COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Although women's position in politics has begun to improve in the last few decades, the representation of women in local and national legislatures, in ministerial positions, and as heads of state and government is still considerably below that of men worldwide. Some countries have a better track record than others. Women make up 62% of the legislature in Rwanda, while the United States trails most Western countries with women accounting for only 19% of legislative seats. The 2016 presidential election in the US and recent legislative elections have highlighted many of the challenges women face. Some of the poorest countries in the world, like Senegal and Nicaragua, have some of the highest rates of female legislative representation in the world. We will be asking in this course what accounts for these differences.

The course will examine the implications of women's exclusions from public life in a global context; the obstacles to women's greater participation; how women have gained greater voice in political leadership; and whether women bring different kinds of concerns to the political arena. In this course we will be asking: How important is it to have equal political representation of women and men? Do women make a difference once in office? Would having more women in politics change the nature of public policy or even the way that politics is conducted? Do women engage in politics differently from men? Are women treated differently from men as politicians?

We will also consider in this course some of the obstacles for women as voters, candidates and officeholders. What are the particular constraints for women running for office? How much are women's possibilities for being elected to office affected by the electoral system, cultural attitudes towards women in leadership, family obligations, the media, party support, and sources of financing for campaigns? The course will engage various debates regarding women's political participation, including controversies over critical mass, electoral quotas and substantive representation. We will be asking to what extent can women influence politics once elected to office?

Perhaps more than any other type of human activity (militarism excepted), politics has been considered a male domain. For this reason, this course critically examines concepts like citizenship, the public and the private, and politics itself, to explore their gendered dimensions and varied meanings. In addition, the course will look at a variety of other topics, including the impact of social movements on women's political capabilities, how other societal differences impact gender difference in politics, and transnational influences on women's representation domestically. US experiences are placed in a comparative international context.

The objective of this course is to help students better understand why women have historically been excluded from politics throughout the world and to appreciate how and why their status is changing in this arena. Students will be able to hone their critical thinking and writing skills as well as familiarize themselves with key concepts related to the study of women and politics.
REQUIREMENTS

Any changes to the course and email notifications will be posted on the course wiki. It is your responsibility to check these notices on a regular basis.

Reading: I expect students to have read the assigned material and come to class prepared to discuss the readings.

Class Attendance: Class attendance is critical in order to effectively engage the material. The exams draw to a large extent on lectures and class discussion as well as readings and cannot be adequately completed without participating in and attending class. Please come to class on time out of respect for other class participants, but mostly for your own sake.

Participation: I strongly encourage class participation in various forms, especially through discussion in class. Participation can improve one’s grade, especially if it is borderline between grades. Students can share with the class recent relevant articles, blogs, or videos that caught their interest by posting them on the course wiki. Debates and commentary are especially encouraged. On occasion we may have short in-class or wiki writing assignments.

Assignments: There will be at least three short assignments throughout the course of the semester. These are a form of blended learning involving individual/group projects that last a little longer than the duration of the class, requiring you to draw on your readings to analyze a real world problem or dataset.

Quizzes: There will a quiz every two weeks to make sure you are keeping up with the readings and attending class.

Papers: One (8-10 page) term paper is required of undergraduate students and a 20-25 page research paper is required of graduate students. The papers must use course themes as a starting point. An abstract (paragraph summary) of the paper should be posted in the Learn@UW Dropbox on the date indicated below. Students are encouraged to meet with me before turning in their summary. If the topic is later changed, a new abstract must be submitted and approved.

Exams: Two exams are required. The exams will involve essays that integrate material.

NOTE: All exams, papers, book reviews and the abstract must be submitted in Learn@UW in the Dropbox. Please do NOT email them to me or give me a hard copy unless you experience difficulties uploading to Learn@UW.

GRADE CRITERIA

Participation (5%); quizzes (5%); assignments (10%); paper (30%); mid-term exam (25%); final exam (25%)

LAPTOPS AND CELL PHONE USE

Students may use laptops in class but only for taking notes. Cell phones must be turned off and put away. I cannot compete with these devices.
OFFICE HOURS

Please sign up for all appointments during office hours with Professor Tripp through allitripp.youcanbook.me. Office hours are **Tuesday 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and Thursday 1:00 to 3:00 pm in 217 North Hall**. If these times do not work feel free to contact me at atripp@wisc.edu to arrange another time.

