***POL 379: Women and Politics***

***Special Centennial Women’s Suffrage Edition***

**Professors Kathleen Dowley & KT Tobin** 

**Spring 2017**

**Wed. 3:30-6:20**

**OM 229**

**Office Hours: KT Mondays 2:30-3:30, HAB 704B**

**Professor Dowley, Mondays 1-3 in Southside House, Wed 1:30-3 JFT 920**

**Course Description:**

While women’s representation in formal political life has increased since the end of World War II, they remain underrepresented, relative to their proportion in the population, nearly everywhere. In the United States, nationally women’s progress has stalled for the past decade at just under 20 percent in the US Congress. Women have been more successful in gaining elected office in some other Western democracies—they regularly make-up about four in ten of parliamentary representatives in Scandinavia, the Netherlands, and Germany At the highest levels of political elected office, the first ever woman elected as prime minister in 1960 was Sri Lankan Sirivamo Bandaranaike. The first elected woman president was Isabel Peron of Argentina in 1974. In 2015, ten (6.6 percent) countries had female heads of state. At the local level data is sparse, but based on research conducted by United Cities and Local Governments, it is estimated that globally 15 percent of local government council seats were held by women. Despite gains of the last century, nowhere – be it national, regional, or local – are women fully represented in equal proportion to men in political life.

Why are there still so few women in politics? And would more women in politics make a substantive difference in public policymaking? The aim of this course is to comparatively consider the barriers (cultural, institutional and economic) and opportunities for women in politics around the world. This special edition of the course will be linked to the campus-wide commemoration of the centennial of women’s suffrage in New York State (2017). Students will be researching and developing posters to present at the conference, to be held at SUNY New Paltz on Saturday April 22. Students will be expected to attend the conference, present their posters to registered participants, and attend at least one panel on that day.

**Course Requirements:**

Midterm 20%

Final 25%

Group Poster/Presentation at WGSS Conference 15%

Conference Panel Summary 5%

Attendance/Participation 10%

6-8 page comparative regional paper 15%

Daily Thesis Report/review essay 10%

**Daily Thesis Report and Critical Review Essay:**

Daily participation in class discussions and attendance is expected. More than 2 unexcused absences will diminish your participation grade. **Each student will additionally be expected to do at least one “thesis” report on a day’s assigned readings**. This involves summarizing the author’s most important ideas for the class and identifying for the class the most interesting or surprising claim/quote in the reading. Where relevant, some comparison between earlier authors and readings is encouraged.

Readings marked with an asterisk\* are eligible for reporting. Additionally, students should write a 2-3 page (double spaced) critical review of that reading. This means spending only the first page summarizing the arguments, using the final page and a half to think critically about the piece, the research design, the hypotheses, the measurement of explanatory variables, and the conclusions drawn. Where feasible, make comparisons between authors and readings assigned for the class.

Information on the Group “Regional” Poster Project and the corresponding individual paper derived from it to be handed out in February.

**Learning Outcomes:**

**At the end of the semester, students are expected to achieve the following learning outcomes:**

1. Describe and explain trends in women’s engagement and representation in politics, and the concepts and theories utilized by social scientists to explain them;
2. Demonstrate an understanding of current normative and empirical debates about the consequences of women’s under-representation in public life;
3. Appropriately apply one of the key theoretical tenets to a comparative case study;

**Required Books:**

**There is one required book for the course, available at the college bookstore:**

**\**Women, Politics, and Power: A Global Perspective* (3rd edition), Pamela Paxton and Melanie Hughes, Sage Publications (2017).**

Additional Readings are available under the Course Readings tab on our course Blackboard page.

**Academic Honesty Policy**: Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty in their college work. Cheating, forgery, and plagiarism are serious offenses, and students found guilty of any form of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary action. For definitions of these offenses, as well as the process that a faculty member will follow if a student is found to be engaging in any form of academic dishonesty, see the section on Academic Integrity in the Advising Handbook, available at [www.newpaltz.edu/acadadv](http://www.newpaltz.edu/acadadv).

