brians, Craig Leonard. 2005. "Women for Women? Gender and Party Bias in Voting for Female Candidates." *American Politics Research* 33(3): 357-375. Available through SAGE Full-Text Collections.

Dolan, Julie. 2007. "Hillary and Condi: Is the Public Ready for Elite Political Women in Foreign Policy?" Paper presented at the 2007 Meeting of the Japanese American Women Political Scientists' Symposium. August 26-29th, St. Paul, Macalester College. Available via email.

Freeman, Jo. 1990. "From Protection to Equal Opportunity: The Revolution in Women's Legal Status" <http://www.mith2.umd.edu/WomensStudies/ReadingRoom/AcademicPapers/womens-legal-status>

Lawless, Jennifer L. 2004. "Women, War and Winning Elections: Gender Stereotyping in the Post-September 11th Era." *Political Research Quarterly* 57(3): 479-490. Available through JSTOR.

McClain, Paula D., Niambi M. Carter, and Michael C. Brady. 2005. "Gender and Black Presidential Politics: From Chisholm to Moseley Braun." *Journal of Women, Politics & Policy* 27 (1/2): 51-68. Available through DeWitt Wallace library stacks / reserve.

Sigelman, Lee, and Susan Welch. 1984. "Race, Gender and Opinion Toward Black and Female Presidential Candidates." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 48(2): 467-75. Available through JSTOR.

Stooksbury, Kara E. and Lori Maxwell Edgemon. 2003. "The First Lady Scholarship Reconsidered: A Review Essay." *Women and Politics* 25(3): 97-111. Available through DeWitt Wallace library stacks / reserve.

"Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton" http://www.rochester.edu/SBA/suffrage_sba_ecs.html

Truth, Sojourner. "Ain't I a Woman?" <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/sojtruth-woman.html>