

**Professor:** Dr. Catherine Wineinger  
**Course Number:** PLSC 345 (5 credits)  
**Class Time:** M/W/F 10:00am-11:20am  
**Room:** AH 015

**Office Location:** Arntzen Hall 416  
**Office Hours:** M/W/F 11:30am-12:30pm or by appt.  
**Email:** cathy.wineinger@wwu.edu  
**Department Phone:** (360) 650-3469

## Course Description

This class explores women's political participation and representation in the United States. The course is intended to be an introduction to the study of gender and U.S. politics, focusing on the current questions, concepts, and debates in the subfield. We will analyze women's status and influence in American politics; explore how partisanship and ideology shape women's political behavior; and delve deeper into the ways gender intersects with other identities like race, class, religion, sexuality, etc. This course touches on several areas within the field of American politics, including social movements, public opinion, voting behavior, campaigns and elections, and political institutions. We will learn how to interrogate common political narratives – as well as our own assumptions and beliefs – by examining American politics through a **gender lens**.

## Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Articulate basic facts about women's (under)representation in American politics;
- Understand and engage with core concepts in the subfield of gender politics, including feminism, intersectionality, and representation;
- Apply a gender lens to current events in American politics;
- Construct and evaluate analytical arguments related to gender politics;
- See improvement in their written and oral communication skills.

## Departmental Learning Outcomes

- Possess substantive knowledge in their area of concentration (1)
- Exhibit analytical skills in interpreting data (2)
- Demonstrate critical, independent thinking about politics and public life (5)
- Recognize the rights, responsibilities, and privileges of participating in, and contributing as a citizen in a diverse society (6)
- Understand and evaluate assumptions, values, and beliefs in context of diverse local, national and global communities (7)

## Required Readings & Assignments

All required and recommended readings – including articles, book chapters, podcasts, etc. – will be posted on Canvas within the corresponding module.

Assignment guidelines will also be posted on Canvas under the “Assignments” tab. All assignments should be submitted via Canvas by midnight on the due date.

## Class Conduct and Expectations

In order for our class discussions to be meaningful and productive, it is essential that we treat one another with respect. This includes: recognizing that each person in this class is bringing with them unique life experiences and academic training; demonstrating self-awareness and a willingness to listen; and engaging in constructive critiques.

### Earning Your Grade

Gender Lens Analyses (x3).....	30%
Social Media Post.....	10%
Scholarly Reading Reflection.....	5%
Final Presentation.....	20%
Final Paper.....	20%
Meaningful Participation.....	15%

*Extra credit:* You may earn **up to 2% extra credit** on your final grade if you 1) attend a political event on campus or in the community and write a 1-2 page reflection about how the event is related to this class or 2) create a social media post in line with the Social Media Post assignment guidelines. **Each reflection/post is worth 1% extra credit.**

### Scale

93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
<60	F

### Pass/No Pass Grades

Students opting for EP/NP grading in Fall Quarter 2020 will receive an EP for grades of D+ and above. A grade of D+, D, or D- will be recorded as a NP, which will not earn credits or be reflected in the GPA. A grade of F will be recorded as NP on the transcript, will not receive degree credit, and will not be reflected in the GPA.

### Important Dates:

Sept. 24 – Due: Survey  
Oct. 8 – Due: Gender Lens Analysis #1  
Oct. 15 – Due: Social Media Post  
Oct. 29 – Due: Gender Lens Analysis #2  
Nov. 12 – Due: Gender Lens Analysis #3

Nov. 22 – Due: Scholarly Reading Reflection  
**Nov. 24 – No Class – Fall Break**  
**Nov. 26 – No Class – Fall Break**  
Nov. 29-Dec.3 – Final Presentations  
Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Due: Final Paper

### Attendance/Absences

A reminder: participation is 15% of your grade and you will be quizzed on lectures, so it is worthwhile for you to come to class each day! One or two absences will not affect your grade, and you do not need to contact me if you're going to miss class (unless you have an extended [leave of absence](#)). If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from a classmate.

### Extensions and Late Work

I expect you to turn in your assignments on time, but I understand that sometimes life gets in the way. If you need an extension on an assignment, please email me **before** the assignment is due. There are **no extensions on presentations, and I will not accept work after the last day of class.** *Note: I cannot guarantee you feedback on late work (that also means you may not have an opportunity to revise the assignment).*

### WWU Policies and Student Resources

Please visit [syllabi.wvu.edu](http://syllabi.wvu.edu) for a list of university policies and resources, including: plagiarism and academic integrity policies, disability resources, religious accommodation policies, etc.