Students with documented physical, learning, psychological and other disabilities are entitled to receive reasonable accommodations. If you need classroom or testing accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center (Student Union Building, Room 205, 257-3020). The DRC will provide forms verifying the need for accommodation. As soon as the instructor receives the form, you will be provided with the appropriate accommodations. Students are encouraged to request accommodations as close to the beginning of the semester as possible.

**Weekly Course Schedule:**

Wed, Jan 25 Women and/in Politics: Why Does it Matter?

Chapter 1*, Women, Politics, and Power*

Video, Sheryl Sandberg, Ted Talks, “Why There are So Few Women Leaders”

\*Virginia Sapiro, “Feminist Studies and Political Science—And Vice Versa,” Virginia Sapiro, in *Feminism and Politics,* edited by Anne Phillips

\*Mansbridge, Jane. 1999. “Should Blacks Represent Blacks and Women Represent Women? A Contingent Yes,” *Journal of Politics*, 61 (3): 628-657.\*

\*Phillips, Anne. “Democracy and Representation: Or Why Should it Matter Who our Representatives Are?” from *Feminism and Politics*

Wed, Feb 1 Political Participation:

Women’s Suffrage Movements in Comparative Perspective

Guest Lecturer, Professor Susan Lewis, History Department

Chapter 2 and 3*, Women, Politics, and Power*

\*Francisco Ramirez, (1997) “The Changing Logic of Political Citizenship: `Cross National Acquisition of Women’s Suffrage Rights, 1890-1990,” *American Sociological Review* 67: 735-745.\*

\*Inglehart, Ronald and Pippa Norris. 2000. “The Developmental Theory of the Gender Gap: Women’s and Men’s Voting Behavior in Global Perspective,” *International Political Science Review*, vol 21 (4): 441-463.\*

Center for American Women in Politics: Gender Gap Fact Sheets

**In Class Film Clip, *One Woman, One Vote***

Wed, Feb 8 Women and Representation: Cultural Explanations

Chapters 4, *Women, Politics and Power*

\*[Inglehart, R. F.](http://www.psc.isr.umich.edu/people/profile/674/Ronald_F_Inglehart), and Norris, P. 2003. "The True Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Policy*, March/April: 62-70.

\*Fox, Richard and Jennifer Lawless. “Girls Just Wanna Not Run,” Women and Politics Institute (2013) Washington, DC.

**Guest Lecturer, Former Democratic Party Congressional Candidate Zephyr Teachout** (5-6:15)

Wed, Feb 15 Women, Politics and the Media: Media Coverage of the Clinton candidacy

**Guest Lecturer: Professor Rachel Somerstein, Digital Media and Journalism Program, SUNY New Paltz**

In Class, Watch clips from *Miss Representation*

Hand out Group Poster Project Details and Assign students to Regional Groups with the IWPR article as model

Caiazza, Amy. 2004. “Does Women’s Representation in Elected Office Lead to More Women Friendly Policy?” *Women and Politics*, Vol. 26 (1): p35-70.\*

Wed, Feb 22 Women and Representation: Structural/Economic Explanations

Chapter 5, *Women, Politics and Power*

\*Ross, Michael. 2008. “Oil, Islam, and Women,” *American Political Science Review,* vol. 102 (1): 1-17.\*

\*Carroll, Susan and Kira Sanbonmatsu. 2013. Chapter 2, “Can More Women Run? Revaluating Pathways to Office” in More Women Can Run: Gender and Pathways to the State Legislatures. (pp. 18-41).

\*Moore, G. (2004). Mommies and Daddies on the Fast Track in Other Wealthy Nations. In J. A. Jacobs, and J. Fanning Madden (Eds.), *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* (pp. 205-213). Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Give Students last 15 minutes to work in groups

Wed, March 1 Women and Representation: Political Explanations

Political Parties, Electoral Systems and Quotas

Chapter 6, *Women, Politics and Power*

\*Carroll, Susan and Kira Sanbonmatsu. 2013. Chapter 3, “Gender and the Decision to Run for Office” in More Women Can Run: Gender and Pathways to the State Legislatures. (pp. 42-62).

