

**American University
School of Public Affairs
Department of Government**

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Office Hours:
Mondays 1:30- 4:30;
Fridays 10:30-12:00; 2:00-3:00

Women and Political Leadership
GOVT 583.01
Tues, 11:10-2:00 pm

Course Description

The first half of this course focuses on three major questions: Do women have an identifiably different way of leading? How does this leadership manifest itself? Why does women's political leadership matter? To address these questions we analyze theories pertaining to the nature of gender differences, literature discussing the historical differences in the kinds of political participation women have engaged in, and the barriers women face on the road to political leadership. The second part of the course examines five cases studies of women who became political leaders under very different socio-political circumstances. The course takes a comparative perspective on women's leadership, taking into account the different political opportunities and constraints available to women both domestically and internationally.

Requirements and Grading

Grades are determined this way:

Participation	20%
Paper (10 pgs)	15%
Discussion Leader	15%
Reading Journal – midterm	25%
Reading Journal – final	25%

The most important course requirement is that you do the readings before you come to class. This is a discussion-based, not a lecture course. Come prepared to participate; this will be weighed heavily in your final grade.

You will each lead one class. The discussion leader will begin the class by summarizing the main arguments of the readings, the evidence presented, and his or her analysis of the work. In addition, the leader provides us with discussion questions and helps guide the discussion throughout the class. These initial presentations should take approximately 15 minutes.

You will keep a running journal in which you respond to the readings you have done. These journals will be due twice during the semester: at the end of the first part of the course and at the last course meeting.

Texts

The following are on order at the AU Bookstore. However, many of these are available used or at a discount. Try <half.com>, <amazon.com>, or <barnesandnoble.com>.

Required

- 1) Amy Swerdlow, Catharine Stimpson, *Women Strike for Peace: Traditional Motherhood and the Radical Politics of the 1960s*
- 2) Sue Tolleson-Rinehart and Jyl J. Josephson, *Gender and American Politics: Women, Men and the Political Process*
- 3) Amy H. Handlin, *Whatever Happened to the Year of the Woman? Why Women Still Aren't Making it to the Top.*
- 4) Cindy Simon Rosenthal, *When Women Lead: Integrative Leadership in State Legislatures*
- 5) Shirlene Ann Soto, *Emergence of the Modern Mexican Woman: Her Participation in Revolution and Struggle for Equality, 1910-1940*
- 6) Marjorie Spruill Wheeler, *New Women of the South: The Leaders of the Women's Suffrage Movement in the Southern States*

Policies

Please note that all students are expected to abide by American University's Academic Integrity Code. No extra credit assignments are available. Incompletes are not given. All grades are final.

I hope every student will stop by my office hours to personally introduce themselves. I strongly encourage you to ask questions in class, at office hours, and by e-mail. I respond to e-mails normally within 24 hours, Monday through Friday.

Please Note

If you experience difficulty in this course for any reason, please do not hesitate to consult with me. In addition to the resources of this department, a wide range of services is available to support you in your efforts to meet the course requirements.

The Academic Support Center (x3360, MCG 243) offers study skills workshops, individual instruction, tutor referrals and services for students with learning disabilities. Writing support is available in the ASC Writing Lab or in the Writing Center, Gray Hall 206.

Counseling Center (x3500, MCG 214) offers counseling and consultations regarding personal concerns, self-help information, and connections to off-campus mental health resources.

Disability Support Services (x3315, MGC 206) offers technical and practical support and assistance with accommodations for students with physical or psychological disabilities.

If you have a disability and might require accommodations in this course, please notify me with a letter from DSS or ASC as soon as possible in the semester so that we can make arrangements to meet your needs.

Topics, Readings, Due Dates PART ONE: THEORY AND DATA

January 15 Introduction to Course

January 22 Gender, theory and leadership

1) Patricia Gurin, "Women's Gender Consciousness" Access via JSTOR, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, Vol. 49, No. 2. (Summer, 1985), pp. 143-163.
Stable URL: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0033-362X%28198522%2949%3C143%3AWGC%3E2.0.CO%3B2-G>

2) Edmond Costantini, "Political Women and Political Ambition: Closing the Gender Gap" Access via JSTOR, *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 34, No. 3. (Aug., 1990), pp. 741-770.

