GVPT 359C / WMST 498Q - Gender and Politics Winter Term 2016

Instructor – Noa Balf
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Office Hours – by appointment

Course Description:
The course will introduce students to the main topics in Gender and Politics scholarship. Race, sexual orientation, class, and gender identity are all fundamental to the critical analysis of the who, where, what and when of gender politics. This class covers diverse issues such as; women’s participation in political parties, women as voters and candidates in political elections, feminism and the state, and gender and international politics. The class will further expose students to democratic representation theoretical literature.

Grading:

Participation – 15%
Response Papers – 25%
Short Paper – 25%
Long Paper – 35%

Assignments:

1. As this is an online course, participation will be graded based on commenting on two other student’s responses to assigned readings.
2. Brief response (300-400 words) to an assigned reading of your choice for each class
3. Short paper (4-5 pages) - Address the usefulness of one type of feminist scholarship, or particular feminist analysis (liberal, feminism of care, race, queer theory) using examples from the assigned reading. It is possible to address a current issue, given instructor approval. Due January 12
4. Long paper (7-10 pages) – critically analyze a topic discussed in class (political parties, social movements, elections, the state) while considering various feminist (as in more than one) approaches. Due January 22

Your responses to the reading and your classmates should be well-thought out and they should ultimately contribute to expanding the discussion. Your responses should be at least 1/2 of a double-spaced page (approximately 300-400 words) and 1/3 of a double-spaced page for classmate responses. Each response assignment will be posted on ELMS with the corresponding date (it is your responsibility to make sure your response matches the reading assigned for that day). The daily discussions must be completed within 48 hours of the reading due date for you to
receive a grade. Your responses will be graded on length but mostly on content. If you have any clarifying questions on the course materials and readings you can post those as well. I will respond either with a written post or with an audio/video response.

**Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of the semester I expect students to:

- Be able to articulate a definition for gender and be able to understand and explain the role gender plays in the political process.

- Form their own opinion on key gender-related issues, basing their opinion on the theories and practical applications discussed in class.

- Better understand how gender and politics differ in different areas of the world.

- Improve their understanding of how legislatures work.

- Improve their writing and critical analysis skills.

**Readings:**

There are no assigned books for this class. All readings are posted on ELMS. Students are expected to read materials BEFORE class.

**Schedule:**

**January 4 – Introduction to Gender and Politics**


**January 5 - The “Gender” of Political Science**

- Smith, Nicola J. “What’s Queer About Political Science?” British Journal of
January 6 – Women and Social Movements

January 7 – Gender, Elections and Political Participation

January 8 – Women and Political Parties
- Krook, Mona Lena, and Childs, Sarah. (Oxford University Press, 2010), *Women, Gender and Politics*, Part 2

January 11 – Gender and Political Representation

January 12 - Gender and Policy (SHORT PAPER DUE)

January 13 - Quotas
January 14 – Critical Mass or Critical Actors

January 15 – Continued

January 18 – Feminism and the State

January 19 – Women’s Interests

January 20 – Comparative Perspective on ‘Gender Violence’ and ‘Gender and Conflict’

January 21 – Comparative Perspective on Gender Equity

January 22 – FINAL PAPER DUE
- Concluding Remarks