Course Description

This course explores dynamics of political representation from multiple angles, surveying classic concepts and theories, new directions in research, and empirical studies of political representation. Introducing students to the nuances in these debates, course materials focus on a variety of identity groups, world regions, and time periods, drawing on work from multiple disciplines.

Course Requirements

This course seeks to introduce students to the study of political representation, focusing on developing a variety of analytical skills. Grades for the course will be calculated as follows:

- **Class participation** (40%) which includes coming to class prepared and participating actively in class discussions. Attendance is required. Students are expected to read all assigned materials prior to class and arrive with questions and observations to contribute to class discussions. A copy of the readings should be brought to each class. *Students are strongly encouraged to take notes with pen and paper, rather than a laptop, to avoid distraction and enhance the learning experience.* Other ways to participate include bringing in news items and other examples related to topics and dynamics being discussed in class. The short paper to be written following the October 25 class will also be factored into this grade.

- **A major term paper** (60%) in which students engage with multiple course topics and readings, but also incorporate materials from independent research outside of class. This paper should be at least **5000 words long** and will be written in stages over the course of the semester. Students should select one of these topics: (1) map and critically assess arguments for increasing representation of one particular group; (2) compare dynamics of representation in relation to two different groups; or (3) evaluate the case for and against group-based quotas in relation to three different groups. *Students should bring their own agenda to the analysis, but all papers should reference both theoretical debates and empirical evidence.*

- **Deadlines:** a paper proposal with list of potential sources (at least 20) on **October 4**, the short paper in response to the film on **November 1**, a draft section of the paper (at least 2000-3000 words) on **November 22**, and the final paper on **December 21**. The proposal and draft section are due before class and the final paper is due by 11.59 PM. All work should be submitted via the Dropbox on Sakai.

Required Readings

All of the readings will be posted on Sakai, with the exception of one book that is available for purchase at the campus bookstore and via online retailers:

COURSE SCHEDULE

CLASSIC CONCEPTS AND THEORIES OF POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

September 6: Introduction to Political Representation


September 13: Types of Political Representation


September 20: Representation and Democracy


September 27: Inclusion and Political Representation


NEW DIRECTIONS IN STUDYING POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

October 4: Interest Groups, Representation, and Representativity


October 11: Representation as Claims-Making


**October 18: Rethinking Political Inclusion/Exclusion**


**October 25: Film and Short Essay**

**Film:** Miss Representation

**Essay Question:** How does this film speak to and/or challenge themes addressed in the course?

**EMPIRICAL STUDIES OF POLITICAL REPRESENTATION**

**November 1: Class**


**November 8: Gender**


**November 15: Race**


**November 22: Sexual Orientation and Identity**


**November 29: Age**


**December 6: Disability**


**CONCLUSIONS AND REFLECTION**

**December 13: Intersectionality and Political Representation**

Student presentations on articles selected from handout circulated earlier in the semester.