

WOMEN OF COLOR IN POLITICS
GVPT479W
SPRING 2022

Instructor: Dr. Chryl Laird
Office Location: 3140 Tydings
Email: cnlaird@umd.edu

Classroom: 1102 Tydings
Class Meetings: MW 1:00PM-2:15PM
Office Hours: MW 3-4PM

Signup for office hours here: claird.youcanbook.me

"I would hope that a wise Latina woman with the richness of her experiences would, more often than not, reach a better conclusion than a white male who hasn't lived that life."- Justice Sonia Sotomayor, United States Supreme Court

Course Description

The lives of women of color (WoC or BIPOC women) have often been overlooked in our canonical text and scholarship that examine American politics. This course explores the significant contributions of women of color (WoC) through an intersectional lens where we consider how their race and gender identities work simultaneously at shaping their lived political experiences. WoC of color and their narratives are centered in our examination of the nation's founding to the contemporary era. We do a deep dive into the roles and positions of power WoC has had in politics through academic journals, texts, and mass behavior. We do close readings of biographies/autobiographies that provide a voice to the experiences faced by WoC in both traditional and non-traditional political spaces. These include women of color as close confidants to male political figures (first ladies, wives, and "mistresses") and as politicians, judges, activists, and revolutionaries.

Course Requirements

Assignment	Percentage
Paper #1 (Due March 4 th by 5pm)	20%
Paper #2 (Due April 15 th by 5pm)	20%
Paper #3 (Due on Final Exam date by 5pm)	25%
Reading Responses (5)	20%
In-Class Participation/Attendance	15%
TOTAL	100%

Papers

The papers in this course are roughly 6-8 pages. They will be done in response to a prompt provided by me. For each paper, I will provide information on what I am expecting in your paper, as well as the grading rubric. Assignment information and rubrics will be provided in class and on the course ELMS page. Feedback for the papers will be provided on ELMS. **There are 3 papers in the course.**

Recorded Reactions

Recorded reactions are audio file reactions to the course readings/film/podcast. You are to complete these before the week in which we will be discussing the readings. **You should upload your audio file by 11 AM on the day** that we will discuss the material. You are to complete **5 recorded reactions** over the course of the semester. Please complete **2 before Spring Break, 2**

after Spring Break, and the last one can be done at any time. Once the material has been discussed in class, a late submission for that content will not be accepted. You cannot do a record reaction on material after it has been discussed in class.

In-Class Participation

I will also be grading you on in-class participation. During class discussions, I will be taking note of students that participate. The assessment will be based on your participation throughout the entire semester. Your attendance record will also be to assess your participation. You are expected to attend every class. If you are absent, a lot then you can also anticipate that this will reflect in your participation grade. **Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please contact me about long-term absences. If you are exhibiting COVID symptoms, please do not attend class to reduce the spread of infection and get tested. UMD guidelines for testing can be found here:** <https://umd.edu/4Maryland/covid-testing#testing-what>

Pop Quizzes

Pop Quizzes will be administered if it becomes apparent that students are not doing course readings. These pop quizzes will count towards your participation grade. There are no make-ups for pop quizzes.

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities will be at the discretion of the instruction. You will be notified of these opportunities if they become available.

Late Assignment Policy

Assignments submitted late will lose 1/3 letter grade for any late submission within the first 24 hours. Each additional 24 hours results in another 1/3 letter grade reduction. Due to the nature of the pandemic, exceptions to this policy will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Final Grade Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage	Letter Grade	Percentage	Letter Grade	Percentage
A	≥ 92.5	B-	≥ 79.5	D+	≥ 66.5
A-	≥ 89.5	C+	≥ 76.5	D	≥ 62.5
B+	≥ 86.5	C	≥ 72.5	D-	≥ 59.5
B	≥ 82.5	C-	≥ 69.5	F	< 59.5

Learning Objectives

- Students will develop a better understanding of racial diversity in the United States. They will also learn about the difficulty politicians experience in representing such a diverse population. These skills will help students in the future as they interact with a growing diverse population
- Identify causes of systemic bias and discrimination against underrepresented groups, including racism against Black people and African Americans, and critically evaluate theories and evidence in this area.
- Communicate clear and concise thesis statements in oral/ written assignments.

- Develop the ability to understand the main arguments of writers/scholars through close readings of a primary and secondary text.
- Evaluate scholarly arguments through critical analysis using reliable sources
Evaluate the importance and role of “original voice”

Required Texts

The required books are available at the online bookstore: <https://umcp.bncollege.com/>

- *Contested Tensed Transformation: Race, Gender and Political Leadership in 21st Century America* (2016) by Carol Hardy-Fanta, Pei-Te Lien, Dianne M. Pinderhughes, Christine Marie Sierra. ISBN: 9780521144544
- *Every day is a Gift* (2021) by Tammy Duckworth ISBN: 9781538721216
- *My Beloved World* (2013) by Sonia Sotomayor. ISBN: 9780345804839

I will also be posting required readings on the ELMS website for the course or emailing them to the class.

