

Western University 2022-23
Political Science 3207G, Section 001
Women, Sex, & Politics

Prerequisite(s): POL 2537F/G or POL 2237E.

Instructional Team and Contact Information:

- **Instructor:** Dr. Biswas Mellamphy: nbiswas[at]uwo.ca
- **Teaching Assistant:** Shane Cooney: scooney3[at]uwo.ca.

Course Description: This course explores theories and representations of sex and gender in politics and media, introducing students to the political history of women's struggle over issues like rights, labour, and sexual identity. Students will gain familiarity with diverse national and global debates and various influential theoretical perspectives (namely liberal, radical, socialist, marxist, postmodernist, postcolonial, transnational, and critical race feminisms). Topics will include:

- Gendered institutions, the politics of sexual differences, and gender (in)justice
- Gender equality/inequality and the public/private divide
- Democracy, citizenship, and gender representations
- Domination, power, and sexual discrimination
- Representations of gender in leadership positions
- Politics of gender/Gender policies in global contexts (e.g. sex work)

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, you should be able:

- To demonstrate knowledge of major western and some non-western feminist political theories, ideologies and approaches;
- To understand how the concepts of sex, gender, race, and class relate to political theories and ideologies, as well as to actual political practices;
- To demonstrate ability to use political theories to address controversial contemporary social issues like equal pay, child care, and sex work.

Course Requirements: This is an in-person course that has been designed to be completed on a weekly basis, so try to follow along with the suggested order and schedule.

There are 3 main requirements to succeed in this course:

1. Attend the in-class lecture on Tuesdays from 11:30 AM to 1:20 PM (starting January 10, 2023) in Social Science Centre Room 3024. Class attendance is important for meeting the class objectives. If you can't make it to class, make sure you have the contact information of a couple of 'note-buddies' in the class with whom you can trade notes when necessary. Next time you're in class, just introduce yourself to the person sitting next to you and exchange email addresses so that you have a class contact. Remember, **notes will NOT be provided by the instructional team**, so it's your responsibility to get notes if you miss class.

2. Do your weekly homework *before* you come to the Tuesday lecture class (the only exception is the first class where I do not expect you to have done your homework before coming to class). To access the course schedule and reading/viewing materials, go to the course OWL page and the 'Course Content' section (just look on the left-hand menu of this page and click; those readings that are not on the course website are located in the course textbooks so please purchase these). Make sure to **take good notes** on all aspects of your weekly homework. The weekly homework will prepare you for new materials to be introduced during the in-class lectures.

3. Submit all your assignments by the deadline to avoid any grade deductions. Give yourself lots of time to tackle each assignment so that you can submit by the deadline. Contact your TA early to get help and/or feedback about your assignment.

Course Materials and Required Textbooks: The Bookstore will order the newest available edition, but older editions are acceptable.

Judith Lorber, *Gender Inequality: Feminist Theory and Politics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

Sarah L. Henderson and Alana S. Jeydel, *Women and Politics in a Global World* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

Other articles may be assigned to accompany your reading of the primary texts. All articles not found in the course textbooks are available on the course website (OWL).

Evaluation and Deadlines:

1000 word Mini Essay/Critical Response = 30% due February 7, 2023 by electronic upload to the course website no later than 5pm (EST).

Research Essay = 35%; due March 14, 2023 by electronic upload to the course website no later than 5pm.

Take Home Final Exam = 35%; released March 28, 2023 and due no later than in 7 days by April 4, 2023 by electronic upload to the course website no later than 5pm EST.

Makeup Test/Exam Policy: For missed or assignment deadlines, a student must go through the SMA (student medical accommodation through their faculty Academic Counselling) process. The course policy (no exceptions) is that no assignments/exams may be taken early for any reason. Failure to write one of the assignments/exams without providing documentation a sufficient excuse will result in a grade of zero for that assignment/exam.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university. The University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously (even when these are unintended because you should know when you are doing it).

Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing unauthorized aids
- Communicating with someone else during an exam or test
- Misrepresenting your identity when you knew or ought to have known you were doing it.

