Course Description

This course surveys central topics in the study of gender and comparative politics, covering such issues as comparative methods, social movements, political parties, elections, political representation, states and public policy, and institutions. It seeks to map the trajectory of feminist work in various areas of comparative research, drawing on examples from various world regions and time periods to analyze similarities and differences across cases around the globe.

Course Requirements

This course aims to introduce students to basic concepts and debates in gender and comparative politics, focusing on developing a variety of analytical skills. Grades for the course will be calculated in the following way:

- **Class participation** (30%) You are expected to come to class prepared and to participate actively in class discussions. Being prepared means doing the readings in advance of class sessions, with notes on issues to raise during the class.
- **Class presentations** (20%) You will be assigned dates to bring in additional readings for presentation and class discussion. These readings can be from the list of ‘recommended’ readings – but ideally, would be a recently published article not on the syllabus which can be brought attention to in the class. You should present a summary of the article – including its motivation, methods, and findings – and reflect over how it speaks back to the other readings for that class session.
- **Review essay** (50%) You will write one review essay – approximately 8,000-10,000 words long – that surveys the literature in one particular area in the gendered study of comparative politics. You are not restricted to the topics outlined in the syllabus. The essay should discuss key contributions, evolution of research questions, and ongoing debates within the field. Ideally, this exercise will help serve as the foundation for a literature review in a future doctoral dissertation, but this is not required. Students are advised to consult me in an ongoing manner over the course of the semester to discuss the topic, potential readings, and any issues that arise in the writing of this essay. **Deadline:** May 13.

Course Policies

This course seeks to provide a comprehensive introduction to the gendered study of comparative politics. It involves extensive reading prior to class, but also seeks to continue learning and reflection during class periods. To help achieve these aims:

- **Attendance** is required.
- **Bring a copy of the readings** to each class session.
- Rethink, if necessary, your **reading strategy** to maximize absorption of the material.
Required Readings

The majority of the readings will be available on the course website in due course. Students are advised to purchase books that may be particularly relevant to their future research, but this is not required. A helpful resource that may be worth purchasing is:


*Indicates readings from this volume.
**Indicates readings available on my website.

COURSE SCHEDULE

January 28: Comparative Methods

Topics: definitions of ‘gender’ and ‘politics,’ gender and research methods, feminist political science, comparative politics of gender


*Recommended:*


Critical Perspectives Symposium on “Moving to a Comparative Politics of Gender?” 2006. Politics & Gender 2 (2): 221-263.


**February 4: Social Movements**

*Topics: feminist movements, women’s movements, women in social movements*


Recommended:


**February 11: Workshop with Sarah Childs**

Topics: theorizing/operationalizing substantive representation, political parties, British politics


**February 18: Political Parties**

**Topics:** women’s movements, party competition, women’s sections, party structures, women’s parties


Recommended:


February 25: Suffrage and Voting

Overview: suffrage campaigns, women’s right to vote, gender gaps in voting, voter gender biases


Recommended:


March 4: Elections

Topics: candidate selection, electoral systems, electing women


*Recommended:*


Kunovich, Sheri and Pamela Paxton. 2005. “Pathways to Power: The Role of Political Parties in


**March 11: NO CLASS**

**March 18: SPRING BREAK**

**March 25: Representation**

**Topics:** theories of representation, critical mass debates, rethinking representation


Recommended:


**April 1: Gender Quotas**

**Topics:** debates, adoption, implementation, impact beyond numbers


*Recommended:*

Barnes, Tiffany D. and Stephanie M. Burchard. Forthcoming. “‘Engendering’ Politics: The Impact of Descriptive Representation on Women’s Political Engagement in Sub-Saharan Africa.” *Comparative Political Studies.* Journal website, Online First.


**April 8: Democracy and Democratization**

**Topics:** theories of democracy, defining democracy, democratic transitions


Recommended:


April 15: The State

Topics: feminist theories of the state, welfare states, state feminism, state reconfiguration


Recommended:


**April 22: Public Policy**

**Topics:** theorizing public policy, gender equality approaches, gender mainstreaming


**Recommended:**


April 29: Institutions

Topics: formal and informal institutions, gendered institutions, feminist institutionalism


Recommended:


**May 6: New Research Frontiers**

**Topics:** masculinities, sexuality, intersectionality

All students are required to bring in an additional reading.


*Recommended:*