Student Assistance

I want my students to do well in this course. I am open to answering questions, clarifying materials, offering suggestions for studying, assisting with paper writing, and addressing any concerns you may have about the course. I have assigned office hours listed in the syllabus, but if my schedule allows, I can also meet at alternate times if you are unable to attend office hours. Questions and concerns can also be raised in class, and I encourage you to do so.

Classroom Behavior

In class, discussions will be a central part of this course. These discussions will be based on the assigned readings as well content brought up in the lecture. I believe that these discussions can benefit students in a variety of different ways. Students will not only enhance their critical thinking skills but will also be exposed to alternative opinions related to a particular issue. Students will have to learn how to defend their views rationally when presented with an opposing view. *Trigger Warning:* Many of these issues could be considered controversial and/or sensitive. Many of the topics will include sexual assault, domestic abuse, police brutality, white identity politics, and racial/gender hierarchies. Students should feel free to express their opinions. At the same time, we must remember to respect one another and maintain a constructive and civil dialogue. If you are unable to engage in conversation in this manner you will be dismissed from the discussion. If you are uncomfortable with discussing these topics throughout the semester it will be up to you to determine if you want to stay in this course.

Academic Integrity and Honor Code:

All written work must be your own and must be in line with the University of Maryland regulations on academic honesty. You are expected to be aware of these guidelines; ignorance does not excuse a violation of these guidelines. The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student, you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. You need to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit

<https://studentconduct.umd.edu/you/students>

Disability Services

I will make every effort to accommodate students with disabilities. If you need accommodation, please let me know as early as possible, and please provide written documentation from the Accessibility and Disability Service office:

<https://www.counseling.umd.edu/ads/>

Writing Services

I encourage you to take advantage of the Writing Center at UMD. Getting feedback benefits all writers! Trained writing consultants can help with any writing, multimedia project, or oral presentation. During one-on-one consultations, you can work on everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. Bring your assignment description, and a few goals, to the consultation! For more information, or to make an appointment please visit: <https://english.umd.edu/writing-programs/writing-center>

Tentative Class Schedule

Below is a tentative class schedule. The schedule is subject to change based on the needs of the class.

Weeks	Readings
Week 1 What is Intersectionality and Why Do We Need It?	Mon 1/24: Introduction to Course Wed 1/26: Intersectionality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kimberle Crenshaw (1991): "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics and Violence Against Women of Color"• Patricia Hill Collins (2001): Chapter 1 of Intersectionality as Critical Social Theory
Week 2 Measuring Intersectionality in the Social Sciences and Notions of Identity	Mon 1/31: Intersectionality (cont'd) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Angie Marie Hancock (2007)-"When Multiplication Doesn't Equal Quick Addition: Examining Intersectionality as a Research Paradigm"• Leslie McCall (2005)-"The Complexity of Intersectionality" Wed 2/2: Feminism <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patricia Hill Collins (1996)- "What's in a Name?: Womanism, Black Feminism, and Beyond"• Mariana Ortega (2006)- "Being Lovingly, Knowingly Ignorant"• Mikki Kendall (2020)-Solidarity is Stil for White Women
Week 3 Women of Color in Politics in Early America: Mythology or Truth	Mon 2/7: Sally Hemmings <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annette Gordon-Reed: Chapter 14-16 of <i>The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family</i>• WATCH (on ELMS) Unearthing Sally Hemings' legacy at Monticello: https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/unearthing-sally-hemings-legacy-at-monticello Wed 2/9 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• LIBRARY SESSION: GO TO MCKELDIN 6107

<p>Week 4 Women of Color in Politics in Early America: Mythology or Truth (Part II)</p>	<p>Mon 2/14: Mammy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melissa Harris-Perry: p 69-79 of <i>Sister Citizen: Shame Stereotypes, and Black Women in America</i> • Tony Horwitz: “The Mammy Washington Almost Had” from <i>The Atlantic</i> • Scarlett and Mammy from <i>Gone With the Wind</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZ7r2OVu1ss <p>Wed 2/16: Sacagawea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patricia Vettel-Becker-“Sacagawea and Son: The Visual Construction of America's Maternal Feminine” • Jan C. Dawson-Sacagawea: Pilot or Pioneer Mother?
<p>Week 5 Women of Color in the Suffrage Movement and Political Office</p>	<p>Mon 2/21: Mabel Lee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PODCAST (on ELMS) Grace May, Jane Hong and Tim Tseng: The Asian American Feminist Trailblazer-Mabel Ping Hua Lee https://fullerstudio.fuller.edu/centering/mabel-ping-hua-lee/ • Mabel Lee: “The Meaning of Woman Suffrage” in <i>The Chinese Student Monthly</i> (1914) <p>Wed 2/23: Ida B Wells & Nina Otero-Warren</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ida B Wells-“Seeking the Negro Vote” from <i>Crusade for Justice: The Autobiography of Ida B. Wells</i> • Ida B Wells-“Miss Willard’s Attitude” from <i>The Red Record</i> • Ann M. Massmann: “Nina” Otero-Warren: A Spanish-American Cultural Broker”
<p>Week 6 Women of Color Activists: Jim Crow & the Civil Rights Movement</p>	<p>PAPER #1 DUE BY MARCH 4TH BY 5PM ON ELMS</p> <p>Mon 2/28: Fannie Lou Hamer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fannie Lou Hamer: “I’m Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired” • PODCAST (on ELMS) Interview with Eleanor Sandra Fischer (NYPR) http://www.wnyc.org/story/interview-civil-rights-legend-fannie-lou-hamer/ <p>Wed 3/2: Myrlie Evers-Williams and Sara Collins Rudolph</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myrlie Evers-Williams: Chapters 2-<i>Watch Me Fly: What I Learned on the Way to Becoming the Woman I was Meant to Be</i> • Tracie David Snipe and Sarah Collins Rudolf: Excerpts from <i>The 5th Little Girl: Soul Survivor of the 16th St Baptist Church Bombing</i>
<p>Week 7 Women and Non-Binary Activists of Color: Civil Rights Movement</p>	<p>Mon 3/7: Grace Lee Boggs & Pauli Murray</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WATCH (on ELMS): <i>American Revolutionary The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs</i> • IN-CLASS FILM: <i>My Name is Pauli Murray</i> <p>Wed 3/9: Pauli Murray</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IN-CLASS FILM: <i>My Name is Pauli Murray</i>

