

# TOPICS IN AMERICAN POLITICS: WOMEN IN POLITICS

## Political Science 301

Section 01 1:30-2:45 TT  
Spring 2004/2005

Dr. William K. Hall  
426-C Bradley Hall

### OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

No woman has ever served as President of the United States. Fewer than 20 women have ever served in the U.S. Senate. It was only 85 years ago that most women gained the right to vote with the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Only two women have ever served on the U.S. Supreme Court, the first not until 1981.

No woman has served as governor of the State of Illinois. It was not until the last few years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that a female justice assumed a seat on the Illinois Supreme Court.

This course will seek to examine the role of women in all areas of the American political system as: voter, party activist, candidate, and public official. Female political socialization will be considered as will be the political attitudes and public policy opinions of women.

### READINGS FOR THE COURSE

Three books are required for this course. They are available at the Bradley Bookstore:

McGlen, Nancy E., Karen O'Connor, Laura van Assendelft, and Wendy  
Gunther-Canada, Women, Politics, and American Society,  
4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2005.

Mikulski, Barbara, et al., Nine and Counting: The Women of the Senate, 2000.

Witt, Linda, Karen M. Paget, and Glenna Matthews, Running as a Woman:  
Gender and Power in American Politics, 1994.

## CLASSROOM METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

This class will be conducted through a combination of lecture, as much class discussion and student involvement as possible, and student-led and student-carried discussion. The course will depend therefore on the active participation and discussion efforts of each and every student. In order to thoughtfully participate (with knowledge), it is imperative that you keep up with events and happenings of the American political scene, especially as those happenings affect and involve women political actors.

## CLASS ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION

You are expected to attend ALL class sessions. **Students who miss more than three class sessions will receive 0 credit for Class Attendance/Participation.**

## GRADES

Your overall course grade will be weighted as follows:

Mid-term Exam	20%
Second (final) Exam	20%
Analytical Project I	20%
Analytical Project II	20%
Class Interview Assignment	10%
Class Attendance/Participation	10%

## EXAMS

There will be two scheduled exams. Each exam will consist of several pairs of essay questions. The two scheduled exams will be given on these dates:

The mid-term exam (over Sections I and II) will be given on Thursday, March 10.

The second (final) exam (over Sections III and IV) will be given at the time assigned in the *Academic Handbook* for final week: Tuesday, May 10, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

## **MAKE-UP EXAM**

A make-up exam for the Mid-term Exam will be given only under the most extraordinary circumstances, and then only for a legitimate, excused absence. Students who must unavoidably be absent on exam day because of participation in official inter-collegiate events (e.g., a member of the BU intercollegiate co-ed Trivial Pursuit team) should see the instructor before the exam is given in order to discuss a make-up.

In cases of illness on exam day, documented proof of the alleged affliction may be required before a student would be allowed to take a make-up exam. Make-up exams are given solely at the instructor's discretion.

## **ANALYTICAL PROJECT I**

Each student will write an analytical/research paper on a prominent woman in American political history. Each student will select a person to research/analyze from a list of approximately 30 female politicians, and will prepare a written analysis of his/her politician (in the form of a 10-1 page paper). Details on this project will be presented and discussed during class on Thursday, January 27.

## **ANALYTICAL PROJECT II**

Details on the second research/analytical project will be disseminated later in the semester.

## **CLASS INTERVIEW ASSIGNMENT**

Each student, in conjunction with two other students, will be assigned to work with each of our guests during the semester. That group of students will “prep” our guests, learn about her background, introduce the guest to the class and come prepared with questions to ask the guests following her prepared remarks.

## **CLASS PARTICIPATION**

I have four expectations for class participation:

- (1) That you will be in attendance at each of our class sessions.
- (2) That you read the assigned readings—whether from McGlen et al., Witt et al., Mikulski et al., and/or class handouts—before coming to class each day.
- (3) As noted elsewhere in this syllabus, it is very important that you make yourself aware of and informed about current political happenings especially if those happenings affect or involve political actors who are women.
- (4) That you come to class prepared to be an active participant, ready to discuss the day's topic(s), raise questions and make comments about the readings, etc.

## **EXTRA-CREDIT WORK**

There is no extra-credit work in this course!

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Students are expected to maintain complete academic integrity. Failure to do so will result in a zero (0) for the assignment/exam. Cheating and plagiarism have no place in an academic setting. While I encourage students to discuss the material covered in class among themselves, all work submitted for assignments and exams must be each student's own!

## **THE CLASH OF IDEAS**

We will be dealing with an array of issues on which many individuals have strong opinions. All viewpoints are welcome in this class so long as they are expressed in thoughtful, courteous and tolerant ways.

## **CELL PHONE FREE ZONE**

As a courtesy to others in this class, please shut your cell phone OFF when coming into our class. Although many of you may regard this as “cruel and unusual punishment,” please plan to leave your cell phone off until you are out of our classroom. Should your cell phone “ring” during our class, not only would it be bad karma, it would inflict damage on your grade in this course....

