

Western University 2020-21
Political Science 3207G, Section 001
Women, Sex, & Politics

Prerequisite(s): POL 2237E. 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.

Instructor: Professor Nandita Biswas Mellamphy

Contact Information: Contact me directly through the Message tab found on the left-hand side toolbar of your course website. If, however, for technical reasons (e.g. if OWL is down) you cannot contact me directly through the course website, you can reach me at nbiswasm[at]juwo.ca

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 20th and 21st centuries. The course introduces students to the political history of women's struggle over issues like rights, labour, and sexual identity. Students will gain familiarity with diverse debates and perspectives (ie. liberal, radical, marxist, postmodernist, postcolonial, global, and critical race 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 global politics. Topics will include:

- The politics of sexual difference
- Gender 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 in global contexts

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 theory and political practices both historically and in current affairs
- To demonstrate ability to use the ideas of political theorists to address contemporary social issues such as family, work, prostitution, and pornography.

Course Requirements: This course is "asynchronous," which means that we will not be meeting as a group in a physical space together. Nonetheless, I would recommend that you manage your time for this class as if we were meeting in person. Ideally, this involves setting out a regular 2-3 hour chunk of dedicated time each week to go through that week's content. Also, there is no need to 'binge' on the course content: do one week at a time, and do not do more than one week at a time. The course has been designed to be completed on a weekly basis, so try to follow along with the suggested order and schedule.

All course materials are available on the course OWL website. On the left-hand side of your course homepage, you will find a menu bar with different tabs. Start at the top with Overview and move downward to the next tab. The Course Content tab is one of the most important areas of the course website because this is where you are going to go every week to access the weekly readings, visual content and lessons.

- Each week, starting with week one, go to the weekly content under the Course Content tab. When you click on week 1, the content for that week's lesson will appear and you will start at the top of the page and move towards the bottom.
- Each week contains a short overview, a provocative image, some readings, many things to watch, a series of short lessons where I provide you with a lecture-style presentation, and even some reflection questions to help you think more deeply about the course materials.
- Go once a week to the course content page, click on the scheduled week, and do the readings, listen to videos and lectures and complete a short quiz worth 2% that will test you on the content of that week's materials. Each week comes with a checklist so you can clearly identify and complete that week's homework.
- You will also be expected to complete all assessments associated with this course (see below for details of the assessments).
- Check the discussion forum on a weekly basis by going to the 'forums' tab on the left-hand side menubar. If you have a course-related question, post it on the forum and I will be posting responses on a regular weekly basis. If you would like hear

more about what your classmates think about a particular weekly topic, post your comment and/or question to start a conversation.

- If, however, you have a non-course related issue, like a personal issue, then contact me as soon as you can and do not post to the discussion forum.
- Contact me directly through the message tab found on the left-hand side toolbar of your course website. If, however, for technical reasons (e.g. if OWL is down) you cannot contact me directly through the course website, you can use my email address found at the beginning of this course outline.

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:

750 word Critical Response= 20% **due February 5, 2021** by electronic upload to the course website no later than 5pm.

Research Essay = 40%; **due March 5, 2021** by electronic upload to the course website no later than 5pm.

Take Home Final Exam = 40%; **released March 26, 2021 and due one week later, on April 2, 2021** by electronic upload to the course website no later than 5pm.

Makeup Test/Exam Policy: The course policy (no exceptions) is that no tests/exams may be taken early for any reason. A student who misses a test/exam must provide a very good reason supported by evidence such as a hospital admittance form. If you are ill prior to a test/exam, let me know as soon as possible beforehand if you think you will not be able to take the exam. Failure to write one of the tests/exams without providing a sufficient excuse will result in a grade of zero for that test/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 free to approach me and/or Accessibility Services.

List of Weekly Topics (actual course content is available by week on course website):

Week 1	Introduction to Women, Sex, & Politics
Week 2	Feminisms and Representations of Sex and Gender in Politics and Media
Week 3	Does Institutional Representation Solve the Problem of Gender Inequality?
Week 4	Liberal Feminism: Do Women and Men Have to Be the Same to be Equal?
Week 5	Marxist and Socialist Feminisms: Does Class Equality Solve the Problem of Gender Inequality?
Week 6	Radical Feminism: Is 'Patriarchy' a Universal and Global Phenomenon?
Week 7	'Queering' Identities: Is Gender 'Performative'?
Week 8	Postcolonial and Global Feminisms: Does the Concept of 'Intersectionality' Solve the Problem of Gender Inequality?
Week 9	Third Wave Feminisms: Gender and Race
Week 10	Women, Sex, & Politics: Sex Work

APPENDICES: ASSIGNMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS

1. CRITICAL RESPONSE

Mini-essay Question: *Does Institutional Representation Solve the Problem of Gender Inequality?*

Objectives:

- To stimulate your interest in reading the weekly assigned course materials.
- To help you direct and better orient your weekly reading of course materials.
- To enable you to critically respond to class materials in writing
- To give you oral discussion materials to enhance your in-class participation.

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 simply summarize the text or evaluate whether you like the text; instead, they are persuasive and focused analyses, arguments, and/or interpretations about the text. They not only help you think critically about the texts you read but also help you formulate ideas and develop arguments that you can use in your research essay and take-home exam. *In fact, this critical reflection assignment is designed to help you build your essay writing skills.*

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 mini-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 750 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

Submission Instructions: Go to the OWL course website and click on the 'Assignments' link in Menubar (left side of screen). Go to the 'Assignment 2' 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).

Format: Typed, 12 point font, double-spaced, 1 inch margins, 6-8 pages, not including title page and bibliography.

Objectives:

- To demonstrate your understanding of the class materials and themes by analyzing a body of work and identifying the relevant feminist 'schools' of thought (e.g. liberal, radical, post-colonial etc.) that relate.
- 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.

Sources: Your bibliography should include

- Min. 3 scholarly books; min. 3 scholarly journal articles; min. 5 scholarly internet sources.
- Don't forget to list all your sources in your bibliography (any citation style is fine as long as you're consistent).

Content Suggestions (include the following in your essay):

- Explain who your object of study is (how controversial are they and why are they significant in world affairs?); include brief biography and summarize main contributions to addressing the issue of sexual and gender inequality in politics and society (e.g. body of work, including activism, written works, artworks, and events etc).

- Identify and Analyze the most important concepts or ideas and explanation of how they relate to important concepts covered in class.
- Assess, referring to the various schools of feminist thinking covered in the course materials, whether the figure you chose has made a significant contribution to feminist thought and activism (discuss and reflect lection on the diversity of feminist political thought).
- Just to give you an idea of past topics that students have chosen: Michelle Obama, Beyonce Knowles, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Barbie, Barack Obama, Shirley Chisholm, Slutwalk, Disney's Mulan etc. Remember, you can choose real or fictional people.

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 minimum 5-7 pages including notes and bibliography).

Submission Instructions: 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.

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.

Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Form

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the **online Self-Reported Absence portal**. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities **within 48 hours or less**.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:
Students will be allowed:

- a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April;
- a maximum of one self-reported absence between May and August.

Any absences in excess of the number designated above, regardless of duration, will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities.

- The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
- The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (write a test, submit a paper) during that time;
- The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30 am on the day following the last day of classes each semester regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;
- Self-reported absences **will not be** allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period;
- Self-reporting **may not be** used for assessments (e.g. midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course.
- students must be in touch with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

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.

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.