Week 8 Women and Transwomen of Color Activists (Part II): The Power Movements	Mon 3/14: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy Uyematsu: “The Emergence of Yellow Power in America” • Donna Hightower Langston: “American Indian Women’s Activism in the 1960s and 1970s” Wed 3/16: Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WATCH (on ELMS): <i>Pay It No Mind: Marsha P. Johnson</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjN9W2KstqE • Samuel Galen Ng- "Trans Power! Sylvia Lee Rivera's STAR and the Black Panther Party"
Week 9	3/21-3/23: SPRING BREAK
Week 10 Women of Color and the Battles for Political Office	Mon 3/28: Shirley Chisholm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WATCH (on ELMS): <i>Chisholm’72-Unbought & Unbossed</i> • Christina Greer: “To Be Young, Gifted, Black and A Woman: A Comparison of the Presidential Candidacies of Charlene Mitchel and Shirley Chisholm” Wed 3/30: A Portrait of Elected Officials of Color <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Contested Transformation</i> Chapter 3
Week 11 Women of Color in the Judicial Branch	Mon 4/4: Anita Hill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WATCH (streaming thru UMD Library): <i>Anita: Speaking Truth to Power</i> Wed 4/6: Sonia Sotomayor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sonia Sotomayor: <i>My Beloved World</i> • Derek Hawkins: “Wise Latina woman?: Jeff Sessions, race and his grilling of Sonia Sotomayor” • WATCH (on ELMS) Sonia Sotomayor Confirmation Hearing Clip: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fwxQaiaKyY
Week 12 Women of Color and Conservatism	PAPER #2 DUE APRIL 15TH BY 5PM ON ELMS Mon 4/11: Nikki Haley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haley: Excerpts from <i>Can’t Is Not an Option</i> Wed 4/13: Condoleezza Rice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice: Excerpts from <i>Condoleezza Rice: A Memoir of My Extraordinary, Ordinary Family and Me</i>
Week 13 Women of Color and Doing Leadership and Governance	Mon 4/18: Leadership and Governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Contested Transformation</i>-Chapter 6 • WATCH (On ELMS): <i>A Class of Their Own: The New Women of Congress Claim Their Space</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKRQt4enGj8 Wed 4/20: Tammy Duckworth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duckworth: <i>Everyday is a Gift</i>

Week 14

Women of Color: The First Lady

Women of Color and Reproductive Rights

Mon 4/25: Michelle Obama

- Obama: Excerpts from *Becoming*
- Melissa Harris-Perry: Chapter 7 “Michelle” from *Sister Citizen*

Wed 4/27: Reproductive Rights

- Sillman et al: Chapter 7 “The Mother’s Milk Project” from *Undivided Rights Women of Color Organize for Reproductive Justice*
- Sillman et al: Chapter 10 “The National Asian Women’s Health Organization” from *Undivided Rights Women of Color Organize for Reproductive Justice*

Week 15

Women and Girls of Color, Police Brutality and Prisons

Mon 5/2: Police Brutality and Policing Behavior

- Andrea Ritchie: Chapter 3 “Policing Girls” from *Invisible No More: Police Violence Against Black Women and Women of Color*
- Mikki Kendall: Of #FasttailedGirls and Freedom from *Hood Feminism* (ebook available thru UMD)

Wed 5/4: Prison Abolition

- Mariame Kaba: pp.1-29 from *We Do this ‘Til We Free Us: Abolitionist Organizing and Transforming Justice*

Week 16

Women of Color in Global Politics

Mon 5/9: Activism in Aleppo

WATCH (On ELMS): *For Sama* by Waad Al-Kateab
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8jFHbo0Cgu8>

PAPER #3 DUE BY Final Exam Date on ELMS