

**PSCI 2500A
GENDER AND POLITICS
Tuesdays 11.35-1.25p**

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Professor Gopika Solanki
Office: Loeb C674
Office Hours: Tuesday, 1:30-3:00 pm
 or by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to broad topics in gender and politics; and it is divided into three analytical sections. In the first section, we will explore gender as a critical analytical category and discuss its significance within politics. The second section will focus on the engagement of women's movements with formal and informal politics in historical and contemporary contexts. In this section, we will debate the nature and modes of women's and men's participation and representation in formal electoral systems, civil society, nationalist movements, revolutions, and in the processes of democratisation. In the third section, we will discuss the transformative potential of feminist politics in local and transnational contexts. Overall, the course will draw on case studies from different regions and compare similarities and differences across these cases.

COURSE TEXTS

Tremblay, M., & Trimble, L. (Eds.) (2003). *Women and Electoral Politics in Canada*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press.

The course text containing other required readings is available for purchase at the Carleton University Bookstore. The course pack containing the required readings is available for purchase at the Haven Book Store. Please check the course Web CT for more information. In addition, a number of the readings on the course outline are available electronically, and will be posted on the course Website. For your consultation, the course text and the required readings are also available on reserve at the university library.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING CRITERIA

Students will be evaluated on the following five components:

- **In class mid-term exam (20%)** to be held on October 7, 2008. The exam will be based on course lectures, readings, and group discussions to date.
As per early feedback guidelines, this midterm will be returned by October 31st.
- **Essay (30%)** due in class on November 18, 2008. You will be given a list of essay topics on October 14, and you can choose one of these topics or select your own in consultation with the TA or instructor. The paper should be approximately 10-12 pages in length. You will be graded on your overall understanding of the material covered, the clarity of the presentation, and the logical consistency of the arguments.

You must drop off late papers—which will be accepted until November 25, 2008—in the mailbox outside the Political Science office (B640 Loeb). These late papers will be retrieved every business day at 4 pm, stamped with that day's date, if the paper is dropped off after 4pm, it will be stamped for the next day, and then distributed to the instructor. If you wish to have your late paper returned to you by mail (rather than in class), please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Assignments sent by fax or email will not be accepted. A cumulative penalty of 2% per day will be applied to late submissions. Late papers will only be exempted from penalty if they are supported by a medical certificate or other documented evidence.

- **Attendance and participation in tutorials (10%)** In addition to your attendance at course lectures, you are expected to regularly attend weekly group sessions/tutorials and to actively participate in the group discussions.
- **Presentation in group discussions (5%)** In consultation with the TAs, you will select a reading based on the theme of the week. During the tutorial, you will deliver a brief presentation (five to seven minutes) and answer both clarification and substantive questions.
- **Final exam (35%)** is scheduled by the Faculty of Public Affairs. The exam will emphasise the course readings, discussions, and course lectures of the latter half of the course. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

COURSE SCHEDULE

September 9

Introduction to the course

An overview of key debates in gender and politics across the globe.

Tremblay and Trimble, Chapter 1: skim.

September 16

Decoding “Gender,” Engendering Politics

Is “gender” just another term for discussing “women”? What does the category “gender” indicate, and how is gender interlocked with other axes of identity, such as class, race, nation, ethnicity, etc.? Why should we study Political Science through gendered lenses?

(W) Hawkesworth, M. (2005). Engendering Political Science: An Immodest Proposal. *Politics and Gender, 1.1 (March)*, 141-156.

(W) King, D. (1988). Multiple Jeopardy, Multiple Consciousness: The Context of Black Feminist Ideology. *Signs 14.1*, 42-72.

September 23

Histories of Exclusion, and Organising for Civil and Political Rights in Diverse Contexts: Perspectives from the North and the South

How do women participate in politics? Historically, how did women’s political action influence political developments and state structures in the North? What was the nature of women’s mobilisation in nationalist movements and struggles against colonial or authoritarian regimes? Why did women’s participation in liberation movements in some cases (for example, South Africa) lead to greater inclusion of women in formal politics, whereas similar levels of engagement elsewhere did not result in such outcomes?

Pateman, C. (1994). Three Questions about Womanhood Suffrage. In C. Daley & M. Nolan (Eds.) *Suffrage and Beyond: International Feminist Perspectives* (pp. 331-348). New York: New York University Press.

Jayawardena, K. (1986). Introduction. *Feminism and Nationalism in the Third World* (pp. 1-24). London: Zed.

Recommended Reading:

(W) Hassim, S. (2002). A Conspiracy of Women: The Women’s Movement in South Africa’s Transition to Democracy. *Social Research 69.3*, 693-732.

September 30

The Politics of Women’s Mobilisation in the North and the South

How do we understand the second and third waves of feminism in the North? What similarities and differences characterise feminist organising in the North and the South? What kind of organisational and discursive strategies are used by various women's groups across the globe?

