GVPT459N Gender and Politics

Instructor – Dr. Noa Balf

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Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30am-10:45am

TYD 2110

Office Hours – Tuesday 3-5pm

Course Description:

The course will introduce students to the main topics in Gender and Politics scholarship. Race, sexual orientation, class, and gender identity are all fundamental to the critical analysis of the who, where, what and when of gender politics. This class covers diverse issues such as; women’s participation in political parties, women as voters and candidates in political elections, feminism and the state, and gender and international politics. The class will further expose students to democratic representation theoretical literature.

Course Requirements:

1) **Students must complete the readings before each lecture. All readings are available on ELMS or links in the syllabus**

2) **Participation in class discussion** accounts for 25% of your grade. This is not a lecture course. I expect you to share your comments and criticism about the course’s subject matter with the class. You should exert as much effort as I do to keep the class discussion lively and enlightening.

3) **Midterm Paper** (8 pages) - Critically analyze a current ‘gender and politics’ event that relates to research discussed in class so far (political parties, social movements, elections, the state). Students are required to use at least two credible media sources, assigned class materials, and at least four external academic sources. Students should be able to A) clearly articulate existing theory and research B) provide their own analysis of the political event C) comment on media coverage (does the journalist use existing research?). **Due March 5th**

4) **Final Paper** (10 pages) – Write a case study exploring a country and an event or aspect of the political process (elections, legislative activity, executive process, conflict and/or conflict resolution, rebel groups) in a gendered lens. Address the way in which considering gender/intersectionality provides new insight on the issue. More detailed instructions will be provided in a separate document on ELMS. **Due Last day of Class May 14th**
Grading:

Participation – 25%
Midterm Paper – 35%
Final Paper – 40%

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the semester I expect students to:

➢ Be able to articulate a definition for gender and be able to understand and explain the role gender plays in the political process.

➢ Form their own opinion on key gender-related issues, basing their opinion on the theories and practical applications discussed in class.

➢ Better understand how gender and politics differ in different areas of the world.

➢ Improve their understanding of how legislatures work.

➢ Improve their writing and critical analysis skills.

Readings:

There are no assigned books for this class. All readings are posted on ELMS.
Students are expected to read materials BEFORE class.

(Rough) Grading Criteria for Participation:

For an A (100-90): Attends class consistently. Comes prepared and having done the reading. Contributes positively to class discussion. Does not merely state opinions, but instead uses the texts to interrogate one’s own opinions and struggles honestly with the texts. Is curious and engaged.

For a B (89-80): Attends class consistently. Comes prepared and having done the reading. Contributes to class discussion with some regularity. Sometimes unprepared or not participatory.

For a C (79-70): Attends class with some kind of regularity. Often prepared, does not participate in class discussion and appears uninterested or unwilling to engage with the assigned material.
For a D (69-60): Attends class occasionally, without having prepared, and has put little effort into reading and or engaging with the assigned material.

For an F (59-0): I have no idea who you are.

Grading Criteria for Papers:

For an A (100-90): Shows clear familiarity with the text; supports claims with references to the text; answers the questions completely; its claims and argumentative structure moves from point to point effortlessly and elegantly; it has a clear and often original thesis and the argument of the paper supports the thesis; it engages the text with interest. Clearly excellent work.

For a B (89-80): Shows some familiarity with the text but relies mostly on class discussion for that familiarity; presents a plausible interpretation but does not always support or document it with the text; does not always move logically from point to point; good work, but not excellent work.

For a C (79-70): This paper does all that it absolutely needs to in order to prove that the student has the knowledge and skills to pass the class. Shows a passing familiarity with the text, but only passing; the narrative or argument structure shows some signs of intelligibility and rationality; overall, the exam reflects information from class discussion, and not always in coherent argumentative form.

For a D (69-60): Fails to reflect even the most basic information from class discussion, much less the texts; answers questions incompletely or not at all; offers little or no support for claims; answers are disorganized and argumentative or narrative structure is non-existent.

For an F (59-0): Fails to reflect much of anything at all, except perhaps one's own opinions, whether they relate to the text and to class discussion or not; has no structure; makes no attempt at argument, intelligibility, coherency, etc. Alternatively, has not submitted required assignments.

Missed Assignments: Papers must be submitted on time, barring exceptional circumstances. As a general rule, extensions of assignment due dates will not be granted, and late assignments will be docked one full letter grade immediately, and one letter grade per 24-hour period thereafter. All assignments will be submitted and graded through ELMS. Should some obstacle arise to prevent you from submitting your work on time, it is always better to speak with me (ahead of time!) about the problem rather than trying to explain yourself after something unseemly has been discovered.
Plagiarism: It goes without saying that plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Gender Neutral & Gender Specific Language and Names and Accents: Academics no longer use the pronoun “he” to apply universally to all persons, nor do we use the term “man,” when we are referring to humanity or people in general. In our writing, when we are making generalizations we should use gender neutral pronouns, that is, sie and hir, s/he, him or her, they/their, etc. When referring to a specific person or group of people, we should use the language and pronouns that they prefer if we know them. Further, we should be attentive to the spelling and accents of author’s names (note for example María Lugones and bell hooks). Finally, all authors must be referred to by their entire names, or only their last names, not by their first names, orally and in writing.

Accommodations Related to a Disability: I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Service (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form that has been updated for the Fall 2018 semester. Please provide the form during the first month of class. For more information, please see http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS/Forms/Pink_Sheet_Instructions_rev_7.11.14.pdf.