\*Tripp, Aili Mari and Alice Kang. 2008. “The Global Impact of Quotas: On the Fast Track to Increased Female Legislative Representation,” *Comparative Political Studies*, 41 (3): 338-361.\*

\*Paxton, Pamela and Melanie Hughes. 2015. “The Increasing Effectiveness of National Gender Quotas, 1990-2010.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 40:331-362.

Give Students Last 15 minutes to work in groups

Wed March 9Intersectionality and Representation

**Midterm Exam (first half of class)**

**then**

Chapter 9, *Women, Politics and Power*

\*Hughes, Melanie. 2011. “Intersectionality, Quotas, and Minority Women’s Political Representation Worldwide,” American Political Science Review, vol. 105 (3): 604-620\*

\*Sanbonmatsu, Kira. 2015. Why Not a Woman of Color?: The Candidacies of US Women of Color for Statewide Executive Office. Oxford Handbooks Online.

March 15 Women and Representation: International Factors

International Organizations and Norms

Chapter 7, *Women, Politics and Power*

Krook, Mona Lena and Jacqui True. 2012. “Rethinking the Life Cycle of International Norms: The UN and the Promotion of Gender Equality,” *European Journal of International Relations*, 18 (1): 103-127.\*

\*Paxton, P., Hughes, M. and Green, J. (2006). “Women’s Political Representation in 150 Countries, 1893-2003.” ASR, 71:6. 898-920.

Regional Group Meetings in Class with Professors Tobin and Dowley So all Groups Know what they Need to Include on their Posters so we can Design Them and Print them after Break

SPRING BREAK WED MARCH 22

Wed March 29 Women and Representation: International Factors

Conflict and Post Conflict Peace Processes

\*Bush, Sarah Sunn. 2011. “International Politics and the Spread of Quotas for Women in Legislatures,” *International Organization,* 11 (Winter): 103-137. *\**

\*Burnet, Jennie. 2008. “Gender Balance and the Meanings of Women in Governance in Post Genocide Rwanda,” *African Affairs*, 107: 361-386.\*

Professor Maureen Morrow, Designing and Printing Posters (In Computer Lab: Bring Material You want Included in Poster (graphs, images, maps, etc)

Wed, April 5 Regional Comparisons: European Group Presentation

Chapters10-11

Latin America and the Caribbean: Group Presentation

Chapter 12

Wed, April 12 Regional Comparisons: Asia and the Pacific: Group Presentation

Chapter 14

Regional Comparisons: MENA Group Presentation

Chapter 13

Wed April 19 Regional Comparisons: Sub Saharan Africa Group Presentation

Chapter 15

Regional Comparisons: US State/Regional Presentations

**Women in Politics Conference: Saturday April 22**

**Class Group Poster Presentations**

Wed, April 26 More Women In Office: Legislating in a Different Voice?

Chapter 8, *Women, Politics and Power*

\*Childs, Sarah and Mona Lena Krook. 2009. “Analyzing Women’s Substantive Representation: From Critical Mass to Critical Actors.” *Government and Opposition*, 44 (2): 125-145.

\*Jayal, Niraja Gopal. 2006. “Engendering Local Democracy: The Impact of Quotas for Women in India’s Panchayats,” *Democratization*, 13 (1): 15-35.\*

\*Htun, Mala and Laurel S. Weldon. 2010. “When Do Governments Promote Women’s Rights? A Framework for the Comparative Analysis of Sex Equality Policy,” *Perspectives on Politics*, 8 (1): 207-216.\*

\*Carroll, Susan. 2003. “Are U.S. Women Legislators Accountable to Women? The Complementary Roles of Feminist Identity and Women’s Organizations,” Paper prepared for presentation at the Gender and Social Capital Conference, St. John’s College, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, May 2-3, 2003

Wed, May 3 Limits of Suffrage and Liberal Democracy for Women’s Equality:

Women and Politics in Populist/Nativist Era

MacKinnon, Catherine. 2010. “The Liberal State,” in *Women, Gender and Politics: A Reader*, edited by Mona Lena Krook and Sarah Childs

**Readings TBA as Trump Presidency/French Presidential Election and Brexit unfold**

Last Day of Class: Hand out Final Exam Questions

**FINAL EXAM**

**Wednesday 05/17/17**

**2:45pm-4:45pm**