PSCI 3500A  
Gender and Politics: Liberal Democracies  
Tuesdays 8.35-11.25  
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Christina Gabriel  
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00 – 3:00 p.m & Wednesdays 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

**Course Description:**  
This course focuses on the study of gender relations and politics in a variety of arenas. It considers issues of citizenship and representation, social movement activism and the political system with a specific focus on Canada although comparisons are made to Australia and the United States.

**Course Objectives:**  
**Content:**  
- to explore how gender shapes women’s participation in political life  
- to map the range of women’s political activism from grassroots organizing through to the formal political arena  
- to examine and analyze how women’s political participation is affected by political institutions and public policies

**Skills:**  
- to help students develop critical reading and writing skills through active seminar participation, written work and group presentations

**Format:**  
The instructor will begin each three-hour session with a lecture (40 to 45 minutes) to introduce key themes and ideas associated with each topic. Lectures complement the assigned readings and there is not necessarily a one-to-one correspondence between lectures and readings. A discussion period will follow the lecture. Students will also make short group presentations in each class. Each student is expected to come to all classes and must be prepared to actively participate. All required readings must be completed prior to each class. Students are responsible for lecture material, required readings and films shown in class.

**Course Materials:**  
Course material is available through the reserve desk at the library. Please advise the instructor if you encounter difficulties in obtaining the course materials.

The following books have been placed on reserve:  

**Required Texts:**

Students are required to write a critical book review based on either:


Both books are available for purchase in the Carleton Bookstore.

**Evaluation:**

Students will be evaluated on the following basis:

- **Group Presentation & Joint Report** 10%
  Students will work in groups of two to prepare an evaluation of a relevant website. Evaluations will be presented to the class and a written three-page summary will be submitted on the same day. Presentations will be assigned in the first two classes.

- **Writing Assignment** 10%
  Students will submit a short written assignment based on one assigned reading. The assignment should be 5-7 pages in length, double-spaced. Due date Tuesday, October 14.

- **Mid-term Test** 20%
  A mid-term test will be held in class on Tuesday, October 21.
Critical Book Review 20%
All students will submit a critical review of either Dee Myers’ Why Women Should Rule the World (NY: Harper-Collins, 2008) or Pat Carney’s, Trade Secrets (Toronto: Key Porter Books, 2002). The assignment should be 8-10 pages in length, double-spaced. Due date: Tuesday, Nov. 18

Final Exam 30%
There will be a three-hour exam based on lectures, films and required readings. The exam will comprise: terms – identify and state significance of; short answers – video related questions; longer essay answers. The exam will be scheduled during the University exam schedule, December 4 to 20 (including Saturdays). It is your responsibility to make sure that you will be available for the examination.

Participation / Attendance 10%
Five per cent of the final grade will be determined based solely on the percentage of classes the student attends. Attendance will be taken in class. It is your responsibility to be on time and to ensure you sign the attendance sheet.

Five per cent of the final grade will be based on participation. Participation will be based on a student’s active, informed and thoughtful participation in class discussion.

STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE ALL COURSE REQUIREMENTS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A FINAL GRADE

*Policies on Assignments:
All assignments in this course must be 12 pt font, double-spaced and have standard one-inch margins. As much as possible they should be free of spelling and grammatical errors. They must include appropriate citations and bibliography. Assignments that do not have any citations will be returned to the student ungraded. Students will be permitted to re-submit the paper, within a specified deadline, but an automatic 10% penalty will be levied.

The University takes instructional offences (including plagiarism) very seriously. Please make sure that you are familiar with the regulations regarding instructional offences, which are outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar. Also, it is not acceptable to submit the same assignment in two different courses.

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date specified. They should be submitted directly to the Professor in class. If this is not possible use the Political Science Drop Box located on the sixth floor of the Loeb Building (B640). The departmental drop off box is emptied every weekday at 4pm. Any papers received after 4pm will be stamped for the following weekday. Please do not submit papers to the staff in the Political Science Office. Late papers without a date stamp will be assessed a penalty based on the date the Professor actually receives the paper.

Do not slip assignments under my office door, post it on my office door or put it in my mailbox. Do not submit essay papers by e-mail or fax. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that the Professor receives papers and it is the student’s responsibility to collect the graded paper in a timely fashion. Students should make a copy of all of their assignments before submitting them and are advised to keep all notes and drafts of work until after the final grade has been assigned and awarded.
E-mail Policy
E-mail will be answered within two business days. Do not submit any class assignments by e-mail.

**Late Penalties**
Assignments are due on the dates specified in the course outline. Late papers will be subject to a penalty of 2% a day not including weekends. Assignments will not be accepted two weeks after the due date.

If you anticipate a problem with one of the above deadlines please approach me as soon as you can in advance of the assignment. No retroactive extensions will be permitted. Do not ask for an extension on the due date of the assignment. Exceptions will be made only in those cases of special circumstances, (e.g. illness, bereavement) and where the student has verifiable documentation.

