

Western University 2013-14  
Political Science 3421F  
**Women, Sex and Politics**

**Instructor:** Professor Nandita, Biswas Mellamphy

**Office hours:** Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 PM in SSC 4095; or by appointment

[nbiswasm@uwo.ca](mailto:nbiswasm@uwo.ca) or 519-661-2111 ext. 81161

**Class location and times:** Wednesdays 11:30am-1:20pm, SSC 4112

**Pre-Requisites/Anti-requisites:** POL 2237E

**Course Description:**

This course explores the intersections between the representation of gender and sexuality in political media, and the politics of freedom, rights and duties in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. The first aim of the course aims is to introduce students to the political history of women's struggle, acquainting them with the major critiques that fueled developments in feminist political debate (e.g. the first, second and third waves of feminism, as well as the diverse 'schools' of feminist thought like liberal, radical, Marxist, postmodernist, postcolonial and transnational feminisms). The second aim of the course is to focus on applying political theory to practice by analyzing how representations of gender and sexual identity play a role in everyday political life, as well as in high-level executive politics (e.g. in the context of American politics). Topics will include:

- The politics of sexual difference
- Gender and the public/private divide
- Democracy, citizenship and gender representations
- Domination, power and sexual discrimination
- Representations of gender in leadership positions (ie: American presidential politics)
- Media representations of women and gender in presidential politics

The course combines lectures, readings, and class-based discussions. Each week you will be required to attend the lecture and keep up with the required readings. The course will also visual/filmic materials.

**Course Materials:**

*Women and The White House: Gender, Popular Culture and Presidential Politics*, eds. Justine Vaughn and Lilly Goren (Louisville: University of Kentucky Press, 2012).

Rosemarie Tong, *Feminist Thought: A More Comprehensive Introduction* (Oxford: Westview Press, 1989).

\*\*Additional materials will be available on the course website.

### **Evaluation:**

10 in-class writing assignments (2% each)= 20%

Research Essay= 30%

**Why x is or is not a feminist: pick a public figure in culture or politics; explain why their positions can or cannot be considered feminist according to at least one of the schools of feminism.**

Final Exam = 30%

### **Course Objectives:**

- To familiarize you with the theoretical debates and differing perspectives within the diverse spectrum of western and non-western feminist political thinking.
- To guide you towards critically and self-reflectively cross-evaluating key concepts of feminist thought (ie. Feminist epistemologies) such as gender, sex, woman, difference etc. especially in popular cultural representations.

**Other Required Course Material:** As indicated by the WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE below, 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).

**Course Website :** All the course administration, including required readings, announcements, style guides (bibliographical and referencing templates), detailed explanation of assignments and evaluation and other extra materials will be found on the course website. Everything having to do with each component of the course will be available on the course website. *Note: The website has not been developed to be a replacement for attending lectures. Lecture content will vary from website content.*

**Website Policy:** Problems with accessibility to the course website cannot be used as a basis for missing deadlines or appealing your grades. This means that if you are having problems accessing the course website, **you must notify your instructors as soon as possible** and you will be directed to a computer technician.

**Western Medical Accommodation Policy (Medical Notes):** In May, 2008, The University of Western Ontario's Senate approved a new medical note policy, which affects all students. Please follow the procedures as set out by the University and see your Academic

Counseling office to present your case and documentation **before** asking me for an extension without penalty. For more detailed information and forms, please visit <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>, and for further policy information please visit [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

Only in cases in which the student has presented appropriate documentation to their Academic Counseling Officer will any extensions without penalty be considered.

**Assignment Deadlines:** Detailed description of assignments will be given in class and posted on the course website. Please consider these deadlines 'sacred'!

**Submission Policy:** *All assignments must be printed (excluding in class writing assignments) and submitted **in-class** on the deadline (email submissions will not be accepted unless prior permission has been given by the professor).* It is the student's responsibility to ensure that his/her assignment has been officially received (for example, if you slip your paper under my door without notifying me, I am not responsible for a 'lost' paper and this cannot be used as a grounds for appeal).

**Late essay submissions** will be subject to a penalty deduction of 5% a day (from the due date until the day that the assignment is received by the instructor, including weekends and holidays). This may appear to be an unnecessarily harsh penalty, but the rationale is to promote the timely submission of work, which is the cornerstone of any future career that you may have. Also, the assignment deadline dates have been carefully chosen so that ample time is given to evaluating your work and suggesting improvements to work submitted.

**Gadget Policy:** You are free to use your lap-tops to take notes, but specific attention will be paid to ensure that students are not text-messaging, surfing the internet, or distracting other students. No analog or digital taping (either voice or image) of the lectures is allowed.

**Special Needs:** If you are a student with special needs, or you simply want to discuss the course materials in more depth, *please feel free to discuss with me in person as soon as possible (the earlier the better).* Visit Western's Student Development Services (<http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>) to access the resources available to you.

**Support Services:** Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

**Academic Dishonesty Policy:**

"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/handbook/appeals/choloff.pdf>.” The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic format for plagiarism checking. (UWO Senate 2002-03).”

While this course will not require you to use TURN IT IN, DO NOT CHEAT OR PLAGIARIZE! It is not worth it!

