

WOMEN AND POLITICS
POLS/WMST 317-500
MW 4:10-5:25 PM
SPRING SEMESTER, 2000
BUSH, ROOM 1006

Instructor: Dr. Nikki R. Van Hightower
Office: Bush 2106
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I. Course Goal:

The goal of the course is to create an understanding of women as emerging political players in society--their history as outsiders, strategies for gaining political power, the evolution of public policies that affect the lives and opportunities of women, and the present political status of women in the U.S. and globally.

II. Course Description:

This course examines the expanding role of women in political life. We begin our inquiry with a historical analysis of the gendering of American politics. This segment explores how gender bias was built into the foundation of American politics.

The second segment of the course addresses the cultural changes in women's lives, the forces behind those changes and their reflection in public policy. In this segment, we cover public policies in education, health care, reproductive rights, employment, the economy, family law, child care, and criminal justice.

The third segment of the course focuses on women as relatively new participants in U.S. electoral politics, a development that parallels cultural and public policy changes. We review the history of women's political participation, gender differences in political participation and behavior, and the challenges and opportunities for women as candidates and officeholders.

The course concludes with an international perspective on gender. In this segment we consider the effects of global processes and international relations on the division power between women and men.

III. Course Requirements

Lectures and discussions will challenge students to examine the importance of culture in defining gender roles, the division of political power between women and men, women's changing political role in the U.S. and other societies, and the impact of that change on governmental processes and public policy outcomes. **All students will be expected to attend class, be current with reading assignments and participate in class discussions.**

Students will be graded on a mid-term short answer essay exam, (30% of total grade), final essay exam, (35% of total grade), and a 10-12 page term paper, (35% of total grade). Details on the term paper will be distributed at a later time. Term paper topics must be approved by the instructor.

IV. Required Texts

M. Margaret Conway, David W. Ahern and Gertrude A. Steuernagel, *Women & Public Policy: A Revolution in Progress*, 2nd Edition (CQ Press) 1999. (**Conway-1**)

M. Margaret Conway, Gertrude A. Steuernagel and David W. Ahern, *Women & Political Participation, Cultural Change in the Political Arena* (CQ Press) 1997. (**Conway-2**)

Mark E. Kann, *The Gendering of American Politics: Founding Mothers, Founding Fathers, and Political Patriarchy* (Praeger) 1999.

V. Spike Peterson and Anne Sisson Runyan, *Global Gender Issues: Dilemmas in World Politics*, 2nd Edition (Westview) 1999.

LECTURE TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING ASSIGNMENT</u>
January 19:	Introduction	
January 24:	Women and American Politics	Kann, Chs. 1-3
January 26:	Men and American Politics	Kann, Chs. 4-6
January 31:	Culture and change	Kann, Ch. 7
February 2:	Women and public policy	Conway-1, Ch. 1
February 7:	Educational policy	Conway-1, Ch. 2
February 9:	Health care policy	Conway-1, Ch. 3
February 14:	Reproductive rights	Conway-1, pp. 51-53
February 16:	Video: <i>The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter</i>	
February 21:	Employment policy	Conway-1, Ch. 4
February 23:	Economic policies	Conway-1, Ch. 5
February 28:	Family law	Conway-1, Ch. 6
March 1:	Child care	Conway-1, Ch. 7
March 6:	Criminal justice policies	Conway-1, Chs. 8-9
March 8:	MID-TERM EXAM TERM PAPER PROPOSALS DUE	
March 13-17:	SPRING BREAK	

- March 21: Culture and political participation Conway-2, Ch. 1
- March 23: Political Socialization Conway-2, Ch. 2
- March 27: Political Differences: Women/Men Conway-2, Ch. 3
 Political differences: Women/Women Conway-2, Ch. 4
- March 29: Political Participation Conway-2, Ch. 5
- April 3: Video: *See Jane Run*
- April 5: Women as candidates
- April 10: Women as officeholders Conway-2, Ch. 6
- April 12: Video: *Getting Where We've Got to Be*
- April 17: The presidency and First Ladies Conway-2, Ch. 7
- April 19: Gender and World Politics Peterson, Chs. 1-2
- April 24: Gender and Power Peterson, Chs. 3-4
- April 26: Video: Beyond Beijing
- May 1: Women as global political players Peterson, Chs. 5-6
TERM PAPERS DUE
- May 8: **FINAL EXAM: 3:30-5:30 PM**

Note: Students with disabilities will be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students With Disabilities in Room 126 of the Koldus Building, or call 845-1637.