PS 348 Women and Politics  
Spring 2015

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Office: PLC 924  Office hours:

GTF: tba

Course Description
This course will explore the role of women in American politics from an historical, social and political standpoint. Among the topics we will cover are the history of women’s rights, women’s participation and specific issues concerning women such as reproductive rights, pornography, body image, women in political office and other issues concerning race, gender, class and sexuality. We will look at the relationship between men and women in politics as well as the role of family. We will ask: what is women’s equality and difference, what solutions are best for women and what constitutes a feminist approach to politics?

Required Reading
All one of the required readings materials for the course will be posted on the course’s blackboard website. The readings may be downloaded from the Blackboard site each week.

Important Note: This syllabus is subject to change as the course progresses. These periodic changes will be announced in class. Check your email regularly and note my email policy. I will often use emails to the class to alert you to changes to the schedule or readings, extra information or public lectures, and so on. You should make sure your current email is linked to the Blackboard system and check email and Blackboard regularly for these updates.

Course Requirements
There will be three exams in this class on the following days: Exam 1 (40%), Exam 2 (40%) and Exam 3 (20%). The format of these exams will be identification, short answer and essay questions and will test students on information from the lectures, the assigned readings, and in-class discussions. Study sheets will be available prior to each exam.

There will be no makeups for any of the exams without a documented excuse that is approved by me. If you simply miss an exam and do not provide me with this excuse, you will receive a “0” for this exam and the makeup option will not be available. All approved makeup exams will be held during exam week, during the regular scheduled final exam time period for this class; FRIDAY March 20th at 10:15am. If you miss this makeup exam, you will receive a “0” for this missed exam.
Students must complete all readings that are assigned for the day.

The course will primarily be a lecture course, but there will also be in-class discussion and small group work.

Class attendance is required.

Class participation is strongly encouraged.

Class Policies

CLASSROOM CONDUCT: We are all accountable to create a climate of mutual respect in the classroom. While differences of opinion and perspective are vital and will be encouraged, common courtesy as well as University policy prohibit personal attacks and discriminatory conduct.

READING and ATTENDANCE: This is a reading intensive course. Students must come to class having read all the assigned materials and prepared to engage in active discussion. Attendance is required.

RE-GRADING OF EXAM: You may request the re-grading of an exam. Students who wish to have an exam re-graded must following these steps:
1. Student must wait at least 24 hours after receiving the grade or exam.
2. Student must read through the assignment thoroughly before requesting a re-grade.
3. Student must fill out a re-grading form and provide a written statement of why he or she would like the exam re-graded, which will be turned in with the original exam within ONE week of when the exam was taken.
4. The grade on the exam may be raised, lowered, or left the same.

EMAIL CORRESPONDANCE: Please identify yourself and the name of our course in all correspondence with the instructor and GTF. Also, when you email, please be aware that you should write grammatically. That is not to say that emails could affect your grade, but you should act professionally in this medium like in all communication. Do not expect an immediate response to your email—it is not appropriate to ask a question about an exam on the night before it is to be taken.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES. Wireless devices including Blackberrys and cell phones must be turned off prior to class. I strongly prefer that laptops not be used during class, you must see me personally if you would like to be exempted from this rule.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND PLAGIARISM. All work in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. For the consequences of
academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly. Violations will be taken seriously and are noted on student disciplinary records. If you are in doubt regarding the requirements, please consult with the instructor before you complete any requirement of the course. Please review the University’s policies at: http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/judicial/conduct/sai.htm

**DISABILITY SERVICES.** If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me soon. Please bring a notification letter from Disability Services outlining your approved accommodations. For information on Disability Services, go to http://ds.uoregon.edu/DS_home.html

Course Plan

**I. Introduction: First-Wave US Feminism in Historical Context**

**Week One**
: Introductions and Overview of Course

: Emerging Conceptions of Rights
- Readings:
  - Abigail Adams, “Remember the Ladies”
  - Mary Wollstonecraft, “A Vindication of the Rights of Women”
  - John Stuart Mill, “The Subjection of Women”
  - William Blackstone, Commentaries, selection

**Week Two**
: Rights Cont’d
- Readings:
  - Angelina Grimke, “Appeal to the Christian Women of the South”
  - Sarah Grimke, “Letters on the Equality of the Sexes and the Condition of Women”
  - Elizabeth Cady Stanton, “Declaration of Sentiments”

: Links to Abolitionism
- Readings:
  - Sojourner Truth, “Ain’t I a Woman”
  - Ida B. Wells, “A Red Record”
  - Frederick Douglass on Women’s Rights, selections

**Week Three**
Mon Jan 19th
Formal Equality in early 20th century
Readings:
Nineteenth Amendment to the US Constitution (1920)
Nancy Cott, *The Grounding of Modern Feminism*, Chap 1, Birth of Feminism

In-class film: *Iron Jawed Angels*

Week Four
: Reform or Revolution
Readings:
Emma Goldman, *The Traffic in Women*, selections
Mollie Schepps, “Senators vs. Working Women”

: EXAM 1 (40%)

II. Identity Politics and Feminism: Race, Femininity, Sexual Orientation, and Class

Week Five
: Foundations of Second Wave
Readings:
Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*, selections
Simone deBeauvoir, *The Second Sex*, selections

: Liberal and Radical Feminism
Readings:
Casey Hayden, *Feminism and Civil Rights Movement*, selections
“Redstockings Manifesto”
National Organization for Women, “Statement of Purpose”

Film: *TBA*

Week Six
: Feminists of color and Intersections
Readings:
Gloria Anzaldua, “Borderlands”
“Combahee River Collective Statement”
Angela Davis, *Women, Race and Class*, selections

: Conservative women and ERA
Readings:
Schlafly, “The Positive Woman”
Jane Mansbridge, *Why We Lost the ERA*, selections
http://www.voteera.org/

**Week Seven**

**Sexuality Politics**
Readings:
- Radicalesbians, “The Woman Identified Woman”
- Audre Lorde, “Age, Race, Class and Sex”
- Same-sex Marriage, TBA

**Poverty and Feminism**
Readings:
- Mink, Welfare’s End, selections
- Mink, “Feminist Interpretations”
- Family Forward Oregon

*Guest Speaker: tba*

**Week Eight**

**EXAM 2 (40%)**

**III. Contemporary Issues and Questions**

**Reproductive Rights**
- Dorothy Roberts, *Killing the Black Body*, Chapter 4
- Reproductive Justice reading
- Feminists for Life

**Week Nine**

**Campus Violence and Institutional Blindness**
Readings:
- Jennifer Freyd, selections
  http://dynamic.uoregon.edu/jjf/institutionalbetrayal/

**Politics of the Body: Media and Image**
Readings:
- Ophira Edut, ed, “Aidios, Barbie: Young Women Write about Body Image and Identity”
- Readings on masculinity, TBA

*In-class film: Beyond Killing Us Softly and Male Body*
Week Ten
: Women and Political Leadership in 21st Century
  Readings:
  Lori Cox Han, selections

: EXAM 3 (20%)

There will be no final exam in the class. All make-up exams, if approved by the Professor will be held during exam week during the regularly scheduled exam date on *** No exceptions.