

**PS 3315: Women and Politics**  
**Section 001: T/Th 11am-12:15pm, Lawrence Hall 303**

**Professor:** Amy Moreland  
**Office:** Lawrence Hall 202  
**Office Phone:** (432) 837-8162  
**Office Hours:** MTWRF 2-3pm, *and by appointment*  
**Email:** [amoreland@sulross.edu](mailto:amoreland@sulross.edu)  
**Course Website:** <http://bbsrsu.sulross.edu/>  
*Our course Blackboard page includes important information for this course, including the course syllabus, grades, lecture notes, exam study guides, and course announcements.*

**Course Purpose:**

How has the role of women in American politics changed over time? How do issues of gender and sexuality affect politics around the world? How are female candidates and politicians affected by the media and voters' expectations about feminist policies? Why are women well represented in some countries and not in others? Do women participate in politics differently than men? How are women around the world affected by gender politics in their daily lives? This course is designed to provide a broad overview of the role of women in politics as well as an examination of the methods that political scientists utilize to study gender politics.

**Program Learning Outcomes**

The graduating student will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of significant theoretical approaches of political science through written work and oral communication.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze domestic and international political processes in written work.
- Demonstrate the ability to develop arguments about global equity and equality issues in politics through written work and oral communication.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Describe the evolution of women's suffrage and the factors that affect the election of female politicians.  
**\*Method of Assessment: First Exam, Homework Assignments**
2. Evaluate the differences between the style and frequency of women's political participation.  
**\*Method of Assessment: Second Exam, Homework Assignments**
3. Analyze the effects of public policy on women's rights and feminist movements.  
**\*Method of Assessment: Third Exam, Homework Assignments**
4. Apply and analyze basic research methods of political science to the study of gender politics.  
**\*Method of Assessment: Homework Assignments, Article Review Paper**

**Required Readings:**

There are **NO books** required for this course. Instead, all required readings are posted on our course Blackboard page. You can choose to either download/print these readings or read them on a computer. The schedule of readings is listed on page 4 of the syllabus. A helpful guide for completing and understanding the readings is also posted on our course Blackboard page.

**Course Requirements:**

All grades will be posted on our course Blackboard page.

**\*Final grades will be assigned as follows:**

- \* Exam 1: 20 points
- \* Exam 2: 20 points
- \* Exam 3: 20 points
- \* 10 Homework Assignments: 20 points
- \* Article Review Paper: 20 points

**\*Grading Scale:** Grades from the assignments above will be assigned according to the following scale:

\* 90-100 points=A

\* 80-89 points=B

\* 70-79 points=C

\* 60-69 points=D

\* 0-59 points=F

### **\*Exams:**

There will be three exams in this course. Each exam will consist of an in-class multiple-choice portion (20 multiple choice questions worth 10 points of each exam grade) and a take-home essay portion (2-3 typed pages worth 10 points of each exam grade). The essay portion of each exam will be due the day of the multiple-choice exam at the beginning of class. **Punctual attendance for exams is mandatory.** All students who enter the exam room after the first student has finished the exam and left the classroom will be considered absent and will not be allowed to take the exam.

**Makeup exams will only be allowed in the case of an emergency or excused absence with appropriate documentation.** There are occasionally certain calamities that arise such as family emergencies or severe illnesses that can be excused with appropriate documentation, such as a note from the doctor indicating that your illness required you to miss the exam. For a student to be eligible to take a makeup exam, the student must notify me of the absence **ON OR BEFORE THE DAY OF THE EXAM.** This can be done by calling my office or by sending me an email. If these requirements have been met, a makeup exam will be scheduled *at my convenience* and must be completed before the next scheduled. The dates for the exams are listed on the schedule and will not change. Flights or vacations are not excuses for missing exams. There will be **NO** exemptions from the final exam or early final exams.

**University Absences:** In the event of a University absence that conflicts with an exam, students should schedule a time to take the exam **BEFORE** they leave and must provide appropriate documentation.

