**Political Science 471/571**

**Gender & Politics: A Comparative Perspective**

Dr. Melody Ellis Valdini Spring 2011

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**Objectives and Approach:**

This is a course that will examine the role, progress, behavior, and power of women in politics using a comparative lens. We will consider representation, and learn about what affects the likelihood that women will be elected. In addition, we will discuss issues such as the value of gender quotas, the perception of women candidates, the behavior of women once in office, and the gender gap. We will investigate the role of institutions and religion in representation, and the effects of feminist social movements. Further, we will analyze the lives of women in Communist and Post-Communist States, as well as women in developing democracies. Countries such as Iran, Russia, the U.K., India, Germany, and Cuba will be included as our case studies.

**Course Assignments and Grading:**

10%= Discussion in Class

20%= Discussion Papers (2 total)

35%= Course Paper

35%= Final Exam

Class attendance is required, and you will be responsible for all lecture materials. You are expected to do the reading for each week and be prepared to discuss the reading in lecture.

**Description of the Course Assignments:**

Final Exam: This is an in-class, closed book test that will include both objective and essay questions.

Discussion Papers: The discussion papers should be submitted at the beginning of lecture, and should engage the readings of that day. This discussion paper is expected to be a reflective response to the reading assignment infused with your thoughts. Additionally, the discussion paper can include a critical response to the readings, or perhaps the application of a theme, question, or issue drawn from the readings to an actual, real life case in the world. I would like you to conclude your discussion paper with three questions that will provoke and stimulate classroom discussion.

Please note: There are no allowances for late discussion papers, and discussion papers that are simply a summary of the assigned reading will be considered weak and will receive substantially fewer points.

If you are an undergraduate: the discussion paper should be 5-6 pages, double-spaced.

If you are a graduate student: the discussion paper should be 9-10 pages, double-spaced.

NOTE: you must submit one discussion paper on or before **May 6**.

Course Paper: For your course paper, you will select one issue that was discussed in our readings and take it a step further. That is, find a topic that you like, and then develop a research question that is not answered (or perhaps answered incorrectly) by the readings. This research question should originate from your thoughts on a reading(s) – it must be original!

If you are an undergraduate: the paper should be 10-12 pages, double-spaced.

If you are a graduate student: the paper should be at least 25 pages, double-spaced.

\*\*Please note: A one-paragraph statement on the topic of your paper is due by 5/13/11.

**Academic Honesty:** Fair and effective education requires academic honesty, and any violation is a very serious matter. PSU rules concerning academic dishonesty are spelled out in the General Catalog. Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments in this course are *individual*, and no collaboration with any other person is permitted. In-class tests are *closed-book*, with no aids allowed. These rules will be strictly enforced. Any academic dishonesty will without exception be reported to the student's dean for disciplinary action.

**Readings:** The following books have been ordered by the PSU bookstore- all readings are required, and all books are available on reserve at the PSU library.

1. Drakulic, Slavenka. 1991. *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*. New York: Harper Perennial.

(hereafter referred to as “Drakulic”)

2. Kittilson, Miki Caul. 2006. *Challenging Parties, Changing Parliaments: Women and Elected Office in Contemporary Western Europe.* Columbus: Ohio State University Press.

(hereafter referred to as “Kittilson”)

3. Nussbaum, Martha. 2000. *Women and Human Development: The Capabilities Approach.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

(hereafter referred to as “Nussbaum”).

\*\*In addition, there will be articles from journals available online. You can access these articles via my website, or via any computer with a PSU connection. (hereafter referred to as “WEB”)

**Class Schedule**:

Fri, April 1: Introduction and logistics

Fri, April 8: Overview of Representation/Behavior of Women in Office

1.WEB: Schwindt-Bayer & Mishler “An Integrated Model of Women’s Representation”

2.WEB: Childs, Sarah. “A Feminised Style of Politics? Women MPs in

the House of Commons”

3.WEB: Cowley, Philip and Sarah Childs. “Too Spineless to Rebel? New

Labour’s Women MPs”

4. WEB: Matland, Richard. “Institutional Variables Affecting Female Representation in National Legislatures: The Case of Norway.