In academic work:

- Falsifying institutional documents or grades
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes
- When you knew or ought to have known you were doing so.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated. If students have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, they are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from their instructors or from other institutional resources.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel contact Accessibility Education:

http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

Reading Schedule and List of Weekly Topics (actual course content is available by week on course website in 'Course Content' folder):

- Week 1: Introduction to course themes and mechanics; the concepts of 'sex' and 'gender'.
- Week 2 Feminisms and Representations of Sex and Gender in Politics and Media.
- Week 3 Does Institutional Representation Solve the Problem of Gender Inequality?
Institutional and Non-Institutional Politics;

*second half of class: Writing Clinic for Assignment 1
- Week 4 In-class writing clinic for Assignment 1; come to class and get help from your TA;
no in-class lecture this week.
- Week 5 Liberal Feminism: Do Women and Men Have to Be the Same to be Equal?

* Assignment 1 due TODAY.
- Week 6 Marxist and Socialist Feminisms: Does Class Equality Solve the Problem of
Gender Inequality?
- Feb. 21 Reading Week/No class*
- Week 7 Radical Feminism: Is 'Patriarchy' a Universal and Global Phenomenon?
- Week 8 'Queering' Identities: Is Gender 'Performative'?
- Week 9 Postcolonial and Global Feminisms: Does the Concept of 'Intersectionality' Solve
the Problem of Gender Inequality?

* Assignment 2 DUE TODAY.
- Week 10 Third Wave Feminisms: Gender and Race
- Week 11 Women, Sex, & Politics: Sex Work (last in-person lecture); *Assignment 3
released today.
- Week 12 *Assignment 3 DUE TODAY; no class.

APPENDICES: ASSIGNMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS

1. CRITICAL RESPONSE MINI ESSAY

Mini-essay Question:

Does Institutional Representation Solve the Problem of Gender Inequality?

Objectives:

- To apply the course concepts thus far to answer the question posed.
- To demonstrate your knowledge and grasp of the materials thus far.
- To communicate your arguments in writing with concise, clear, and persuasive arguments.

Instructions:

This exercise evaluates your familiarity with the course materials and main themes; this means the more you can critically and reflectively draw in class materials, the better you will score. Critical reflections do not report and summarize the readings; rather, they are your interpretations and evaluations of the course materials and should be a demonstration of your well-reasoned judgments and arguments. This short writing assignment is intended to help you build your writing and argumentation skills (in preparation for the other two assignments to come).

Format: Based on the readings and using the course materials you have studied up till this point, you will write a mini-essay that offers a critical response to the essay question. Demonstrate your knowledge of the class materials by discussing concepts and arguments covered in the weekly readings up to that point.

All responses should be formulated in standard essay-style (introduction, body, conclusion, citations and bibliography) and be about 1000 words (give or take a few words; however if you radically exceed the word count limits, you may lose marks. Preferred citation style: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

2. INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESEARCH ESSAY

Format: Typed, 12 point font, double-spaced, 1 inch margins, about 9 pages, including bibliography.

The aim of this assignment is to do research on a feminist champion of gender equality. The essay will give a snapshot of a subject's life and works (this could be a historical figure or a fictional person/character, or even a group or organization), focusing on describing its contributions to feminism and gender equality.

Objectives:

- To demonstrate your understanding of the class materials and concepts.
- To apply feminist political ideologies relevantly to a historical subject/person/group of your choice.
- To familiarize yourself with the histories of women's involvement in politics and political thinking.
- To conduct effective library and online research.
- To communicate and present your findings in a coherent scholarly essay format.

Instructions:

- Pick a controversial person (real or fictional) or a group (e.g. an organization) of public note from the world of politics, culture or economics; conduct research on the topic; and provide a well-reasoned presentation of the topic and its significance for addressing important issues related to gender, gender injustices, and gender inequalities.
- In your presentation, refer to the major feminist ideologies covered by the course materials (e.g. liberal, Marxist, socialist, radical, postmodern, postcolonial feminisms etc.).
- Conduct research and communicate your ideas in proper essay format.

Content Requirements: Although your research will be presented in standard essay format (ie. introduction, body, conclusion, bibliography – no title page is necessary), please include the following mandatory components:

- Provide a concise overview of the biography of the subject and focus on providing some information about influences and main contributions. Explain who/what your object of study is and how it relates to gender and politics; how controversial is it and why/for whom is it significant?
- Analyze the subject's relevant arguments/ideas/criticisms. This could be academic works, art works, speeches, events, or products. For instance, what are the relevant main concepts, works, policies, or activities related to feminism and/or gender (in)equality?
- Identify and connect the subject's ideas to the relevant feminist political ideologies covered in the course materials (but not confined to them; if other feminisms not covered in the course

apply, make sure to bring them in). In your synthesis, you should also identify the gaps in the subject's perspective and which political ideologies are missing. This is your chance to identify the potential gaps and engage in a critique of the subject. Include a minimum of THREE different feminist political ideologies covered in the course materials.