### **\*Attendance, Class Participation, and Homework Assignments:**

Attendance is extremely important and mandatory for this course. The lectures will supplement, not repeat, the assigned readings for this class. In addition, a significant portion of exam material will be taken from in-class discussion, **so it will be very difficult to pass this course if you do not attend regularly.** In order to encourage attendance, course participation counts for **20%** of your final course grade. Your course participation grade will be based on the results of **10 periodic, unannounced critical thinking homework assignments.** Each assignment will be worth 2 points. These assignments will vary between in-class writing assignments about a lecture topic or the assigned reading, group activities, or take-home assignments. At the end of the semester, your class participation grade will be calculated as the total of these 10 grades. If you miss class for an emergency or university excused absence, inform me as soon as possible. In the case of an emergency or excused absence, make-up quizzes **may** be granted, but only with proper documentation (see exam policies for details about excused absences and proper documentation).

### **\*Article Review Paper:**

You will also be responsible for a 4-5 page typed review of a recently published work on women and politics. A more detailed description of this assignment is attached at the end of the syllabus. A list of articles to choose from and further instructions about this assignment are provided on page 5-6 of the syllabus and on Blackboard. Papers will be due in class on Thursday, April 21.

## **Course Policies:**

### **1. Preparation:**

Your ability to engage in discussion in this class is directly related to how well you prepare for each class meeting. Students are required to keep up with readings. **Students are expected to have completed the assigned readings by the beginning of the first class day for which they are assigned.** Realize that the schedule is subject to change to accommodate extended discussion about matters of interest.

## 2. Disruptions:

It is assumed that all students will be respectful of the opinions of all other students. If you infringe on the class's ability to learn or my ability to teach, I will simply ask you to leave. Some specific examples of this problem include: using cell phones, browsing the internet, arriving late to class, sleeping, talking, reading a newspaper, or doing homework for other classes, etc. **In particular, please refrain from sending and receiving text messages during class.** If you need to leave class early, please let me know before class.

## 3. Students with Special Needs:

Any student who because of a disability may require special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary accommodations. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such an accommodation, please contact Grace Duffy (Ferguson Hall 112), the coordinator for the Center for Counseling and Accessibility Services at (432) 837-8363.

## 4. Religious Observance:

Any student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day will be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day. Arrangements for missing class due to religious observance must be made with the instructor **prior to the absence.**

## 5. Academic Integrity:

Any instance of academic misconduct such as turning in an identical written assignment for another course without approval, cheating and plagiarizing written assignments, collusion, or misrepresenting facts will be punished to the full extent of the university's disciplinary policy. You are responsible for reading the statement on Academic honesty in the Sul Ross State University Rules and Regulations Supplement to the Student Handbook. The faculty considers academic dishonesty to be a serious matter and will act accordingly. Students caught cheating will receive no credit for assignment/test and more severe penalties may be pursued.

### *Cheating:*

Including, but not limited to: (1) use of unauthorized aid, sources, and assistance or assisting others in taking a course, quiz, test, or examination, writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out assignments; (2) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the University community; (3) alteration of grade records; (4) bribing or attempting to bribe a member of the University community or any other individual to alter a grade.

### *Plagiarism:*

Including, but not limited to: (1) The use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement; (2) The unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

## 6. Miscellaneous Policies:

**\*The time to begin thinking about your grade is now, not a week before the final or a week after final grades are posted.** The grade you receive in this course will be the grade you earn. Getting into law school or keeping a scholarship or financial aid is not sufficient reasons for me to give you a grade other than the grade you have earned. **Additionally, please keep in mind that simply completing the minimum requirements for this course will not earn you an "A".** A grade of A=excellent work, a grade of B is =good work, a grade of C=average work, a grade of D=inferior work, and a grade of F=failure.

\*Outlines of class lectures and exam study guides will be posted in advance on Blackboard. However, these outlines and guides are not a substitute for regular class attendance and diligent note taking.