### COVID-19 Safety Information for All WWU Students

Due to the ongoing risk of community spread of COVID-19, WWU students are reminded that **proper use of masks is required in all indoor spaces on campus and WWU transportation.** Your cooperation will play an important role in preventing COVID-19 transmission and keeping our classroom spaces open for face-to-face instruction. **You should stay home if you have any possible COVID-19 symptoms.** If you have symptoms and need to stay home, or if you are instructed to isolate due to a positive COVID-19 diagnosis or close contact with a diagnosed person, you should contact your instructor to make alternate arrangements for completing assigned class work, as you would for any illness or injury that prevents in-person participation in the class.

If you disregard this mandate (including anyone wearing a mask improperly) you are potentially putting your classmates at risk, which is against the expectations of the WWU Student Code of Conduct. If a faculty member identifies an unsafe situation in the class, they have the authority to tell any student contributing to the problem to change their unsafe behavior or, failing that, to leave the place where the class is taking place.

### Office Hours/Contact Information

Office hours are for **you!** I want you to succeed (both in and beyond this class). If you have questions, would like to further discuss readings/assignments, or just want to talk about politics, career goals, etc., please feel free to stop by.

- **When:** M/W/F 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- **Where:** 1) In-person meetings: Arntzen Hall 416  
2) Zoom meetings: Click the “Virtual Office Hours” link located at the top of the Modules page on Canvas

**If you cannot meet during these hours, please email me at [cathy.wineinger@wwu.edu](mailto:cathy.wineinger@wwu.edu) to schedule an appointment.** I only read and reply to emails during regular business hours. Give me one full business day to respond to your email, but don't be afraid to follow up after that!

### A Note on Self-Care

Nothing is more important than taking good care of yourself! I expect you to give your best effort in class, but I will also work to be flexible and accommodating (and I hope you will be patient with me as well!). **Your physical and mental health is always a priority.** Please stay in communication with me so that we can work together to find solutions to any issues that may arise this quarter.

## Women and Politics: Fall 2021 Course Agenda

Below is the tentative schedule for this quarter. Please note that this course agenda is subject to change. If a change is made, I will send you an email and update the syllabus on Canvas.

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### WEEK 1 – STUDYING WOMEN, GENDER, & AMERICAN POLITICS

#### W/ September 22 – Introduction & Class Overview

- Explore CAWP's website: <https://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/>

#### F/ September 24 – Status of the Subfield

- Carroll, Susan J. 2005. "Reflections on Activism and Social Change for Scholars of Women and Politics." *Critical Perspectives on Gender and Politics*. 1(2): 326-336.
- Alexander-Floyd, Nikol G. 2019. "Why Political Scientists Don't Study Black Women, but Historians and Sociologists Do: On Intersectionality and the Remapping of the Study of Black Political Women." In *Black Women in Politics*. Julia S. Jordan-Zachery and Nikol G. Alexander-Floyd, eds.

**\*\*DUE: Survey (Module 1 on Canvas)**

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### WEEK 2 – SOCIAL MOVEMENTS: WOMEN, FEMINISM, & INTERSECTIONALITY

#### M/ September 27 – From Suffrage to the Women's March

- Wolbrecht, Christina and J. Kevin Corder. *A Century of Votes for Women: American Elections Since Suffrage*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, Ch. 2: "Women Without the Vote"
- Watters, Jessica. 2017. "Pink Hats and Black Fists: The Role of Women in the Black Lives Matter Movement." *William & Mary Journal of Race, Gender, and Social Justice*. 24:199-207.

#### W/ September 29 – Waves of Feminism?

- Reger, Jo. 2017. "Finding a Place in History: The Discursive Legacy of the Wave Metaphor and Contemporary Feminism." *Feminist Studies*. 43(1): 193-221.
- Cohen, Cathy J. and Sarah J. Jackson. 2015. "Ask a Feminist: A Conversation with Cathy Cohen on Black Lives Matter, Feminism, and Contemporary Activism." *Signs*.

#### F/ October 1 – Women in Conservative Movements

- McRae, Elizabeth Gillespie. 2018. *Mothers of Massive Resistance: White Women and the Politics of White Supremacy*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, Introduction: "Segregation's Constant Gardeners"
  - Schreiber, Ronnee. 2018. "Is There a Conservative Feminism? An Empirical Account." *Politics & Gender*. 14: 56-79.
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## WEEK 3 – WOMEN’S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

### M/ October 4 – Political Knowledge & Participation

- Ondercin, Heather L. and Daniel Jones-White. 2011. “Gender Jeopardy: What is the Impact of Gender Differences in Political Knowledge on Political Participation?” *Social Science Quarterly*. 92(3): 675-694.
- Gothreau, Claire M. 2021. “Sex Objects: How Self-Objectification Undermines Political Efficacy and Engagement.” *Journal of Women, Politics & Policy*.