Medical Excuses and Student Emergencies: You should notify me that you will not be in attendance due to illness or injury and thus will miss a lecture. Additionally, you are required to present me with documentation from a medical professional for missing class. Absences resulting from compelling circumstances beyond the student's control will be handled in accordance with the University’s Policy on Attendance and Assessment: http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/atedasse.html. Note that documentation of the relevant circumstances will be required.

For illnesses or injuries resulting in (1) extended or non-consecutive absences, (2) missing an examination, and/or (3) an inability to submit your short essays by the due date, I will require a Health Center or medical doctor’s health excuse. (2) and (3) are “Major Scheduled Grading Events” for the purpose of University policy. If you do not inform me or if you do not present me with timely documentation, you will receive an “F” for the exam/essay in question. Note: In the case that you are unable to get a written medical excuse, you may ask your provider for a copy of your medical notes for the specific visit(s) in question.

Religious Observances: Students must notify me of an excused absence or accommodation
due to a religious observance. Requests will be handled in accordance with the University's Policy on Religious Observances: http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/atedasse.html.

**Schedule:**

**Tuesday 1/29** – Introductions

Mann, Kate “Down Girl the logic of misogyny”

**Thursday 1/31** - Introduction to Gender and Politics


**Tuesday 2/5** - The “Gender” of Political Science


**Thursday 2/7** – Women and Social Movements


**Tuesday 2/12** - Gender, Elections and Political Participation


Fox, R. L. and Lawless, J. L. (2014). “Uncovering the origins of the gender gap in political


Thursday 2/14 – Women, Political Parties, and Representation

Krook, Mona Lena, and Childs, Sarah. (Oxford University Press, 2010), Women, Gender and Politics, pp. 81-86, 89-94, 107-114


Tuesday 2/19 - Gender and Policy


Strolovitch, Dara Z. Affirmative Advocacy: Race, Class, and Gender in Interest Group Politics. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007, Conclusion

Thursday 2/21 – Quotas


Murray, Rainbow. 2014. “Quotas for Men.” APSR

Tuesday 2/26 – Descriptive Representation ➔ Substantive Representation?


Thursday 2/28 - Feminism and the State

Kantola, Johanna and Squires, Judith. 2012. “From state feminism to market feminism?.”
*International Political Science Review.* 33(4): 382-400


Tuesday 3/5 - Political Economy and Gender


Michael Barber, Daniel M. Butler and Jessica Preece (2016), "Gender Inequalities in Campaign Finance", Quarterly Journal of Political Science: Vol. 11: No. 2, pp 219-248. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1561/100.00015126](http://dx.doi.org/10.1561/100.00015126)

*(SHORT PAPER DUE)*

Thursday 3/7 - Economics of Gender


Tuesday 3/12 - Gender and Conflict


Thursday 3/14 - Queerness

David Paternotte. 2018. “Coming out of the political science closet: the study of LGBT politics in Europe.” European Journal of Politics and Gender • vol 1 • no 1–2 • 55–74

Moreau, J. (2018). Trump in Transnational Perspective: Insights from Global LGBT Politics. Politics & Gender, 14(4), 619-648. doi:10.1017/S1743923X18000752 (which is from the same politics and gender as Murib’s article)

Tuesday 3/26

Gadarian and Van Der Vort "Gaf Reflex..." in Political Behavior

Ayoub Phillip "With Arms Wide Shut"

Murib, Zein “Transgender: examining emerging political identity using three political processes”

Spring Break 3/17-3/24

Thursday 3/28 - Local Politics/Urban Politics


Tuesday 4/2 - Leadership


**Thursday 4/4**


**Tuesday 4/9**

Medie, Peace A.; Kang, Alice J. “Power, knowledge and the politics of gender in the Global South.” EJPG

Mügge, Liza; Montoya, Celeste; Emegulu, Akwugo; and Weldon, Laurel S. “Intersectionality and the politics of knowledge production.” EJPG


**Thursday 4/11**


**Tuesday 4/16 - Gender and Religion**


Dogangun. 2019. “Gender Climate in Authoritarian Politics: A Comparative Study of Russia and Turkey.” Politics and Gender
Nayak, Meghana. “False Choice Between Universalism and Religion/Culture.” Critical Perspectives in Politics and Gender

**Thursday 4/18 – NO CLASS (Passover)**

**Tuesday 4/23 - Bodies and Sexuality**


Agnes Blome, Anouk Lloren, Jan Rosset; The Politicisation of Abortion, Voters’ Stereotypes and the Electoral Success of Women Candidates, Parliamentary Affairs, , gsy044, https://doi.org/10.1093/pa/gsy044

**Thursday 4/25 - Race and Intersectionality**


Indigenous Communities

Kanthak and Krause. Valuing Diversity in Political Organizations


**Tuesday 4/30**


Thursday 5/2 – Conservatism

Childs and Celis. 2014. Gender, Conservatism, and Political Representation. selections

Tuesday 5/7 – Gender and IR


Thursday 5/9 – Violence against Women

Critical Perspectives on Violence Against Women in Politics and Gender Volume 14 Issue 4 December 2018

Tuesday 5/14 – LAST DAY OF CLASSES FINAL PAPER DUE

Immigration

Perry, Leah The cultural Politics of U.S. Immigration Gender, Race, and Media. Introduction