\* If you experience any problems understanding either the assigned text or the class lectures, please contact me. My office hours are listed above, and I am available for appointments outside of office hours too. If you have any questions—regarding problems or just general questions—feel free to talk with me.

## Important Dates:

\*Wednesday, February 23: Exam 1

\*March 14-18: Spring Break

\*Wednesday, March 30: Exam 2

\*Friday, April 8: Last Day to Drop a Course with a "W"

\*Tuesday, May 10 at 10:15am: Final Exam

## Course Schedule:

Lecture	Topic	Dates	Readings and Assignments
<b>Intro</b>	Introduction	Thursday, 1/20	
<b>Part 1 – Why do we care about women and politics?</b>			
<b>Lecture 1</b>	Studying Gender and Political Science	Tuesday 1/25 Thursday, 1/27	2008 Election Readings <b>In-Class Film: <i>Not for Ourselves Alone</i> (1999)</b>
<b>Part 2 – Where and how are women elected?</b>			
<b>Lecture 2</b>	Women and Elections in the United States	Tuesday, 2/1 Thursday, 2/3	Fox and Lawless 2005 Lawless 2009
<b>Lecture 3</b>	Women and Elections Around the World	Tuesday, 2/8 Thursday, 2/10	Matland 2004 Kittilson and Fridkin 2008 Quota Symposium II
<b>Lecture 4</b>	Women and Elections in Latin America	Tuesday, 2/15 Thursday, 2/17	Schwindt-Bayer 2006 Escobar-Lemmon and Taylor-Robinson 2005
<b>Exam 1</b>	Exam 1 Week	Tuesday, 2/22: Review for Exam 1 <b>Thursday, 2/24: Exam 1 (Essay Due and In-Class Multiple Choice)</b>	
<b>Part 3 – When and why do women participate in politics?</b>			
<b>Lecture 5</b>	Women and Participation in the United States	Tuesday, 3/1 Thursday, 3/3	Lizotte and Sidman 2009 Taft 2006 Carroll 2006 (only pages 362-372)
<b>Lecture 6</b>	Women and Participation Around the World	Tuesday, 3/8 Thursday, 3/10	Desposato and Norrander 2008 Karp and Banducci 2008
<b>March 14-18: Spring Break</b>			
<b>Lecture 7</b>	Women and Political Participation in Europe	Tuesday, 3/22 Thursday, 3/24	Norris 1996 Bleijenbergh and Roggeband 2007
<b>Exam 2</b>	Exam 2 Week	Tuesday, 3/29: Review for Exam 2 <b>Thursday, 3/31: Exam 2 (Essay Due and In-Class Multiple Choice)</b>	
<b>Part 4 – How are women affected by public policy?</b>			
<b>Lecture 8</b>	Women and Policy in the United States	Tuesday, 4/5 Thursday, 4/7	Norrander and Wilcox 1999 <b>In-Class Film: <i>The Last Abortion Clinic</i> (2005)</b>
<b>Lecture 9</b>	Women and Policy Around the World	Tuesday, 4/12 Thursday, 4/14	Asal, Brown, and Figueroa 2008 Caprioli and Boyer 2001
<b>Lecture 10</b>	Women and Policy in the Middle East	Tuesday, 4/19 Thursday, 4/21	Norris 2009 <b>In-Class Film: <i>The Beauty Academy of Kabul</i> (2006)</b> <b>Journal Article Review Papers Due</b>
<b>Part 5 – In-Class Research Presentations</b>			
<b>Presentations</b>	In Class Research Presentations	Tuesday, 4/26 Thursday, 4/28	
<b>Part 6 – Conclusions: Where do we go from here?</b>			
<b>Conclusions</b>	Conclusions	Tuesday, 5/3	2010 Election Readings
<b>Exam 3</b>	Cumulative Final Exam	Thursday, 5/5: Review for Final Exam <b>Final Exam: Tuesday, 5/10 at 10:15am</b>	

\*All readings can be found on our course Blackboard page under “Assigned Readings.”