**Weekly Reading Schedule:**

*Subject to modification*

Date	Required and Recommended Readings	Lecture Themes
Sept. 11	Introduction to course themes and syllabus	<b><i>Introduction to Women, Sex, &amp; Politics</i></b>
Sept. 18	<p>**Watch episodes 1 &amp; 2 of <i>Mad Men</i>.</p> <p>“The Mechanized Gaze: Gender, Popular Culture and the Presidency”, Vaughn and Goren, ch. 1, pp. 1-22,</p> <p>“What Mad Men Says About Women”,  <a href="http://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2013/apr/05/what-mad-men-says-about-women">http://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2013/apr/05/what-mad-men-says-about-women</a></p> <p>“Why Mad Men is TV’s Most Feminist Show”,  <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/08/AR2010100802662.html">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/08/AR2010100802662.html</a></p> <p>“Why Mad Men is Bad for Women”,  <a href="http://www.salon.com/2010/07/23/mad_men_bad_for_women/">http://www.salon.com/2010/07/23/mad_men_bad_for_women/</a></p>	<b><i>Mad Men and Even Madder Women: Representing Gender in Popular Culture</i></b>
Sept. 25	<p>“The Diversity of Feminist Thinking” in Tong, p. 1-9.</p> <p>“Puritan or Pit Bull: The Framing of Female Candidates at the National Level”, in Vaughn and Goren, ch. 2, pp. 25-48.</p> <p>Recommended:            Alison Jaggar, “Feminism as Political Philosophy”,  <a href="http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/circulation/ereserves/pdfs/courses/SUMMER%202009/WMST%203100,%20ARAGON/ON%20COURSE%20NOW/FEMINISM%20AS%20POLITICAL%20">http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/circulation/ereserves/pdfs/courses/SUMMER%202009/WMST%203100,%20ARAGON/ON%20COURSE%20NOW/FEMINISM%20AS%20POLITICAL%20</a></p>	<b><i>‘Framing’ the ‘Woman’ Question: Feminist Critiques and their Narratives</i></b>

	<a href="#">PHILOSOPHY.pdf</a>	
Oct. 2	<p>"Liberal Feminism" in Tong, p. 11-47.</p> <p>"Mad Men and the Sexual Revolution",  <a href="http://acculturated.com/2013/05/07/mad-men-and-the-sexual-revolution/">http://acculturated.com/2013/05/07/mad-men-and-the-sexual-revolution/</a></p>	<b><i>'Liberty' and 'Equality': The Politics of Liberal Feminism</i></b>
Oct. 9	<p>"Radical Feminism" in Tong, p. 50-91.</p> <p>"Gendering the Presidency Without Gender in the Presidency", Vaughn and Goren, ch. 6, pp. 121-134.</p>	<b><i>'The Person is Political': The Politics of Radical Feminism</i></b>
Oct. 16	<p>"Marxist and Socialist Feminism" in Tong p. 93-125.</p> <p>"Time to Move Beyond 'Mad Men' Era for Working Women",  <a href="http://www.democraticleader.gov/news/articles/cnncom-time-move-beyond-mad-men-era-working-women">http://www.democraticleader.gov/news/articles/cnncom-time-move-beyond-mad-men-era-working-women</a></p>	<b><i>'Family' &amp; 'Work': The Politics of Marxist and Socialist Feminism</i></b>
Oct. 23	<p>"Existentialist and Postmodern Feminism", in Tong pp. 173-210.  <a href="http://www.feministissues.com/issues.pdf">http://www.feministissues.com/issues.pdf</a></p>	<b><i>Comparing Feminisms on the Prostitution Question</i></b>
Oct. 30	CLASS CANCELLED	
Nov. 6	<p>"Women of Color Feminisms", in Tong, pp. 211-231.</p> <p>"Fact or Fiction: The Reality of Race and Gender in Reaching the White House", Vaughn and Goren, ch. 5, pp. 97-120.</p>	<b><i>The 'Race Card': Women of Colour</i></b>
Nov. 13	<p>Tong, pp. 231-254.</p> <p>Nicole Ward Jouve, "Challenges" in <i>Third Wave Feminism</i>, pp. 199-204, <a href="http://www.revalvaatio.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/gills_et_all-third_wave_feminism_a_critical_exploration.pdf">http://www.revalvaatio.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/gills_et_all-third_wave_feminism_a_critical_exploration.pdf</a></p>	<b><i>Global Transnational Feminisms</i></b>
Nov. 20	<p>Sherin Saadallah, "Muslim Feminism in the Third Wave: A Reflective Inquiry", in <i>Third Wave Feminism</i>, pp. 216-226  <a href="http://www.revalvaatio.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/gills_et_all-third_wave_feminism_a_critical_exploration.pdf">http://www.revalvaatio.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/gills_et_all-third_wave_feminism_a_critical_exploration.pdf</a></p>	<b><i>Close Encounters of a Third Kind: Third Wave Feminisms</i></b>
Nov. 27	<p>Nina Power, <i>One Dimensional Woman</i>,  <a href="http://libcom.org/files/onedimensionalwoman.pdf">http://libcom.org/files/onedimensionalwoman.pdf</a></p>	<b><i>The 'Money Shot': Capitalism,</i></b>

	<u>Research Essay Due at the beginning of class:</u>	<i><b>Pornography and the Feminisation of Labour</b></i>
Dec. 4	Last Class	Exam Review

**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/handbook/appeals/scholoff.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.

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

Students registered in Social Science should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/> <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> 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.

## Plagiarism

"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. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

### **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.

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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](mailto: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**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.