

**SYLLABUS
WOMEN IN POLITICS
POLS/WMST 317-500
MWF 1:15-2:05 PM
ALLEN BUILDING 1015
FALL SEMESTER 2007**

Instructor: Dr. Nikki R. Van Hightower
Office: Allen Building 2106
Office Hours MW 2:15-3:45 P.M. or by appointment
Phone: 845-0554
E-mail: nikki@polisci.tamu.edu

Required Texts:

Julie Dolan, Melissa Deckman & Michele L. Swers, *Women and Politics: Paths to Power and Political Influence* (Pearson Prentice Hall 2007)
Sarah L. Henderson & Alana S. Jeydel, *Participation and Protest: Women and Politics in a Global World* (Oxford 2007)
Nancy E. McGlen, Karen O'Connor, Laura van Assendelft & Wendy Gunther-Canada, *Women, Politics, and American Society*, 4th Edition, (Pearson Longman, 2005).

Course Goals: The major goal of the course is for students to gain an understanding of women as emerging political players in the U.S. and global societies. Additional goals include developing an understanding of women's movements, public policies (employment, reproductive rights, family rights, personal security) and cultural traditions that affect women's opportunities to participate in civic life.

Course Description:

This course analyses the expanding role of women in political life from both domestic and global perspectives. The first segment of the course examines and compares women's movements in the United States, in other developed countries and in under-developed countries. The second segment analyses women's participation in electoral politics. The third segment of the course focuses on public policies that affect women's opportunities to participate in civic life and the development of international norms regarding the treatment of women. Various public policies, such as employment, reproductive rights, and marriage and family life, will be examined in the contexts of history and respective national cultures.

Course Requirements: Course requirements include attending lectures, participating in class discussions, two position papers and two exams.

Class lectures will cover the readings and will introduce additional material from other scholarly research. Students will be expected to attend class, be current with reading

assignments and participate in class discussions. Attendance will be taken. **Students will be allowed one unexcused absence throughout the semester, after which deductions will be made on their grade for attendance. One point will be deducted for each class missed.** Excuses for absences must be university approved, written and submitted to the instructor no later than the end of the second working day after the last date of absence.

Each student will submit **two position papers** on a topic of her/his choice. Specific requirements of the position papers are attached to this syllabus. Position papers are due on October 5th and November 28th. Ten points will be deducted for each day the paper is late. (Papers may be turned in early.)

The two **exams** will be weighted equally. The second exam will cover only material in the second half of the course. **THERE WILL BE NO FINAL EXAM.**

Grading: Grades will be calculated as follows:

Exam one	20%
1st position paper	25%
Attendance	10%
2nd position paper	25%
Exam two	20%
Class participation will be considered.	

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	under 60

Students with disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities in Room B118, Cain Hall, or call 845-1637.

Academic dishonesty: As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with the definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of the person.

I strongly recommend that you review the Aggie Honor System Office website (<http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor>) or the latest version of the Texas A&M University Student Rules, under the section "Scholastic Dishonesty," for a thorough review of all types of academic

dishonesty including plagiarism.

LECTURE TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING ASSIGNMENT</u>
August 27:	Course introduction	
August 29- Sept. 3:	Women's movements in the U.S.	McGlen, <i>et al</i> , Intro. and Ch. 1, pp. 21-51
Sept. 5:	An overview of women's movements from a global perspective	Henderson/Jeydel, Preface & Ch. 2
September 7-12:	Women and electoral politics in the U.S. Video: <i>Getting Where We've Got to be</i>	Dolan, <i>et al</i> , Ch. 1 & Ch 2, pp. 56-68; McGlen, <i>et al</i> , Ch. 1, pp. 51-64
September 14 - 17:	Women and electoral politics - global	Henderson/Jeydel, Ch. 1.
September 19 - October 5:	Women and electoral politics	Dolan, Chs. 3 thru 9
October 5:	POSITION PAPERS DUE	
October 8:	EXAM ONE	
October 10:	Public policy - developing international norms	Henderson/Jeydel, Intro. to Part III, pp. 219-223; Ch 7
October 12 - 15:	Women & the economy - global	Henderson/Jeydel, Chs. 8 & 4