Newman, J., & White, L. (2006). Women's Movement in Canada. In J. Newman & L. White (Eds.) *Women, Politics and Public Policy: The Political Struggles of Canadian Women* (pp. 66-87, 93-95). New York: Oxford University Press.

Chinchilla, N. S. (1994). Feminism, Revolution and Democratic Transitions in Nicaragua. In J. Jacuette (Ed.) *The Women's Movement in Latin America: Participation and Democracy* (pp. 177-197). Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press.

October 7
Midterm and Group Discussion

In the present time, how do young women and men view feminist ideologies in society and polity?

Trimble and Tremblay: Chapter 11.

October 14
Gender, Women, and Formal Politics

What are the trends in women's and men's participation and representation in electoral politics?

Tremblay and Trimble: Chapters 3, 4, and 9.

October 21
Gender and Electoral Processes

As we have seen in earlier sections, while women effect change in political structures and participate in politics in large numbers, what factors explain the low rate of participation of women in formal politics?

Tremblay and Trimble: Chapters 2 and 12.

Film Excerpts: *Enemies of Happiness* (a film on the challenges faced by women political leaders in Afghanistan)

Recommended Reading: "In the Eyes of the Beholders: Gender and Leader Popularity in a Canadian Context," Tremblay and Trimble, Chapter 10.

October 28

Gender and Political Parties

Do political parties represent women's interests? What factors explain the failure of feminist political parties?

Tremblay and Trimble: Chapters 6 and 7.

(W) Dominelli, L., & Jonasdottir, G. (1988). Feminist Political Organization in Iceland: Some Reflections on the Experience of Kwenna Frambothid. *Feminist Review*, 30, 36-60.

November 4

Debates on Representation

Should there be an increase in women's numbers in political office, or is it better to increase numbers of feminists as opposed to women?

(W) Philips, A. (1995). Quotas for Women. *The Politics of Presence: The Political Representation of Gender, Ethnicity and Race* (pp. 57-83). New York: Oxford University Press.

(W) Mansbridge, J. (1999). Should Blacks Represent Blacks and Women Represent Women? A Contingent 'Yes.' *Journal of Politics*, 61.3, 628-657.

(W) Dahlerup, D., & Taarup Nordlund, A. (2004). Gender Quotas: A Key to Equality?: A Case Study of Iraq and Afghanistan. *European Political Science* 3.3, 91-98. Skim.

November 11

Women in Public Office and Public Policy Making

Can the inclusion of women in formal political systems change the very nature and conduct of politics?

Tremblay and Trimble: Chapter 5 and 8.

(W) Goetz, A. M. (2002). No Shortcuts to Power: Constraints on Women's Political Effectiveness in Uganda. *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 40.4, 549-575.

Film Excerpts: *The Iron Ladies of Liberia*.

November 18

Reconstituting Formal Politics?: Analysing the Role of Institutions, Women's Movements, and Regimes in Transformative Processes

Does the notion of "women's interests" offer a way out of the debate on descriptive versus substantive representation? How and why should feminist women and men engage with the state?

(W) Mazur, A., & McBride, D. (2007). State Feminism since the 1980s: From Loose Notion to Operationalized Concept. *Politics and Gender*, 3.4, 501-513.

Sawer, M. (2003). The Life and Times of Women's Policy Machinery in Australia. In S. Rai (Ed.) *Mainstreaming Gender, Democratizing the State?: Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women*. 243-263. Manchester: Manchester University Press.

Gilman, S. (2007). Feminist Organizing in Tunisia: Negotiating Transnational Linkages and the State. In V. Moghadam (Ed.) *From Patriarchy to Empowerment: Women's Participation, Movements, and Rights in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia*. 97-119. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press.

November 25

Shaping Informal Politics, Setting New Agendas, and Gendering the "Political"

Mackinnon, C. (2006). Women's September 11: Rethinking the International Law of Conflict. In *Are Women Human? and other International Dialogues* (pp. 259-278). Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Mohanty, C. (2003). Women Workers and the Politics of Solidarity. In *Feminism without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity* (pp. 139-168). Zubaan: Kali for Women.

(W) Hawthorne, S. (2007). Land, Bodies and Knowledge: Biocolonialism of Plants, Indigenous Peoples, Women and People with Disabilities. *Signs* 32.2 (Winter), 314-322.

COURSE POLICIES

Plagiarism

As per university regulations, it is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of "plagiarism" as defined in the undergraduate or graduate calendars, and to

avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. 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. You cannot submit the same assignment to two or more courses.

The Department’s Style Guide is available at:
www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/styleguide.pdf.

Course Requirements

Students must fulfill all course requirements 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.

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.

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 through the Connect email system. For instructions about how to set up your account, see <http://connect.carleton.ca>.

Academic Accommodations

For students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities 9500 University Drive) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your letter of accommodation, **no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-**

class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **November 7, 2008**, for December examinations, and **March 6, 2009**, 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).

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.

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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.

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Carleton Political Science Society: The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the after-hours academic life at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, or come to our office in Loeb D688.