The Senate deadline for completion of term work is Monday, December 1, 2008.

**Lecture and Reading Schedule**

**Week I**

**Introduction**
(Sept. 9)
- Introductions
- Overview of course themes
- Review of course outline and requirements
- Sign-up for in-class presentations

**Unit I. Conceptual Frames**

**Week II**

**Gender and Politics**
(Sept. 16)

Film: ‘Marilyn Waring on Politics: Local and Global’ 1996, 30 minutes [250454]

**Week II**

**Engendering Citizenship**
(Sept. 23)


Presentation:
Famous 5 Foundation

**Unit II. Political Activism: Movement Matters**

**Week III**

**Politics of the Women’s Movement I**
(Sept. 30)


Presentation:
Feminist.com

**Writing Workshop Presentation**

**Week V**

**Politics of the Women’s Movement II**
(Oct. 7)

- Natasha Pinterics, “Riding the Feminist Waves: In with the Thirds? *Canadian Women’s Studies* 20/21(4/1) pp. 15-21


Presentations:
National Organization for Women
Third Wave Foundation

Film: ‘*I Was A Teenage Feminist: A Documentary About Defining the F Word*’ 2004, 62 minutes (263368) - TBA

**Week VI**

**Politics of the Women’s Movement III**
(Oct. 14)


Presentation:
Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action
World March of Women

**Writing Assignment Due**

**Week VII** Mid-Term Test
(Oct. 21)
There will be a mid-term test in class.

**Unit III. Political Activism: ‘Formal’ Politics**

**Week VIII** Electoral Project I:
(Oct. 28)


**Film:** ‘Balance of Power’ 1997, 44 minutes [251897]

Presentation:
Equal Voice Canada
Week IX Electoral Project II (Nov. 4)


Presentation:
Women’s Electoral Lobby Australia

Week X Media (Nov. 11)


Guest Speaker: Dr. Barbara Freeman, School of Journalism

Unit IV State Feminism

Week XI Gender and States (Nov. 18)

- Janine Brodie, “We are all Equal Now: Contemporary Gender Politics in Canada” Feminist Theory 2008


Critical Review Due

Presentation:
Policy, Action Research List: www.unb.ca/PAR-L
Womenspace: womenspace.ca

Week XII   Gender-Based Analysis
(Nov. 25)


- CRIAW, “Intersectional Feminist Frameworks: An Emerging Vision” [available on line at criaw-icref.ca/indexFrame.e.htm] pp.1-20

- Presentation:
Status of Women Canada

Guest Speaker: Dr. Pauline Rankin, Associate Dean, FASS

**There is a Final Exam During the University Exam Period**

Assignments

Writing Assignment

Due Date:      Tuesday, October 14
Worth:         10%
Length:        Five to Seven Pages

Task:
Write a short paper that addresses the question, “What are three key challenges that feminist activists face today as they struggle for social change?”

Format:
Your paper must be in essay format. It should be between five and seven pages long. Citations must be included. It must draw on the required readings listed below and any appropriate course material.
Required Readings:

- Amber Kinser, “Negotiating Spaces For/Through Third-Wave Feminism” in NWSA Journal Fall 2004 16:3

Group Presentation & Joint Report

Worth: 10%

Task:
Students, working in groups of two, will review an assigned website and present their finding to the class. Students will sign up for presentations on September 9 & 16.

Format:
Each presentation should last between 10-12 minutes.

Each group will also be required to submit a two to three page, double-spaced, written summary of their findings. It will be due the same day as the presentation. Late submissions will be penalized.

A grade of 0 will be assigned for missed class presentations.

Guidelines:
Your report/presentation should outline your evaluation of the assigned website: Among the issues to consider:

- Who created and maintains the website (an individual, a non-governmental organization, political party, a state agency). What can you tell us about them?
- When was it established? Is it up to date?
- What is the purpose of the site? (Egs. provide information? advertise? raise awareness? educate? organizing tool? raise money? etc.)
- How effective is the site? What did you learn?
- Discuss how the information on site relates to the weekly class topic and the broader themes and issues of the course.

Schedule of Presentations & Websites

Sept. 23
- Famous Five Foundation: www.famous5.org

Sept. 30
- Feminist.com: www.feminist.com

Oct. 7
- National Organization for Women: www.now.org
Critical Book Review:

Due Date: November 18, 2008.
Worth: 20%
Length: Eight Pages to Ten Pages

Task:

Your paper should offer a careful review of the reading. While it should contain a brief summary and description of the book it is more important to provide a critical perspective of the work. Your review should draw on related course readings to develop your assessment.

Among the issues/questions you should consider in preparing your review are the following:

- what is the stated purpose and or argument of the book
- how is it organized
- is it well-written
- how successful was the author in achieving her purpose
- what are the books’ strengths and weaknesses
- what did you learn
- what is the contribution of this work (e.g. who would be interested in it)
- how does this book relate to the broader concepts and themes of this course
- would you recommend the book

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.

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.

**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.