Sources: Your bibliography should include

- Min. 3 scholarly books; min. 3 scholarly journal articles; min. 5 scholarly internet sources (e.g. recognized news outlets, academic websites, institutional websites etc.). Don't forget to list all your sources in your bibliography.

Preferred citation style: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

3. TAKE-HOME EXAM

Objectives: The final take-home exam has been designed to evaluate your comprehension of the course materials (textual and oral) and your skills in applying the course concepts to interpret/evaluate the politics of gender, sexual and other identity claims. In your answers, the more you can coherently and consistently draw from the course materials and make persuasive arguments using concepts and interpretations critically, the more you demonstrate that your level of mastery of the course materials. In addition to course content, your answers will also be assessed technically for effective organization and selection of information, authorial credibility (e.g. no spelling or grammatical errors), and presentation/communication of ideas.

Provide a clear, well-organized and well-communicated answer in standard essay style (including introduction, body and conclusion) and with appropriate references and citations to scholarship. You can use any citation style you like if you are consistent and always specify page numbers. It is not necessary to engage anything other than the course materials (although you may choose to bring in other examples if you like but you will be assessed primarily on your demonstrated knowledge of the course materials).

Format: All answers should be typed, 12 point font, 1 inch margins, double spaced; total answers should be about 8 pages including notes and bibliography).

Submission Instructions for all assignments: Go to the OWL course website and click on the 'Assignments' link in Menubar (left side of screen). Go to the 'Take Home Exam' link to upload your electronic copy. Please SUBMIT EITHER AS A WORD OR PDF DOCUMENT ONLY (OWL DOES NOT ACCEPT PAGES OR ANY OTHER FORMAT).

APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

Essay course requirements

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

Security and Confidentiality of Student Work (refer to current Western Academic Calendar

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>

"Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

Duplication of work

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

Grade adjustments

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

Academic Offences

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Submission of Course Requirements

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS MUST BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

EXAMINATIONS/ATTENDANCE (Sen. Min. Feb.4/49, May 23/58, S.94, S.3538, S.3632, S.04-097) A

student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations: 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year. 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Medical Policy, Late Assignments, etc.

Students registered in Social Science should refer to

https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html for information on Medical Policy,

Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.

University Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking: "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)."

Multiple-choice tests/exams: "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of

Scholarship and Academic Policy. https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html

*PLAGIARISM**

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. *In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.*

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. *In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.*

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

*Reprinted by permission of the Department of History

Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept.

of History August 13, 1991

Accessibility at Western: Please contact poliscie@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

SUPPORT SERVICES

- The Registrar's office can be accessed for Student Support Services at www.registrar.uwo.ca • Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here) can be reached at: <https://westernusc.ca/your-services/>
- Student Development Services can be reached at: <http://sdc.uwo.ca/>
- Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

4. Procedures for Requesting Academic Consideration

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form provided that the conditions for submission are met;

- For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or • For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration in order to be eligible for academic

consideration. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Counselling unit to clarify what documentation is appropriate.

Students seeking academic consideration:

- are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;
- are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (upset stomach) or upsets (argument with a friend) are **not** an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;
- must communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence.

Academic consideration **is not** normally intended for students who require academic accommodation based on an ongoing physical or mental illness (recurring or chronic) or an existing disability. These students are expected to seek and arrange reasonable accommodations with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible in accordance with the Policy on Academic

Accommodation for Students with Disability.

Students who experience high levels of stress related to academic performance (including completing assignments, taking part in presentations, or writing tests or examinations). These students should access support through Student Health and Wellness and Learning Skills Services in order to deal with this stress in a proactive and constructive manner.

5. Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Form

Western is discontinuing use of the Self Reported Absence system as of Fall 2022 and reinstating the AIUS policy or the Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence, found here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

6. Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

Students seeking academic consideration for a medical absence not covered by existing Student Accessibility

Services (SAS) accommodation, will be required to provide documentation in person to Academic Counselling in

their Faculty of registration in the form of a completed, signed Student Medical Certificate (SMC) where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported Absences.

7. Request for Academic Consideration for a Non-Medical Absence

Students seeking academic consideration for a non-medical absence will be required to provide appropriate documentation to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self- Reported Absences.