

**PSCI 4506A**  
**Women and Politics in North America**

**Instructor:** Professor Melissa Haussman  
**Office:** Loeb Building A623  
**Office Hours:** Tues afternoon & by appt.  
**Email:** [melissa\\_haussman@carleton.ca](mailto:melissa_haussman@carleton.ca)  
**Phone:** (613) 520-2600 X2768

In this seminar, we bring together a number of puzzles concerning women's political representation within North American countries and in their relationships with the world. We look at both "supply" factors (why women often choose not to run or how they are thwarted in it), vs. "demand" factors (the difference women make to political systems when they are elected). In assessing these sets of factors, we look at the relative roles of cultural belief systems about the role of women in particular countries and the structures that are in place to either facilitate or (more often) hinder their entry into public political life. We will compare how women work within formal institutional settings both in North America and in other parts of the world and how laws made by these institutions can be classified as gender-friendly or not.

It would be impossible to discuss these cutting-edge issues without also shedding light on current events. Therefore, the current ground-breaking campaign of Hillary Rodham Clinton for the US Presidency and the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, for example, will be drawn in to examine the nature of opposition to women's increasingly prominent roles in public political life.

**Readings:** (all ordered and available at the CU bookstore)

1. Carl Bernstein, *A Woman in Charge* (Knopff, 2006)
2. Eleanor Clift & T. Braziatis, *Madam President* (Routledge, 2003)
3. Barbara Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed* (Turtleback Publishers, 2002)
4. Brigid Harrison, *Women in American Politics* (Thomson, 2003)
5. Jennifer Lawless & R. Fox, *It Takes a Candidate* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2005)
6. Catharine MacKinnon, *Are Women Human?* (Harvard Univ. Press, 2006)
7. Pamela Paxton & Melanie Hughes, *Women, Politics and Power* (Sage, 2007)
8. Victoria Rodriguez, *Women in Contemporary Mexican Politics* (Univ. of Texas Press, 2003)
9. Manon Tremblay and Linda Trimble, eds, *Women and Electoral Politics in Canada* (Oxford University Press, 2003)

**Requirements:** Since this is a seminar course, the number one requirement is to have access to all the readings and be prepared to discuss them in class. This also assumes you will attend class; attendance is taken and there are two excused absences allowed per semester. Otherwise, the seminar cannot function without the learned participation of all its members.

In addition, requirements are as follows:

Participation:	10%
Preparation of questions to guide a class discussion: (and submission of them one week prior to the class)	20%
In-class leading of one discussion	25%
Take-home midterm, due March 7 (typed, 15 pp.)	20%
Synthesis of literature in one of the class areas, Due April 7 (typed, 15-20 pp.)	25%

**Class Schedule:**

Jan. 11	Introduction
Jan. 18	Women in Canadian politics-Tremblay and Trimble, Chs. 1-6
Jan. 25	Women in US & Can politics-Harrison, Part II Tremblay and Trimble, Parts III & IV
Feb. 1	Women in US, Continued: Lawless, all
Feb. 8	The Difference women in office make (US): Harrison, Chs. 7,8; Paxton/Hughes, Ch. 9
Feb. 15	Madam President? Clift and Braziatis, all
Feb. 29	Women in Mexican Politics: Rodriguez, Chs. 2-6
March 7	Women's "political opportunity structures" across different systems & the interplay of cultural beliefs & structural rules: Paxton/Hughes, Chs. 2-8, 10

March 14	Gendered policy in the US & Canada: Harrison, Chs. 9, 10; MacKinnon, Introduction, & Chs. 7-9, 11, 12, 13 (India)
March 21	Statutory holiday, university closed.
March 28	Law, women and international conflict: MacKinnon, Parts I, IV and Chs. 14-16, 18-20, 22
April 4	Hillary's political context: Bernstein, all
April 7 (Friday class schedule)	Women on the Margins: Ehrenreich, all; Wrap-up

---

### Academic Accommodations

**For Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Paul Menton Centre (PMC) for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) to complete the necessary forms. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first in-class test or CUTV midterm exam**. This will allow for sufficient time to process your request. Please note the following deadline for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations: **March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008** for April examinations.

**For Religious Observance:** Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance ([www.carleton.ca/equity](http://www.carleton.ca/equity)).

**For Pregnancy:** Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

**Plagiarism:** The Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another." The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: <http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html>

**Oral Examination:** At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

**Submission and Return of Term Work:** Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Approval of final grades:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

**Course Requirements:** Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available **ONLY** if the student is in good standing in the course.

**Connect Email Accounts:** The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See <http://connect.carleton.ca> for instructions on how to set up your account.