



WOMEN & POLITICS INSTITUTE  
SCHOOL of PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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**Women's Health Policy  
GOVT  
Fall 2004**

Instructor: Susan F. Wood, PhD  
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Meets: September 18-19, 2004 9AM-5PM  
Office hours: By Appointment Only

**Course Overview:**

This course will provide a background on women's health policy and politics in the United States, focusing primarily at the federal level. Women's health spans a variety of topics from specific health concerns such as reproductive health and breast cancer, to health issues that affect women differently, such as heart disease and HIV/AIDS. Guest speakers will highlight specific areas that serve as case studies for political action. Also, speakers from both the advocacy community and congressional staffers will address how women's health has been a priority issue on Capitol Hill.

**Readings:**

Limitedly available at the AU Bookstore or online at Amazon.com

**PLEASE REVIEW BEFORE CLASS:**

Weisman, C.S. (1998). *Women's Health Care: Activist Traditions and Institutional Change*. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD.

**Distributed in class:**

Goldman, MB and Hatch, M.C. (2000). An Overview of Women's Health, @ in *Women and Health*, eds. M. Goldman and M. Hatch, Academic Press, pp.5-14.

Seaman, B and Wood, S.F. (2000). A Role of Advocacy Groups in Research on Women's Health, @ *Women and Health*, eds. M. Goldman and M. Hatch, Academic Press, pp. 27-36.

**Grading:**

- 1) Attendance at every session is mandatory. Class will start at 9:00. A light breakfast with coffee and juice will be available at 8:45. Lunch will also be provided both days.
- 2) Each student will complete a 2-part paper. The first part will be a 5-8 page analysis of a particular women's health issue. The second part will be the development of a 1-2 page model-briefing memo to a policy maker, identifying the issue and making a recommended policy action. More detail will be provided

in class.

3) Grade for the course will be based on your paper. Note: Absence from lectures lead to a minimum of a full grade reduction, and unexcused absence will result in failure.

## Course Overview

### Saturday, Sept. 18

- 9:00-10:30            **Lecture and Discussion**  
*Background and History of Women's Health*  
Susan F. Wood, PhD
- 10:45-12:00        **Videos: Women's Health Activism**
- 1:00-2:30            **Case Study: Minority Women's Health**  
Elena Rios, MD, President, National Hispanic Medical Association
- 2:45-4:00            **Case Study: Reproductive Health Technologies**  
Susana Baruch, Center for Genetics and Public Policy, Johns Hopkins University
- 4:00-5:30            **Case Study: Breastfeeding**  
Suzanne G. Haynes, PhD, US Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health

### Sunday, Sept. 19

- 9:00-10:30        **Class Exercise: Issue Identification and Development**
- 11:00-12:30       **The Role of Women Members of Congress in Women's Health**
- 1:30-3:00           **Panel: Advocating for Women's Health**  
Martha Nolan, JD, Society for Research on Women's Health  
Leslie Wolfe, President, Center for Women Policy Studies
- 3:00-4:30           **Panel: A View from the Hill: Congressional Staff**  
Michael Schiffer, Leg. Dir. Office of Senator Feinstein  
Jenny Blau, Leg. Asst. Office of Rep. Hilda Solis