## **INSTRUCTOR’S OFFICE HOURS**

Although you will see me twice a week in the classroom, it is possible you will want to see me in my office (now doing business at a new location—426-C). I am available to meet with you every day of the academic week, especially at the scheduled office hours listed below:

Monday	9:15-10:45, 2:00-3:00
Tuesday	9:15-11:45
Wednesday	9:15-10:45, 2:00-3:00
Thursday	9:15-11:45
Friday	9:15-10:45, 2:00-3:00

Should you need to reach me by phone my office phone is 677-2495. If I am not available when you call, you may leave a voice-mail message for me, or you can reach the departmental secretary at 677-2502 and leave a message with her. I can also be reached by email at: [hall@bradley.edu](mailto:hall@bradley.edu)

# COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

## COURSE INTRODUCTION

**January 20**–Course Introduction

## I. THE BATTLE FOR POLITICAL RIGHTS

Although the efforts of women to gain political, economic, and social equality date back to the beginning of the nation, the earliest efforts are largely remembered for seeking to achieve female suffrage. Only later would the focus shift to broader political objectives including employment rights, educational rights, and familial and reproductive rights.

### A. **January 20 and 25**–The Right of Suffrage

Reading: McGlen, Introduction and Chapter #1 [Part] (pp. 1-17, 19-42)

### B. **January 27**–Detailed Explanation of Analytical Project I

### C. **February 1**–Suffrage Gained

Reading: McGlen, Introduction and Chapter #1 [Part] (pp. 1-17, 19-42)  
Witt, Chapter #1 (pp. 1-28)

### D. **February 3, 8, 10, 15 and 17**–Women’s Movements in America: Non-Suffrage Political and Constitutional Rights

Reading: McGlen, Introduction and Chapters #1, #3, #5  
(pp. 1-17, 19-67, 125-177, 235-281)  
Witt, Chapters #2 and #3 (pp. 29-48, 49-73)

## **II. WOMEN AS “CITIZENS/PARTICIPANTS”**

Women did not rush out to the polls once the long battle for suffrage was won. Removal of the legal barriers to participation by women did not translate into political equality. Women ran headlong into deeply ingrained cultural attitudes about the roles women should play as well as sex discrimination. Politically speaking, women have proven to be both similar to men in political society as well as different than men in political society.

### **A. February 22, 24 and March 1–The Gender Gap–Public Opinion and Voting Behavior**

Reading: McGlen, Chapter #2 [Part] (pp. 68-102)  
Witt, Chapters #7 and #8 (pp. 153-180, 181-208)

**\*\*\*\*\* ANALYTICAL PROJECT I DUE (by class time) \*\*\*\*\***

### **B. March 3 and 8–Women as Political Candidates**

Reading: McGlen, Chapter #2 [Part] (pp. 102-123)  
Mikulski, Chapters #2, #3, #4 and #5 (pp. 17-38, 39-58, 59-86, 87-113)  
Witt, Chapters #4 - #6, #9, #10 (pp. 75-97, 99-124, 125-151, 209-240, 241-263)

**\*\*\*\*\* MID-TERM EXAM on Thursday, March 10 \*\*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*\*\* SPRING BREAK–No Class on March 15 and 17 \*\*\*\*\***

### **III. WOMEN AS OFFICE-HOLDERS–AT THE LOCAL AND STATE LEVELS**

Not surprisingly, women often entered the political battlefield through local offices, especially school boards and city councils, and through party politics and civil involvement. As they expanded their foothold in local political activities, they began to move up the political ladder to county and state positions, especially positions in the state legislatures.

#### **A. March 22, 24 and 29--Women in Local Politics**

Reading: McGlen, Chapter #2 [Part] (pp. 102-123)

#### **B. March 31, April 5 and 7–Women in State Politics**

Reading: McGlen, Chapter #2 [Part] (pp. 102-123)  
Witt, Chapter #11 (pp. 265-284)

### **IV. WOMEN AS OFFICE-HOLDERS–AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL**

The first woman would be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1916 (from Montana). The first woman (from Georgia) to serve as a U.S. Senator, served for 1 day in 1922. Most women who arrived in Congress from the 1920s through the 1960s, became members of Congress through what is usually called the “widow’s route.” That is, she was appointed to fill out her late husband’s term in office. The first woman elected in her own right without having been preceded in the Senate by her husband was Margaret Chase Smith (Maine) in 1948. She would serve for twenty-four years.

#### **A. April 12, 14, 19 and 21–Women in Congress**

Reading: Mikulski, Chapters #4 - #9 (pp. 59-86, 87-113, 115-133, 135-160, 161-178, 179-192)

#### **B. April 26–Women In the Executive Branch**

Reading: Class Handout

#### **C. April 28 and May 3–Women on the Federal and State Bench**

Reading: Class Handout

**\*\*\*\*\* Second (Final) Exam on Tuesday, May 10, 12:00-1:30 p.m. \*\*\*\*\***