

POLITICAL SCIENCE/WOMEN'S STUDIES 384: WOMEN AND POLITICS

Summer Session I 2014: May 27-July 3

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As the title would indicate, this class will serve as an examination of Women *and* Politics from three different perspectives: local, national, and global. To clarify, this course is NOT entitled Women *in* Politics, whereby we would simply study women who have been elected to office. Instead, we will examine a broad range of women's issues. Throughout the course, we will be examining the formation of gender identity in relation to identities based on race, class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, culture, etc. We will also consider women as they have been defined throughout time by a society based on men's ideas of women. As a result of the course, I hope that we will bring together our understanding of these issues, having created a space to find our own individual version of feminism, as well as a collective understanding of what feminism means (or can mean) for women. Thus, this class will focus heavily on women's activism and resistance as understood through a feminist lens. However, as we will see, feminism consists of a broad range of definitions and degrees.

For the purposes of clarity this course will be divided into two tracks that will run concurrently through the lectures and the readings. First, through the lectures, we will study the history of feminism. Second, we will examine the social construction of gender; more specifically, how women's roles have traditionally been defined, and how the current political and cultural situation lends itself to women's activism. The first section of the readings will place us squarely in contemporary times, with regards to the young women's problematic disavowal of the feminist movement. The second set of readings will take a more traditional look at some women's activism at the national and municipal levels. Finally, the third portion of the readings will focus on women of color in the context of globalization as well how their activism has changed feminism throughout the years. In conclusion, then, the lecture topics and the readings topics are not necessarily going to be the same, although there will inevitably be some overlap.

Our reading will encompass writings from various disciplines as well as authors from non-traditional or academic backgrounds. Thinking through the issues and voices these authors present will help us formulate a clearer picture of women and politics in different contexts. This is an ongoing process, one that won't end with the class. As you take what you have learned in this class to your other classes, or your work, you will begin to see issues regarding women and politics in a different (and hopefully clearer) light.

This class should serve as a space to question our assumptions about women's roles in politics as well as a new way of understanding women's issues through feminism and feminist scholarship.

Some learning outcomes of this course are:

- Students should understand key concepts, tensions, and debates about women and politics;
- Students should be able to think critically about and through these debates;
- Students should be able to re-examine some of their assumptions about women's issues;
- Students should develop empathy for, and open-mindedness about, viewpoints different and sometimes opposite to their own.

Some of the strategies used to obtain these outcomes are:

- Reaction journals used to facilitate inquiries into topics that are related to students' personal lives;
- Online discussions and papers;
- One midterm paper and a final paper discussed below.

Course Requirements:

*Attendance and participation [Questions and Responses] (25%): Since this class is based on online discussion and scheduled student presentations, regular attendance on laulima (<https://laulima.hawaii.edu>), especially the discussion board, is absolutely critical to your success in this class and to the success of your fellow students. If you don't "attend," you can't participate and missing one week of class or even just a few days is equivalent to missing entire chunks of the semester in an in-person class. You are expected to contribute your thoughts, reactions, questions and responses online in the class. The questions and responses are based on the **readings**. Each week's reading, as you'll see below is divided into **TWO** sections. You will ask **ONE** question from **EACH** section (for a total of 2 questions per week). Please label your questions in the following way so that I can keep track of who is posting what: Jane's W1Q1, Jane's W1Q2. Please post **SEPARATE** messages for each question so that people can simply use the reply key to respond to your question. You will post **TWO responses** (again, one from each section's question posted by one of your classmates) of at least 100-150 words **EACH per week**. They should also be labeled appropriately in the following way: Leilani's W1R1, Leilani's W1R2. This means that when you do hit the reply key, you will have to change the subject line before you post your response. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

*Journal entries (25%): These are your personal critical reactions to each week's **lectures** found on the course website. Please note that the lectures are not necessarily on the same topic as the readings. *Due to the summer session schedule, there are two lectures each week. Please*

be sure that your journal covers BOTH lectures. The journals should be **two (double-spaced) typed pages**. These will be due once a week on Fridays by midnight. **Please submit these in the laulima assignments tool** either as a Word attachment or cut and paste the text into the body of the message. The journal assignments are linked to the **gradebook** tool and work together. If you submit your work in the wrong place(s), it becomes difficult to keep track of each student's work and there can be no guarantee of accurate recordkeeping. By submitting in the assignments tool, all of your assignments will be housed in the same tool and any discrepancies in recordkeeping can easily be addressed by either student or teacher. **(4 journal entries – two pages each: 8 pages total)**

Note – For the two course requirements above, not only will you be graded simply on whether you turn the work in or not, but also on the quality of the submitted work.

*One midterm paper (20%): The **midterm** will examine students' assumptions about issues about women and politics we will have studied thus far. Students will determine the exact topic of the paper with the instructor's final approval. Please see the course schedule below for information on when and where to post/vote for your topic idea. **Please submit the finished midterm papers in the laulima assignments tool** as a Word attachment. **(6 pages)**

*One final research paper (30%): This paper will be the culmination of the course with each student choosing individual topics within the overarching topic of women and politics for further research. Please be sure to submit your final paper topic proposal ideas as early as possible in Week 4 of the class to the final paper topic discussion board as the topics are assigned on a first come, first served basis. **Please submit these in the laulima assignments tool** as a Word attachment. **(8-9 pages)**

Late paper policy note: It isn't fair for some people to have more time to turn in assignments than others. If your paper is late, there will be three points deducted from your grade EACH day that it is late. It is very easy to go from an A to a B to a C very quickly. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to turn your papers in on time.

