

WOMEN AND POLITICS
POS 3990 (POS3072)
Spring 2007

Dr. Jocelyn Jones Evans
Office Hours: MW 2:30-5:00pm
F 10:00-11:00
(by appointment)

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Course Description:

This course traces the evolution of women's involvement in politics as voters, activists, candidates, and public officials. First, the history of the women's movement will be traced from the founding to the Seneca Falls Convention (1848), to the suffrage movement of the early 1900s, to the Year of the Woman in 1992. Secondly, this course will examine the contemporary participation of women in American political institutions. It will examine the character and substance of women's participation in both the electoral and policy-making arenas to better understand the influence of women in the American political system.

Student Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, students will have knowledge of the historical debates surrounding women's political participation. Students will have knowledge of the contemporary context of women's participation in the political arena at the local, state, and national levels. Finally, coming out of this class, students will have knowledge of the socio-cultural underpinnings of the barriers that still exist to women's political access, policy-making, and power.

Required Readings:

Harrison, Brigid. 2004. *Women in American Politics: An Introduction*. Thomson.

Online articles available through *elearning* (see tentative course schedule).

Grading:

Your grade will be based on two exams given during the semester and two papers as part of a class project that you will prepare and present in class. Finally, class participation through completion of online assignments is worth an additional 20% of your grade. The dates for the two exams are listed in the course schedule. Except under extreme emergencies, the student wishing a make-up exam must call or stop by my office, in advance, to provide the reason for not completing the exam at the scheduled time. The student is not guaranteed the opportunity to make up the exam. The decision is up to the instructor. No one may take the final exam early. The weights for each exam and assignment are listed below.

Grading Scheme					
Midterm Exam	25%	A	93-100%	C	73-76%
Final Exam	30%	A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
Project	20%	B+	87-89%	D+	66-69%
Participation	20%	B	83-86%	D-	60-65%
Presentation	5%	B-	80-82%	F	0-59%
		C+	77-79%		

Expectations for Academic Conduct / Plagiarism Policy

As members of the University of West Florida, we commit ourselves to honesty. As we strive for excellence in performance, integrity – personal and institutional – is our most precious asset. Honesty in our academic work is vital, and we will not knowingly act in ways which erode that integrity. Accordingly, we pledge not to cheat, not to tolerate cheating, nor to plagiarize the work of others. We pledge to share community resources in ways that are responsible and that comply with established policies of fairness. Cooperation and competition are means to high achievement and are encouraged. Indeed, cooperation is expected unless our directive is to individual performance. We will compete constructively and professionally for the purpose of stimulating high performance standards. Finally, we accept adherence to this set of expectations for academic conduct as a condition of membership in the UWF academic community.

Assistance

Students with special needs who require specific examination-related or other course-related accommodations should contact Barbara Fitzpatrick, Director of Disabled Student Services (DSS), dss@uwf.edu, (850) 474-2387. DSS will provide the student with a letter for the instructor that will specify any recommended accommodations.

Student Conduct in the Classroom:

Classroom disruption will not be tolerated. The professor reserves the right to dismiss any student for disruptive behavior. According to the Office of Student Affairs, this includes, “behavior a reasonable person would view as substantially or repeatedly interfering with the conduct of a class.”

Papers for Project:

You will be responsible to turn in two papers as part of a project on women and politics. Each of you will select a female Member of the U.S. Congress. The first paper will be a simple descriptive piece on the Member. In 4-6 pages you should discuss the Member’s profile, biography, district, issue priorities, voting behavior, and organizational memberships. While I would encourage you to look up the Member’s website and/or contact her office, I would strongly discourage you from plagiarizing this information. Make sure you cite where the material originated. Refer to the University Plagiarism Policy for guidance: <http://uwf.edu/cas/docs/plagiarism.htm>.

The second paper will be less descriptive and more analytical. I would like you to take an additional 4-6 pages to discuss the relevance of the course readings to the Member’s legislative behavior. Does the Member demonstrate any of the traits or behaviors about which we have studied? Does the Member face any electoral or institutional obstacles due to her gender? Finally, do these women have an impact? What facilitates or constrains their effectiveness in Congress?

Each paper is worth 10%. Presentation of your project is worth 5%. The overall project and presentation is thus worth a total of 25% of your grade. The due dates for the project are tentatively listed in the syllabus. No projects will be accepted late.

You are expected to use Chicago Style referencing in both papers. If you are unsure of this method of citation, please refer to the Chicago Manual of Style: <http://library.osu.edu/sites/guides/chicagogd.php>.

Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Online	Topic	Assigned Reading	
			Harrison	Other Resources
1/8 M		Syllabus		
Historical Experience				
1/10 W		Political Theory	Ch. 1	Historical Representations of Women
1/15 M		No Class		
1/17 W	CQ	No Class		
1/22 M	Q/A/R	Suffrage Movement	Ch. 1	“Do You Know?” by Carrie Chapman Catt
1/24 W		Film and Discussion		The Quest for Equality
1/29 M		Political Socialization		Ch. 2 C/S/A
1/31 W	CQ	Contemporary Context	Ch. 2	The Gender Gap; The Gender Gap in Historical Perspective
Constitutional Law				
2/5 M	CQ	Reproductive Rights		Roe v. Wade
2/7 W	Q/A/R	Equal Protection		Reed v. Reed
2/12 M		Employment		Jackson v. Birmingham Board of Education
2/14 W		Equal Access		U.S. v. Virginia
Elections and Electoral Structures				
2/19 M	CQ	Eligibility, Fundraising, & Campaign Finance	Ch. 4 & 6	
2/21 W	Q/A/R	Incumbency and Glass Ceiling		Ch. 3-5 O’Connor
2/26 M	CQ	Role of Electoral Structure		Ch. 6-7 D/W/C
2/28 W	Q/A/R	Voters and Candidates	Ch. 6	Print Media Coverage of Candidates
3/5 M		Contemporary Context		Women in Elective Office 2006
3/7 W		Midterm		
Impact on Policy				
3/12 M		Congress and Women’s Representation	Ch. 7	Ch. 1 Swers; Women in the U.S. Congress
3/14 W	CQ	Women’s Issue Legislation		Ch. 2 Swers; Legislating By and For Women
M	Q/A/R	Women’s Activity in the Legislative Process		Ch. 8 Swers
W		Film and Discussion Turn in First Paper		
3/19- 3/23		Spring Break		
3/26 M				
3/28 W		Women and Partisanship	Ch. 5	Ch. 1, 5 Evans
4/2 M	CQ	Women and Interest Groups	Ch. 3	NOW
4/4 W	Q/A/R	Evaluating Women’s Impact	Ch. 10	
Representation in Political Institutions				
4/9 M	CQ	Women and the Executive	Ch. 8	Women Appointed to Presidential Cabinets
4/11 W	Q/A/R	Women and the	Ch. 9	

		Judiciary		
4/16 M- W		Women and the Bureaucracy		
4/18 W		Film and Discussion Turn in Second Paper		
4/23- 4/25 M- W		Presentations of Projects		Dead Week
4/30 M		Final Exam		11:00-1:30

CQ = Comprehension Quiz (to be taken online before class on the day it is due)

Q/A/R = Question/Answer/Respond (to be submitted online before class on the day it is due)