### W/ October 6 – Gender Gaps in Public Opinion & Voting Behavior

- Lawless, Jennifer L. and Richard L. Fox. 2018. *Women, Men & U.S. Politics: Ten Big Questions*. New York, NY: Norton, Ch. 6: “His and Her Politics: Examining the Gender Gap”
- Deckman, Melissa and Erin Cassese. 2019. “Gendered Nationalism and the 2016 US Presidential Election: How Party, Class, and Beliefs about Masculinity Shaped Voting Behavior.” *Politics & Gender*.
- *Explore*: LGBTQ women’s political behavior at [Project LPAC](#)

### F/ October 8 - Grassroots and Local Politics

- Wong, Diane. 2019. “Shop Talk and Everyday Sites of Resistance to Gentrification in Manhattan’s Chinatown.” *Women’s Studies Quarterly*. 47(1&2):132-148.
- Holman, Mirya R. 2017. “Women in Local Government: What We Know and Where We Go from Here.” *State and Local Government Review*. 49(4): 285-296.

**\*\*DUE: Gender Lens Analysis #1**

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## WEEK 4 – WOMEN’S POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

### M/ October 11 – Should Women Represent Women?

- Pitkin, Hanna F. 1967. *The Concept of Representation*. Los Angeles, CA: University of California Press, Ch. 1: “Introduction.”
- Mansbridge, Jane. 1999. “Should Blacks Represent Blacks and Women Represent Women? A Contingent ‘Yes.’” *The Journal of Politics*. 61(3): 628-657.

### W/ October 13 – Complicating Women’s Representation

- Dahlerup, Drude. 2006. “The Story of the Theory of Critical Mass.” *Critical Perspectives, Politics & Gender*. 2: 511-521.
- Childs, Sarah and Mona Lena Krook. 2009. “Analysing Women’s Substantive Representation: From Critical Mass to Critical Actors.” *Government and Opposition*. 44(2): 125-145.

### F/ October 15 – Ideology, Inclusion, and Women’s Representation

- Celis, Karen and Sarah Childs. 2018. “Conservatism and Women’s Political Representation.” *Politics & Gender*. 14: 5-26.
- Phillips, Anne. 2012. “Representation and Inclusion.” *Critical Perspectives, Politics & Gender*. 8(4): 512-518.

**\*\*NOTE: NO office hours today! Please email me if you’d like to schedule an appointment.**

**\*\*DUE: Social Media Post**

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## WEEK 5 – GENDER AND PUBLIC POLICY

### M/ October 18 – Policy and the Patriarchal State

- Howard, Grace. 2020. “The Pregnancy Police: Surveillance, Regulation, and Control.” *Harvard Law & Policy Review*. 14(2): 347-363.
- Angevine, Sara. 2021. “What is American Feminist Foreign Policy? A Brief Analysis of the Representation of Women in American Foreign Policy Legislation, 1973-2020.” *SAIS Review of International Affairs*. 41(1): 85-97.

### W/ October 20 – Enacting Policy

- Banaszak, Lee Ann, and Anne Whitesell. 2017. “Inside the State: Activism within Legislative and Governmental Agency Forums.” In *The Oxford Handbook of U.S. Women’s Social Movement Activism*. Oxford University Press.
- Strickland, James M. and Katelyn E. Stauffer. 2021. “Legislative Diversity and the Rise of Women Lobbyists.” *Political Research Quarterly*. 1-16.

### F/ October 22 – GUEST SPEAKER

- TBD
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## WEEK 6 – DECIDING TO RUN

### M/ October 25 – Gender and Political Ambition

- Lawless, Jennifer L. and Richard L. Fox. 2013. “Girls Just Wanna Not Run: The Gender Gap in Young Americans’ Political Ambition.” School of Public Affairs, American University.
- Fox, Richard L. and Jennifer L. Lawless. 2011. “Gendered Perceptions and Political Candidacies: A Central Barrier to Women’s Equality in Electoral Politics.” *American Journal of Political Science*. 55(1): 59-73.

### W/ October 27 – Rethinking Ambition

- Holman, Mirya R. and Monica C. Schneider. 2016. “Gender, race, and political ambition: how intersectionality and frames influence interest in political office.” *Politics, Groups, and Identities*. 6(2): 264-280.
- Sanbonmatsu, Kira and Susan J. Carroll. 2017. “Women’s decisions to run for office: A relationally embedded model.” In *The Political Psychology of Women in U.S. Politics*. Angela L. Bos and Monica C. Schneider, eds.