Stable URL: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0092-5853%28199008%2934%3C741%3APWAPAC%3E2.0.CO%3B2-V>

January 29 Women's traditional leadership roles

Amy Swerdlow, Catharine Stimpson, *Women Strike for Peace: Traditional Motherhood and the Radical Politics of the 1960s*

February 5 The Political Consequences of Being a Woman ***Possible Speaker

1) Kim Fridkin Kahn, "The Distorted Mirror: Press Coverage of Women Candidates for Statewide Office" Access via JSTOR: *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 56, No. 1. (Feb., 1994), pp. 154-173.

Stable URL: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-3816%28199402%2956%3C154%3ATDMPCO%3E2.0.CO%3B2-H>

2) Kim Fridkin Kahn, "Does Being Male Help? An Investigation of the Effects of Candidate Gender and Campaign Coverage on Evaluations of US Senate Candidates." Access via JSTOR: *The Journal of Politics*, Vol. 54, No. 2. (May, 1992), pp. 497-517.

Stable URL: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-3816%28199205%2954%3C497%3ADBMHAI%3E2.0.CO%3B2-R>

February 12 State of women's leadership in comparative, historical perspective

1) Leila J. Rupp, "Constructing Internationalism: The Case of Transnational Women's Organizations, 1888-1945" Access via JSTOR: *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 99, No. 5. (Dec., 1994), pp. 1571-1600.

Stable URL: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-8762%28199412%2999%3C1571%3ACITCOT%3E2.0.CO%3B2-Y>

2) Georgina Waylen, "Women and Democratization: Conceptualizing Gender Relations in Transition Politics" Access via JSTOR, *World Politics*, Vol. 46, No. 3. (Apr., 1994), pp. 327-354.

Stable URL: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0043-8871%28199404%2946%3C327%3AWADCGR%3E2.0.CO%3B2-Q>

February 19 Barriers to political leadership I ***Possible Speaker

Sue Tolleson-Rinehart and Jyl J. Josephson, Gender and American Politics: Women, Men and the Political Process

February 26 Barriers to political leadership II

Amy H. Handlin, Whatever Happened to the Year of the Woman? Why Women Still Aren't Making it to the Top.

March 5 How does women's leadership matter in the political arena? I

Cindy Simon Rosenthal, When Women Lead: Integrative Leadership in State Legislatures

March 19 How does women's leadership matter in the political arena? II ***Possible Speaker

Sue Thomas, How Women Legislate NOTE: Reading Journals Due PART TWO: CASES

March 26 *Shirlene Ann Soto, Emergence of the Modern Mexican Woman: Her Participation in Revolution and Struggle for Equality, 1910-1940*

April 2

- 1) *Belinda Robnett, "African-American Women in the Civil Rights Movement, 1954-1965: Gender, Leadership, and Micromobilization" Access via JSTOR, American Journal of Sociology, Vol. 101, No. 6. (May, 1996), pp. 1661-1693.*
Stable URL: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-9602%28199605%29101%3C1661%3AAAWITCR%3E2.0.CO%3B2-J>
- 2) *Ann Firor Scott, "Most Invisible of All: Black Women's Voluntary Associations" Access via JSTOR: The Journal of Southern History, Vol. 56, No. 1. (Feb., 1990), pp. 3-22.*
Stable URL: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-4642%28199002%2956%3C3%3AMIOABW%3E2.0.CO%3B2-F>

April 9

- 1) *MERIA: Palestinian Women's Model Parliament*
Access via AU database Columbia International Affairs Online, Vol. 2 No. 3/September 1998 Palestinian Women's Model Parliament By Dahlia Scheindlin
<http://www.ciaonet.org/olj/meria/meria98_scheindlin.html> - 10.6KB
- 2) *Women as the Leaders of Development*
October 5, 1998, New York Speeches and Transcripts: 1998 Asia Society. Access via AU database Columbia International Affairs Online.
<http://www.ciaonet.org/conf/asoc_spch98/jhr01.html>

April 16 PAPER DUE

April 23 *Marjorie Spruill Wheeler, New Women of the South: The Leaders of the Women's Suffrage Movement in the Southern States*

NOTE: Reading Journals due