## **Article Review Paper**

The requirements of this course include a 4-5 page review of an article about women and politics that gives a brief summary of the argument as well as critically analyzes the article for the reader of your paper. The review papers will be due at the beginning of class on Thursday, April 21. On April 26 and April 28, we will discuss your papers in class. Each student should prepare a 5-10 minute oral summary of his or her article review, along with an accompanying PowerPoint presentation or paper handout for the class. A list of articles to choose from along with examples and detailed instructions about this assignment are on our course **Blackboard** page. **During the second week of class, you will be given a chance to choose your article and your presentation date.**

The purpose of the journal article assignment is to encourage you to explore and analyze a specific topic in greater detail and to gain experience analyzing scholarly and current research about women and politics. Your journal article review paper and presentation will count 20 points of your grade.

### **1. What article should I select to review?**

- ❖ A list of interesting recent articles on women and politics to choose from is posted on Blackboard.
- ❖ Choose an article on a topic in which you are interested and **not** an article just because it looks short or easy. Short articles are often the most difficult to understand and review.
- ❖ If you would like to review a recent article that is not listed on Blackboard, you will need my approval.
- ❖ If you are unsure about which article from the list is best for you, please feel free to ask.

### **2. What is an article review?**

- ❖ In an article review, you should do two things.
- ❖ First, you should summarize the topic. What is the paper about? What question or puzzle is the author investigating? How is it relevant to topics we discussed in class?
- ❖ Second, you should critically analyze the author's argument? How convincing is their explanation for the question they are attempting to answer? Are you convinced? Does the author provide enough evidence to support their argument? Does the author consider alternative explanations for the question they are asking?

### **3. How should the article review be structured?**

- ❖ Your review can be loosely structured into two parts. In the first part, you should provide a brief summary of the author's argument. In the first part, you should answer as many of the following questions as possible:
  - What topic is the author addressing? What is the question or puzzle the author is attempting to explain?
  - What is the author's main argument or theory?
  - What alternative arguments or hypotheses are discussed?
  - What evidence is used to support the author's argument?
- ❖ In the second part of the review, you should critically analyze how well the author makes their argument. This does not just mean stating, "The article was interesting" or "It was awful." I want you to address how well the author developed and supported their argument. In the second part, you should answer as many of the following questions as possible:
  - Does the author's argument make sense? Why or why not?
  - Can you think of a hypothesis or an example of evidence that would contradict or weaken the author's argument?
  - What kind of evidence does the author use to support their argument? What justification does the author give for using this evidence? Can you think of any reason that this evidence may be flawed or why different evidence should be used to test the argument? Can you think of a case, time period, or country where the author's argument would not make sense?
  - Does the article tell us anything new about women and politics? Does it have any significance in your understanding of the real world? Explain why or why not.

#### **4. How should the article review be formatted?**

- ❖ Your paper should be 4-5 pages, typed in 12-point standard font, double-spaced with 1 inch margins. Your paper should include page numbers on every page and a cover page with your name and the title of the article you are reviewing. Your cover page DOES NOT count toward the 4-5 page requirement.
- ❖ On the last page, your paper should include a citation of the article that you reviewed in APSA works cited format (extensive details are on Blackboard).
- ❖ If you quote a specific passage from the article, you must cite the quotation using APSA citation style (extensive details are on Blackboard).
- ❖ Your paper will be due in class at 11:00 am on Thursday, April 21. Electronic submissions will not be accepted unless you have the prior permission of the instructor. Late papers will be accepted with a penalty of 2 points for every day that the paper is late. The first 2 points will be deducted after 11:00am on Thursday, April 21. Two additional points will be deducted for every 24 hours that your paper is late until the paper is submitted.

#### **5. How will the journal article review be graded?**

You will be graded based on your demonstrated understanding of the topic and critical analysis of the author's argument in the article. A detailed rubric, explaining how your paper will be graded, is posted on Blackboard.