Plagiarism note: Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Taking credit for someone else's work is a grave ethical offense. It is especially tempting to engage in this practice as busy/overworked students, but *don't*. After reading your short journals throughout the semester, I become quite proficient at discerning your writing from someone else's. If I do find that you are engaging in this practice, you will receive an "F" for that assignment and be placed on probation in my course, where I will keep a sharp eye on your further work. Therefore, please cite your sources in an appropriate way, (see the citation for the required texts below as an example) and if you have any questions you can either ask me, refer to your library, or to any style manual you have available.

Note: Any class is like a marathon. If you don't run the entire race, you don't get a finisher's t-shirt. The same goes for this class. If you don't do all the work, and don't "attend" this online class, you can't expect to get a passing grade.

Required Books

Ford, Lynne. 2010. *Women and Politics: The Pursuit of Equality*. Third Edition. Cengage Learning.

Rowe-Finkbeiner, Kristin. 2004. *The F-Word – Feminism in Jeopardy: Women, Politics and the Future*. Emeryville, CA: Seal Press.

Class Films: You can watch these and write ONE journal for extra credit up through week 4. No extra credit will be accepted during the last two weeks of class. They are available through UH Manoa's Sinclair Library/Wong A/V Center.

Gift to my Children

Rosie the Riveter

Woman Outside

Sisters and Daughters Betrayed

If Women Counted

Iron Jawed Angels

The Global Assembly Line/Made in Thailand

North Country

Picture Bride

Water

Course Schedule:

Note: This schedule is not set in stone. With class consensus, we can alter it to fit our needs.

PART ONE –Lectures for Weeks 1-3: A Short History of Feminism. Revision of the assumptions we bring to class. Where did we learn them? Why were they taught this way? How is women's political activism manifested in different contexts?

Week 1: Introductions and Overview, The Beginnings of Modern Feminism, Women's Suffrage, 1860s-1920s

Reading: Ford, Lynne: Chapters 1-3

Tuesday, May 27

Post Introductions in the Welcome and Introductions discussion board

Wednesday, May 28

Questions due to Week 1 Discussion Board by midnight (2 questions – one from each section of the reading)

Friday, May 30

Responses due to Week 1 Discussion Board by midnight (2 responses– one from each section of the reading)

Journals due to Week 1 assignments tool by midnight

Week 2: Feminism, Internationalism, and Nationalism in the 20th Century, Citizenship in North America and Europe in the Inter-War Years

Reading: Ford, Lynne: Chapters 4-5

Wednesday, June 4

Questions due to Week 2 Discussion Board by midnight (2 questions – one from each section of the reading)

Post midterm paper topics by midnight in midterm paper topic discussion board

Friday, June 6

Responses due to Week 2 Discussion Board by midnight (2 responses– one from each section of the reading)

Vote on midterm paper topics by midnight in midterm paper topic discussion board

Journals due to Week 2 assignments tool by midnight

Week 3: The 21st Century – The “Personal is Political” in Second Wave Feminism, Feminism and the 21st Century - Still Making Waves

Reading: Ford, Lynne: Chapters 6-7

Wednesday, June 11

Questions due to Week 3 Discussion Board by midnight (2 questions – one from each section of the reading)

Friday, June 13

Responses due to Week 3 Discussion Board by midnight (2 responses– one from each section of the reading)

MIDTERM PAPER DUE TO ASSIGNMENTS TOOL BY MIDNIGHT – No journals due

PART TWO – Lectures for Weeks 4-6: What are some of the different systems of oppression in women’s lives? How are biology and culture related to “learning” gender? How does the social construction of sexuality impact women? How is gender inscribed on the body? What are important health and reproductive rights issues for women? What are some different definitions of families? How does women’s work inside and outside the home impact them and their families? How do some women resist violence? What are states’, laws’, and policies’ views on women’s issues?

Week 4: Systems of Inequality and Privilege in Women’s Lives AND Learning Gender in a Diverse Society, Inscribing Gender on the Body AND Sex, Power, and Intimacy

(Note: these lectures may be a review for some of you)

Reading: Ford, Lynne: Chapters 8-9

Wednesday, June 18

Questions due to Week 4 Discussion Board by midnight (2 questions – one from each section of the reading)

Pick final paper topics in Final Paper Topic discussion board by midnight

Friday, June 20

Responses due to Week 4 Discussion Board by midnight (2 responses– one from each section of the reading)

Journals due to Week 4 assignments tool by midnight

Week 5: Health and Reproductive Rights AND Family Systems AND Women's Work

Reading: Rowe-Finkbeiner – **Part 1:** Chapters 1-3/**Part 2:** Chapters 4-6

Wednesday, June 25

Questions due to Week 5 Discussion Board by midnight (2 questions – one from each section of the reading)

Friday, June 27

Responses due to Week 5 Discussion Board by midnight (2 responses– one from each section of the reading)

Journals due to Week 5 assignments tool by midnight

Week 6: Resisting Violence AND State, Law, Social Policy and Women

Reading: Rowe-Finkbeiner, **Part 1:** Chapters 7-9/**Part 2:** Chapters 10-11

Wednesday, July 2

Questions due to Week 6 Discussion Board by midnight (2 questions – one from each section of the reading)

Thursday, July 3 (Note alternate day due to Independence Day Holiday)

Responses due to Week 6 Discussion Board by midnight (2 responses– one from each section of the reading)

FINAL PAPERS DUE TO ASSIGNMENTS TOOL BY MIDNIGHT