### F/ October 29 – GUEST SPEAKER

- TBD

[\\*DUE: Gender Lens Analysis #2](#)

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## WEEK 7 – RUNNING FOR OFFICE: CAMPAIGNS & STRATEGIES

### M/ November 1 – Campaigns as Gendered Institutions

- Dittmar, Kelly. 2015. *Navigating Gendered Terrain: Stereotypes and Strategy in Political Campaigns*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, Ch. 2: “Consultant Perceptions of Voters’ Gender Stereotypes” & Ch. 3: “Consultant Perceptions of Effective Strategies”
- Krook, Mona Lena. “AOC spoke out against a global problem – violence against women in politics.” *The Monkey Cage*, *The Washington Post*, July 28, 2020.

### W/ November 3 – Running (and Winning) as Women

- Dittmar, Kelly. 2021. [Measuring Success: Women in 2020 Legislative Elections](#). Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University.
- Sampaio, Anna. 2019. ¡Adelante, Mujeres! *NACLA Report on the Americas*. 51(1):13-17.

### F/ November 5 – GUEST SPEAKER

- TBD

[\\*DEADLINE to choose organization & sign up for presentation date on Canvas](#)

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## WEEK 8 – WOMEN IN CONGRESS

### M/ November 8 – Legislative Behavior

- Lawless, Jennifer L., Sean M. Theriault, and Samantha Guthrie. 2018. “Nice Girls? Sex, Collegiality, and Bipartisan Cooperation in the US Congress.” *Journal of Politics* 80 (4): 1268–1282.
- Bryant, Lisa A. and Julia Marin Hellwege. 2019. “Working Mothers Represent: How Children Affect the Legislative Agenda of Women in Congress.” *American Politics Research*. 47(3): 447–470.

### W/ November 10 – Navigating Congress as Women

- Dittmar, Kelly, Kira Sanbonmatsu, Susan J. Carroll, Debbie Walsh, and Catherine Wineinger. 2017. *Representation Matters: Women in the U.S. Congress*. Center for American Women and Politics.
- Dittmar, Kelly. 2021. “Invisible Forces: Gender, Race, and Congressional Staff.” *Politics, Groups, and Identities*. 1-17.
- Wineinger, Catherine. May 20, 2021. “House Republicans kept a woman in their third highest post. What stops GOP women from climbing higher?” *The Washington Post*.

### F/ November 12 – GUEST SPEAKER

- TBD

[\\*DUE: Gender Lens Analysis #3](#)

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## WEEK 9 – WOMEN AND THE WHITE HOUSE

### M/ November 15 – VPOTUS and FLOTUS

- Conroy, Meredith, Sarah Oliver, Ian Breckenridge-Jackson and Caroline Heldman. 2015. “From Ferraro to Palin: sexism in coverage of vice presidential candidates in old and new media.” *Politics, Groups, and Identities*. 3(4): 573-591.
- Guerrero, Lisa. 2011. “(M)Other-in-Chief: Michelle Obama and the Ideal of Republican Womanhood.” In *New Femininities: Postfeminism, Neoliberalism and Subjectivity*. Rosalind Gill and Christina Scharff, eds.

### W/ November 17 – The Highest, Hardest, Glass Ceiling

- Beail, Linda, Lilly J. Goren, and Mary A. McHugh. 2019. “Madam President? Female Candidates, Masculine Norms of Executive Power, and the 2020 Nomination Contest.” In *The Making of the Presidential Candidates 2020*. Jonathan Bernstein and Casey B. K. Dominguez, eds.
- Hunter, Tera W. 2011. “The Forgotten Legacy of Shirley Chisholm: Race versus Gender in the 2008 Democratic Primaries.” In *Obama, Clinton, Palin: Making History in Election 2008*. Liette Gidlow, ed.

### F/ November 19 – GUEST SPEAKER

- TBD
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## WEEK 10 – GENDER & THE JUDICIARY

### M/ November 22 – Women, Gender, & the Courts

- Navarro, Sharon A. 2010. “Shaking Hands and Kissing Babies: The Intersectionality of Ethnicity, Class, and Gender, and Latina Women’s Decisions to Run for Judicial Office.” *Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies*. 35(2): 65-87.
- Dovi, Suzanne and Francy Luna. 2020. “Women ‘doing’ the judiciary: rethinking the justice argument for descriptive representation.” *Politics, Groups, and Identities*.

**\*DUE: Scholarly Reading Reflection**

### W/ November 24 – NO CLASS – FALL BREAK

### F/ November 26 – NO CLASS – FALL BREAK

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## WEEK 11 – FINAL PRESENTATIONS: SUPPORTING WOMEN IN POLITICS

M/ November 29 – Presentations

W/ December 1 – Presentations

F/ December 3 – Presentations

**\*DUE: Final Paper**

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## FINALS WEEK (Dec. 6-10) – NO FINAL EXAM

Have a great winter break 😊