Professor: Mona Lena Krook  
Office: Hickman 314  
Email: m.l.krook@rutgers.edu  
Course Time: Mondays, 15.00-17.40  
Office Hours: By appointment, using  
https://rutgers.webex.com/meet/mk1041

Course Description

This seminar provides an introduction to key concepts in feminist theory and epistemology and explores how they have been applied to the study of politics. The course draws on feminist research in multiple disciplines and surveys how these theoretical ideas have informed research across the subfields of American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and political theory, focusing on the potential for feminist scholarship to transform the discipline of political science.

Course Requirements

The course seeks to introduce students to basic concepts and debates on gender and politics through two sets of course assignments:

- **Class participation** (25%) which includes coming to class prepared and participating actively in class discussions. Students should bring notes on the readings, as well as copies of the readings themselves, to every class. In fall 2020, the class will meet virtually on Webex or Zoom.

- **Three short essays** (25% each) which help students reflect on and integrate perspectives learned in the course: (1) an essay on feminist theory and concepts, (2) an essay on research design, and (3) a feminist genealogy paper and presentation on a Rutgers Women & Politics alum. Each paper should be 8-10 pages long, double-spaced.

- **Deadlines:** feminist theory essay on October 16 (questions distributed on October 5), research design essay on November 6 (assignment distributed on October 26), and genealogy paper and presentation on December 7 (assignment handout distributed on November 2). All papers are due by 11.59 PM and should be submitted via the Dropbox on Sakai.

Required Texts

All of the readings are available on the course’s Sakai page (login at https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal), except the following book which can be purchased online or from your favorite local bookstore.

COURSE SCHEDULE

September 8: Course and Subfield Introduction


https://www.apsanet.org/PUBLICATIONS/Journals/2020-APSR-Editorial-Team

https://qz.com/work/1679115/the-top-us-political-science-journal-will-now-be-led-by-12-female-professors/


FEMINIST THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

September 14: Types of Feminism


September 21: Concepts of Sex and Gender


September 28: The Category of Woman


October 5: Theories of Intersectionality

*Feminist theory essay question handed out (due on October 16).


**FEMINIST RESEARCH APPROACHES**

**October 12: Feminist Epistemology 1: Enlightenment Critiques and Reversals**


**October 19: Feminist Epistemology 2: Standpoint Theory and Postmodernism**


October 26: Feminist Research Methods

*Research design essay question handed out (due on November 6).


Feminist Political Science

November 2: Concepts


November 9: Activism


**November 16: Representation**


**November 23: Institutions**


**November 30: RU Women & Politics Faculty Research**


**December 7: RU Women & Politics Feminist Genealogies**

*In-class presentations and paper deadline.*