

Gender and Politics

Lea Sgier

Department of Political Science
Central European University

MA Programme (elective course)

Winter semester 2011 (4 credits)

Class meetings : Tue and Thu 9:00-10:40

Office hours: Tue 11:00-12:00 and Wed 15:30-17:00

Course description

Feminist scholarship of the last two decades has extensively thematised the gendered nature of politics in all its dimensions, some of which will be explored in this course. We start with an overview of feminist criticism of key political concepts (democracy, citizenship, the state). We then turn our attention towards institutional politics and, more specifically, political representation as a central institutional and normative device of liberal democracy. We discuss normative issues of democratic theory from a gender perspective as well as various factors that can explain the persistent under-representation of women around the world. Finally, we set the issue of political representation into a wider perspective by relating it back to issues of feminist mobilisation, “new” gender equality politics (including instruments such as quotas, gender mainstreaming, state feminism) and to a broader politics of promotion of diversity.

The course blends elements of political theory and comparative politics. The main geographical focus will be on liberal democracies in Western Europe and North America, and on emerging democracies in East-Central and South-Eastern Europe. However, the students are free to work on countries in other areas for their research papers.

Course requirements and assessment

The course consists of 24 sessions (two per week) that offer a mix of lectures and seminar sessions with student presentations, classroom discussions and group work. Students are expected to have read the required readings and be prepared to actively participate in class-room activities.

Assessment will be based on the following:

Active class-room participation (fail/pass) (30%)

Attendance (with timely arrival) and active participation in all class-room activities will be required. Short assignments (such as brief comments to readings or questions raised in class, or critical reactions to oral presentations) will repeatedly be given throughout the course. The assignments are required of all participants, but are not graded (evaluation on a fail/pass basis).

Final research paper with oral presentation (70%)

5000-6000 word research paper on a topic of the student's choice. The topic should be discussed with the instructor in weeks 4-5 at the latest. A 2-page paper proposal should be submitted by week 6. The paper can take a variety of shapes: a classical empirical analysis, conceptual or normative discussions, critical and focused review of the literature in a particular field, etc.

Each course participant will make a presentation of her/his research in progress around weeks 8-9 (the precise schedule will depend on the number of participants). These presentations are evaluated on a pass/fail basis (no grades).

Learning outcomes

- An in-depth understanding of normative and empirical key issues in the field of institutional politics, political representation and gender equality politics;
- Research skills in the field of gender and politics;
- Oral presentation skills;
- Critical thinking and discussion skills.

Course Programme

Week 1 Gender, power and politics

Class 1: Women and politics

Paxton, Pamela (2008). "Gendering democracy", in Goertz, Gary and Mazur, Amy G. (eds). *Politics, Gender and Concepts. Theory and Methodology*. Cambridge: CUP, pp. 47-70.

Krook, Mona Lena and Childs, Sarah (2010). "Women, gender and politics: an introduction", in Krook, Mona Lena and Childs, Sarah (eds). *Women, Gender, and Politics. A Reader*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 3-18.

Class 2: Gender and politics

Connell, R.W. (1987). *Gender & Power*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, pp. 119-143.

Week 2 Gender, citizenship and the state

Class 1:

Kantola, Johanna (2006). *Feminists theorize the state*. New York: Palgrave, ch. 1, 5.

Supplementary reading:

MacKinnon, Catharine A. (1989). *Toward a feminist theory of the state*. Cambridge. Harvard University Press, ch. 8.

Orloff, Ann (1996). "Gender in the welfare state". *Annual Review of Sociology* 22: 51-78.

Class 2:

Lister, Ruth (1997). "Citizenship: towards a feminist synthesis". *Feminsit Review* 57: 28-48.

Week 3 Political representation (1)

Class 1: Women's political under-representation : an overview

European Commission (2009). *Women in European Politics – Time for Action*. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, pp. 13-45. (available in full on-line – search via google).

Matland, Richard and Montgomery, Kathleen (2003). "Recruiting Women to National Legislatures. A General Framework with Applications to Post-Communist Europe", in Matland, Richard and Montgomery, Kathleen (eds), *Women's Access to Political Power in Post-Communist Europe*. Oxford: OUP, pp. 19-41.

Class 2 : Gender, justice and political representation (1)

Phillips, Anne (1995). *The Politics of Presence*. Oxford: OUP, pp. 27-56 (ch.2).

Week 4 Political representation (2)

Class 1 Gender, justice and political representation (2)

Mansbridge, Jane (1999). « Should Blacks Represent Blacks and Women Represent Women ? A Contingent 'Yes' ». *Journal of Politics* 61(3) : 628-657.

Young, Marion (2000). *Inclusion and Democracy*. NY: OUP, pp. 121-153.

Supplementary readings:

Saward, Michael (2010). *The Representative Claim*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 82-110 and 138-168.

Class 2 Women's political under-representation : descriptive and substantive

Celis, Karen, Child, Sarah, Kantola, Johanna et Krook, Mona Lena (2008). « Rethinking Women's Substantive Representation ». *Representation* 44(2) : 99-110.

Mateo Diaz, Mercedes (2005). *Representing Women ? Female Legislators in West European Parliaments*. Colchester : ECPR Press, pp. 109-128, 183-203.

