

POL 446: The Politics of Sex

Spring Semester 2007

McCreary 2
TR 12:30-1:45 pm

Professor: Dr. Dana Patton
Office: McCreary 213
Phone: 622-4388
e-mail: dana.patton@eku.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-4, and by appointment

Contacting Me

You are almost certain to receive a same-day response if you contact me via email. I sometimes work at home and do not check my phone messages until I am back in the office. I have office hours, but am available for appointments on most days as well.

Description of Course

According to the course catalog, POL 446 is described as . . . *The effect of sex on social and political institutions, public policies, and court rulings. Issues may include pornography, sexual and gender discrimination, domestic violence, reproductive rights and gay rights.* This semester we will focus on three areas. First, the overarching focus of the class will be on women and politics. We will examine such things as how female candidates for public office differ from male candidates, how women differ from men once elected to office, how female leaders are portrayed in the media, and much more. Second, we pay particular attention to Supreme Court decisions that have had an impact on both women and men in the United States. Third, we will examine a substantive policy issue in depth toward the end of the semester. The topic will be determined based on the policy interests of the class.

Required Texts

- Dolan, Julie, Melissa Deckman, and Michele L. Swers. 2007. *Women and Politics: Paths to Power and Political Influence*. Pearson Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, NJ. (ISBN: 0131505459)
- Whitaker, Lois Duke, ed. 2006. *Women in Politics: Outsiders or Insiders?* Fourth Edition. Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, NJ. (ISBN: 0131345044)
- Cushman, Clare, ed. 2001. *Supreme Court Decisions and Women's Rights*. CQ Press: Washington, DC. (ISBN: 1568026145)

Additional Required Reading

Journal readings will accompany the above texts as required reading. All journal readings can be accessed via JSTOR on the library's website.

Learning Objectives

- Students will understand the complex interplay between gender, politics, society, and the Court.
- Students will improve their writing and public speaking skills.

Assessment Methods

- Learning objectives related to the interplay between gender, politics, society, and the Court will be assessed on exams and writing assignments.
- Learning objectives related to improving writing and public speaking skills will be assessed on writing assignments, by leading and participating in class discussions, and an oral presentation of a research paper.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation

I expect you to attend class and participate in discussions. In addition to regular participation in class, each of you will be responsible for leading discussion on specific days. Grades may be adjusted up or down based on class attendance, regular participation, and leading class discussion.

Blackboard

Students should check Blackboard on a regular basis. Please update your ECU email account and consult with Academic Computing if you do not know how to use Blackboard. I will utilize the email list on Bb to communicate with the class. If you have a different email account that you check more frequently than your ECU account, please add that to the list. If you do not know how to use Blackboard, make an appointment with ITDS to learn how by the end of next week.

Exams

There will be a midterm and a final exam worth 55% of your final grade.

Paper and Presentation

Each student will complete a research paper, due toward the end of the semester. You will, however, be responsible for submitting parts of the paper to me as the semester progresses so I can help you learn how to write a high-quality research paper. Details

will be provided in a separate handout. Each student will present his or her paper to the class at the end of the semester. The paper is worth 25% of your final grade.

Class Blog

You are responsible for posting comments to a class blog each week. The blog is located at <http://politicsofsex446.blogspot.com>. You should have received an “invitation” from me to join the blog last week via email. If you did not receive this email, I need to know immediately so I can add you to the “author list” so you will be able to post comments. Class blog assignments are worth 20% of your final grade.

Academic Honesty

Cheating, plagiarism, and destruction of course materials violate the rules of the University and the ethical standards of public administration and political science professions. Violations of the university's rules regarding academic honesty can lead to a failing grade in the course and expulsion from the University. Instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to appropriate University officials as required by University rules and procedures. If I suspect a student has cheated in any way, I will pursue it. See me if you're not sure what constitutes cheating or plagiarism.

If you plagiarize any component of any assignment (even just one sentence) you will receive a grade of 0 for that assignment.

Plagiarism is taking someone else's words and claiming them as your own. Even if you re-phrase something, you still must provide a citation giving credit to the person who had the original thought.

Disability Accommodation Statement

If you are registered with the Office of Services for Individuals with Disabilities, please make an appointment with the course instructor to discuss any academic accommodations you need. If you need academic accommodations and are not registered with the Office of Services for Individuals with Disabilities, please contact the office on the third floor of the Student Services Building, by email at disabilities@eku.edu or by telephone at (859) 622-2933 V/TDD. Upon individual request, this syllabus can be made available in alternative forms.

Grading Summary

Midterm Exam:	25%
Final Exam:	30%
Research Paper:	25%
Class Blog:	20%

Final Grade Calculation

90% and above = A
80-89% = B
70-79% = C
60-69% = D
Below 60 = F

Grades may be adjusted up or down based on class attendance, regular participation, and leading class discussion.

Reading and Assignment Schedule

This is a tentative schedule that may need to be adjusted based on the progress we make throughout the semester. Changes in the schedule will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

DDS = Dolan, Deckman, Swers
W = Whitaker
C = Cushman

Week 1: January 16, 18

Introductions and video on the 18th.

Week 2: January 23, 25

DDS: Chapter 1, Introduction and Theoretical Framework
DDS: Chapter 2, Women in Social Movements, Interest Groups, and the Political Parties.
W: Chapter 1, The Study of Women: A Theoretical Framework
C: Chapter 1, Romantic Paternalism

Week 3: January 30, February 1

DDS: Chapter 3, The Gender Gap in Elections and Public Opinion
W: Chapter 2, Gender Differences in Political Attitudes and Voting
C: Chapter 2, Jury Duty

Week 4: February 6, 8

DDS: Chapter 4, The Impact of the Media on Political Women
W: Chapter 3, Women, Media, and Group Politics
C: Chapter 3, Sex Discrimination: The Search for a Standard

Week 5: February 13, 15

DDS: Chapter 5, Women as Candidates for Elective Office
W: Chapter 4, Women and Elections: The Uphill Struggle
C: Chapter 4, Women in the Family: From Subordinates to Equal Partners

Week 6: February 20, 22

DDS: Chapter 6, Women and Local Politics and Government
C: Chapter 5, Single-Sex Schools
C: Chapter 6, Different Treatment of Men and Women

Week 7: February 27, March 1

DDS: Chapter 7, Women in Congress and the State Legislatures
W: Chapter 5, Legislatures, Women, and Policy Making
C: Chapter 7, Discrimination in the Workplace

Week 8: March 6, 8

MIDTERM EXAM ON MARCH 6th
DDS: Chapter 8, Women in the Executive Branch
W: The Executive Branch: Women and Leadership

Week 9: March 13, 15

NO CLASSES: SPRING BREAK!!!

Week 10: March 20, 22

DDS: Women in the Judiciary
W: The Courts: Women and Decisions
C: Chapter 8, Sexual Harassment

Week 11: March 27, 29

C: Chapter 9, Pregnancy and Childbirth
C: Chapter 10, Reproductive Rights

Week 12: April 3, 5

Readings and/or Speaker TBA

Week 13: April 10, 12

Readings and/or Speaker TBA

Week 14: April 17, 19

Readings and/or Speaker TBA

Week 15: April 24, 26

Presentations

Week 16: May 1, 3

Presentations

Final Exam on Tuesday, May 8th 10:30-12:30.