October 17:	Video: <i>Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter</i>	
October 19 - 24:	Women & the economy - U.S.	McGlen, Intro. to Part II, pp.125-127; Ch. 3, pp. 128 - 162 & Ch. 4
October 26 & 29:	Education & equal rights	Henderson/Jeydel, Ch. 10 McGlen, Ch. 3, pp. 162 - 173
October 31 - Nov. 5:	Work and the family	Henderson/Jeydel, Ch. 5 McGlen, Ch 5, pp.235 - 257 & Ch. 6
November 7 - 16:	Women, health and reproductive rights Video: “ <i>The Pill</i> ”	Henderson/Jeydel, Chs. 9 & 6 McGlen, Ch. 5, pp. 257 - 281
November 19:	Women and sexual violence	Henderson/Jeydel, Ch. 11
November 21:	Reading day - no class	
November 23:	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
November 26:	Women and physical autonomy	Henderson/Jeydel, Ch. 12
November 28:	Where does it go from here POSITION PAPERS DUE	McGlen, Ch. 7
November 30:	EXAM TWO - LAST DAY OF CLASS	

WOMEN IN POLITICS

POSITION PAPER INSTRUCTIONS

The purpose of the position paper: By taking a position on an issue, the writer is forced to challenge her/his own thoughts by exploring the subject, raising questions, and analyzing the reading materials. Evidence for supporting the position will be drawn from the course readings, lectures and presentations. No additional research is expected. Citations will include textbook authors and page numbers and/or lecture and presentation dates. Citations should be placed in parentheses in the body of the paper. Essays should be three pages in length, double-spaced.

The first position paper will be due on October 5th and the second paper will be due on November 28th. They may be submitted early.

Steps in writing a position paper: A position paper is an essay that builds a case for a position on an issue. That position becomes the central idea or the thesis of the paper. As the position is more fully explored, the essay will evolve and new drafts will be developed. Steps in writing the position paper should include the following:

Selection of a position on an issue that is covered in the assigned reading materials: This may be an answer to a question, a proposed resolution to a problem, or a position on a debatable topic. A successful selection of a topic provides crucial direction to the writer.

Examples of position paper topics:

An Equal Rights Amendment should be added to the U. S. Constitution

It is time to elect a woman as president of the United States

Abortion is a scourge that should be outlawed

The U. S. or women's rights groups should not interfere in the cultures of other countries even if, by our standards, women are oppressed.

Affirmative action is still necessary for women to have equal employment opportunities

Prepare an outline: Once the author has decided on a position on a particular topic, the next step is to plan how to support the position and present the ideas. An outline can be useful to maintain a logical flow and be sure all points are covered.

Make a preliminary draft: Allow yourself to get the words down on the page. Keep in mind that the draft is preliminary—it is the starting point. Also, outlining a paper makes the act of writing less intimidating.

Revise and finalize: Often, one revision is not enough. Typically, the best writers are the best revisers. After you make a revision, put it down for awhile and come back to it later when your head has cleared and you can take a fresh look. Carefully proofread the final manuscript for grammar and spelling. If possible, recruit another proofreader.

Essay Format: Title

Introductory paragraph: State your position. Explain why you have chosen this topic? Why is it important to you? What is your interest in the topic? What is the relevance of the topic to the course topic of women in politics.

Body of the essay: Give the evidence for your position. If there is no or little evidence, I recommend you find another topic.

Conclusion: How has writing this paper strengthened or weakened your position on the topic?

Grading: Each position paper will constitute 25% of your overall grade. In other words, the two papers will be worth 50% of your course grade. The papers will be graded on the following criteria:

- The thoughtfulness and overall organization of the paper
- The logic of the argument
- The evidence presented for the argument—your ability to comprehend and apply the reading material, lectures and presentations
- Spelling, grammar and composition

Don't be deceived by the brevity of the paper. A short paper requires the writer to carefully plan, logically construct and creatively condense the evidence to support the position. There is no space or time for drift.