DEADLINES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 18</td>
<td>Abstract due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 26</td>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>Term paper due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 21</td>
<td>Final exam 2:45 pm-4:45 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WIKI

You will need to explore the course wiki, which is a key resource for course updates, sources for your paper, databases, videos, links to additional readings, and other useful information. Please bookmark the page when you receive the link via email.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

You should be familiar with the University's standards for academic honesty as described in the pamphlet, Academic Misconduct: Rules and Procedures, published by the Dean of Students’ Office. Your paper and exams cannot be written even partially by someone else: they must be a product of your own efforts. Books, articles and class notes may be consulted in writing papers, but you must cite such sources, referencing or footnoting any facts or ideas that are not your own. Quoted material must be enclosed in quotation marks. Students who fail to heed this warning risk failing the course or an even worse fate. Please watch YouTube video on plagiarism that is linked to the wiki on the page “Quoting.”

READINGS

The required books are available for purchase from A Room of One’s Own, 315 W Gorham St, phone: (608) 257-7888, and can be borrowed from the Helen C. White Reserve Room. Additional readings are available on the course wiki.


SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

People with disabilities will be fully included in this course. Please inform the professor if you need any special accommodations in the curriculum, instruction, or assessments of this course to enable you to participate fully. Confidentiality of the shared information will be strictly maintained. Certain accommodations may require the assistance of the McBurney Disability Office on campus. The McBurney Disability Center can be reached at (608) 263-2741 or via email at mcburney@odos.wisc.edu.

COURSE OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE: WOMEN’S STRUGGLE FOR CITIZENSHIP
September 7

SHATTERING THE GLASS CEILING

September 12, 14
Assignment #1 (see wiki)
Paxton and Hughes, Chapter 1
Ford, Chapters 1 and 7
Ford Chapter 3, only section “The Glass Ceiling Remains”

STRUGGLES FOR SUFFRAGE

September 19
US Struggles for Suffrage
Ford, Chapter 2
Video: One Woman, One Vote (link on wiki)

Global Struggles for Suffrage
September 21
Paxton and Hughes, Chapter 2

GENDERED NATURE OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

September 26, 28
Ford, Chapter 3
Paxton and Hughes, Chapter 8, 10
Escobar-Lemmon and Taylor-Robinson Chapter 4, 8, 11

PROBLEMS OF REPRESENTATION

Representation and Women’s Interests
October 3, 5
Escobar-Lemmon and Taylor-Robinson Chapters 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 12

October 10, 12
Ford, Chapter 5, 6, 8, 9
Problems of Inclusion and Intersectionality  
October 17, 19  
Escobar-Lemmon and Taylor-Robinson Chapters 3, 7, 10  
Paxton and Hughes, Chapter 9

Quotas and Women’s Representation  
October 24  
Paxton and Hughes, Chapter 6, 13, 15

Mid-term Exam  
October 26

Unexpected Consequences of Conflict for Women’s Rights  
October 31  
Tripp, Preface, Chapters 1 and 4, *Women and Power in Postconflict Africa* (link on wiki)

Culture, Social Structure and Institutions  
November 2  
Paxton and Hughes, Chapters 3, 4, 5, 7, 14

GENDER AND ELECTIONS

November 7  
Gender and Elections  
Ford, Chapter 4

November 9, 14  
Gender and Presidential Elections:  

*Lessons from Presidential Gender Watch: A Nonpartisan Project to Track, Analyze, and Illuminate Gender Dynamics in Election*, Finding Gender in Election 2016: Barbara Lee Family Foundation and Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University, 2016. Pdf online (link on wiki).

November 16  
Role of Media: Watch video *Misrepresentation*  
Assignment #2

November 21  
Media and Elections  

November 23 Thanksgiving

STATE FEMINISM

November 28
Paxton and Hughes, Chapter 11, 12
Start reading Cooper

WOMEN’S MOVEMENTS

November 30
Cooper, Chapters 1-7
Assignment #3: Watch Pray the Devil Back to Hell (link on wiki)

WOMEN IN THE EXECUTIVE

December 5, 7
Cooper, Chapters 8-14

December 12
Discussion of Madame President
Cooper Chapters 15-23
Video: Iron Ladies of Liberia (see wiki for link)

Final Exam
December 21, 2:45 pm-4:45 pm