Fri, April 15: Perceptions of Women

1.WEB: Eagly and Karau. “Role Congruity Theory of Prejudice Toward Female Leaders.”

2.WEB: Banaszak, Lee Ann. “The Gendering State and Citizens’ Attitudes Toward Women’s Roles…”

3.WEB: Aalberg, Toral and Anders Todal Jenssen. “Gender Stereotyping of Political Candidates: An Experimental Study of Political Communication.”

4.WEB: Sjoberg, Laura and Caron E. Gentry. “Reduced to Bad Sex: Narratives of Violent Women from the Bible to the War on Terror.”

Fri, April 22: Gender Quotas & Representation

1.Kittilson: Chapter 4

2.WEB: Group of articles known as “Gender Quotas II” from *Politics & Gender*.

3.WEB: Murray, Rainbow, “The Power of Sex and Incumbency: A Longitudinal Study of Electoral Performance in France”

4.WEB: Baldez, Lisa. “Elected Bodies: The Gender Quota Law for Legislative Candidates in Mexico

Fri, April 29: Women and Parties

1.Kittilson: Chapters 1, 2, & 3.

2.Kittilson: Chapters 5, 6, 7 & 10.

Fri, May 6: Substantive Representation/Gendered Policy

1.WEB: Taylor-Robinson, Michelle and Roseanna Michelle Heath. “Do Women Legislators Have Different Policy Priorities than Their Male Colleagues? A Critical Case Test.”

2.WEB: Franceschet & Piscopo “Gender Quotas and Women’s Substantive Representation: Lessons from Argentina.”

3.WEB: Asal, Brown, & Figueroa “Structure, Empowerment, and the Liberalization of Cross-National Abortion Rights.”

4.WEB: Morgan, Kimberly “The Politics of Mothers' Employment: France in Comparative Perspective.”

Fri, May 13: Gender Gaps: Attitudes of Women & Political Activism

1.WEB: Lizotte & Sidman. “Explaining the Gender Gap in Political Knowledge”

2.WEB: Lewis, Paul. “The ‘Gender Gap’ in Chile”

3.WEB: Fox & Lawless “Entering the Arena? Gender and the Decision to Run for Office.”

4.WEB: Baldez, Lisa. “Women’s Movements and Democratic Transition in Chile, Brazil, East Germany, and Poland.”

\*\*One paragraph on paper topic due today (May 13)\*\*

Fri, May 20: Not Legislatures: Executive, Judicial, Regional Power

1.WEB: Escobar-Lemmon & Taylor-Robinson. “Women Ministers in Latin American Government: When, Where, and Why?

2.WEB: Jalalzai, Farida “Women Rule: Shattering the Executive Glass Ceiling”

3.WEB: Williams & Thames. “Women’s Representation on High Courts in Advanced Industrialized Countries”

4.WEB: Friedman, Elisabeth. “Re(gion)alizing Women’s Human Rights in Latin America.”

Fri, May 27:Women and the Communist State/ Women in the Post-Communist State

1.Drakulic: Entirety

2.WEB: Su, Fubing. “Gender Inequality in Chinese Politics: An Empirical Analysis of Provincial Elites.”

3.WEB: Luciak, Ilja. “Party and State in Cuba: Gender Equality in Political Decision Making”.

4.WEB: Ferber & Raabe “Women in the Czech Republic: Feminism, Czech Style”

Fri, June 3:Women and Human Development

1.Nussbaum: Entirety

Wed, June 8: Course Paper Due (submit to my mailbox by 4:00 pm)

\*\*Please note: You must turn in a paper copy of your paper on June 8 *AND* also email me an electronic copy ([mev@pdx.edu](mailto:mev@pdx.edu)) on June 8. These copies must match exactly.

Fri, June 10: FINAL EXAM (10:15-12:05)