Preliminary discussions of topics for research papers

Week 5 Women in institutional politics (1)

Class 1 Sources of women's under-representation (1)

Kenworthy, Lane and Malami, Melissa (1999). "Gender Inequality in Political Representation: A Worldwide Comparative Analysis". *Social Forces* 78(1): 235-268.

Supplementary reading:

Gill, Rosalind (2007). *Gender and the Media*. Cambridge : Polity, pp. 113-150.

Class 2 Sources of women's under-representation (2)

Caul, Miki (1999). « Women's representation in parliament : The role of political parties ». *Party Politics* 5(1): 79-98.

Supplementary reading:

Norris, Pippa (1996) « Legislative Recruitment », in LeDuc, L., Niemi, R. et Norris, P. (éds), *Comparing Democracies. Elections and Voting in Global Perspective*. Thousand Oaks : Sage, pp. 184-215.

Week 6 Women in institutional politics (2)

Class 1 Sources of women's under-representation (3)

Farrell, David (1997). *Comparing Electoral Systems*. London: Prentice Hall, pp. 1-11 and 142-168.

Supplementary readings:

Reynolds, Andrew et Reilly, Ben and Ellis, Andrew (2002). *Electoral System Design*. Stockholm : IDEA.

Larserud, Stina et Taphorn, Rita (2007). *Designing for Equality. Best-fit, medium-fit and non-favourable combinations of electoral systems and gender quotas*. Stockholm : IDEA.

Class 2 Gender quotas (1)

Krook, Mona Lena (2009). *Quotas for Women in Politics. Gender and Candidate Selections Worldwide*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 19-57. ("The Adoption of Gender Quotas").

Supplementary readings:

Dahlerup, Drude (2006). « Introduction », in Dahlerup, D. (éd.), *Women, Quotas and Politics*. London/New York : Routledge, pp. 3-21.

Matland, Richard (2006). « Electoral Quotas : Frequency and Effectiveness », in Dahlerup, D. (éd.), *Women, Quotas and Politics*. London/New York : Routledge, pp. 275-292.

2-page proposals for research papers

Week 7 Women in institutional politics (3)

Class 1 Gender quotas (2)

Dahlerup, Drude et Freidenvall, Lenita (2005). « Quotas as ‘Fast Track’ to Equal Representation for Women. Why Scandinavia is no longer the Model ». *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 7(1) : 26-48.

Class 2 Gender quotas (3)

Phillips, Anne (1995). *The Politics of Presence*. Oxford: OUP, pp. 57-83. (ch. 3).

Week 8 Student presentations

Class 1 Presentations of research papers in progress (1)

Class 2 Presentations (2)

Week 9 Student presentations

Class 1 Presentations (3)

Class 2 Presentations (4)

Week 10 Beyond Political Representation : the Politics of Gender Equality (1)

Class 1 *Equality strategies*

Squires, Judith (2007). *The New Politics of Gender Equality*. Houndmills : Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 18-51.

Class 2 *State feminism*

Chappell, Louise (2000). “Interacting with the State: Feminist Strategies and Political Opportunities”. *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 2(2): 244-275.

Supplementary readings:

McBride, Dorothy and Mazur, Amy G. (2010). *The Politics of State Feminism*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, pp. 71-100.

Outshoorn, Joyce and Kantola, Johanna (ed.) (2007). *Changing State Feminism*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.

Week 11 The Women’s movements

Class 1 *Transitions*

Baldez, Lisa (2003). “Women’s Movements and Democratic Transitions in Chile, Brazil, East Germany and Poland”. *Comparative Politics*. 35(3): 253-272.

Class 2 Global Feminisms

Tripp, Aili Mari (2006). "The Evolution of Transnational Feminisms: Consensus, Conflict, and New Dynamics", in pp. 5 Marx Ferree, Myra and Tripp, Aili Mari (eds). *Global Feminism. Transnational Women's Activism, Organizing, and Human Rights*. New York/London: New York University Press, pp. 51-78.

Supplementary readings:

Banaszak, Lee Ann (2010). *The women's movement inside and outside the state*. CUP, pp. 30-62 and 137-161.

Marx Ferree, Myra and McClurg Mueller, Carol (2007). "Feminism and the Women's Movements: A Global Perspective", in Snow, David, Soule, Sarah and Kriesi, Hanspeter et al., (eds), *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*. Malden MA: Blackwell, pp. 576-607.

Week 12 Theoretical issues

Class 1: Feminism and conceptualisations of gender issues

Scott, Joan W. (1997). "Deconstructing Equality-Verus-Difference: Or, the Uses of Poststructuralist Theory for Feminism", in Tietjens Meyers, Diana (ed), *Feminist Social Thought*. New York/London: Routledge, pp. 758-770.

Supplementary reading:

Mohanty, Chandra Talpade (1997). "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses", in McClintock, Anne, Mufti, Amir and Shohat, Ella (eds) (1997). *Dangerous Liaisons : Gender, Nation, and Postcolonial Perspectives*. Minneapolis : University of Minnesota Press, pp. 255-277.

Class 2 : Concluding discussion

08.12.2010/ls