

Political Science 3207F Course Outline 2025-26

1. Course Information

Course Information

Women, Sex, & Politics POLS 3207F; undergraduate fall term; in-person lecture scheduled on Tuesdays from 10:30 AM to 12:20 PM in UCC (University Community Center room 54B).

Prerequisites

POL 2537F/G or POL 2237E. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission to enrol 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.

2. Instructor Information

Instructors	Email	Office	Office Hours
Dr. Nandita, Biswas Mellamphy (Course director and principal instructor)	nbiswas[at]uwo.ca or mohuya[at]protonmail.com (either one is fine and both are unnecessary since I check both).	Social Science Bldg., Room 7316	Tue. 12:30-1:30PM (EST) In person; *to request meeting at another time, first email to schedule
Teaching assistant: Paria Rahimi	prahimi4[at]uwo.ca	Stevenson Hall, Room 2158.	Wed, 2:30-3:30 PM, either in person at my office or via Zoom. By appointment only

Students are advised to use their Western (@uwo.ca) email addresses when contacting their instructors.

3. Course Syllabus, Schedule, Delivery Mode

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, gendered/racialized gaps, 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

The course has been designed to give you a holistic educational experience that combines various instructional methods:

- in-person/in-class active learning (i.e., discussions, debates, and structured in-class exercises, short group activities),
- knowledge transmission (i.e., lectures, reading academic works, multi-media viewing/listening)
- student communication activities (i.e., reflective writing, workshop sessions on essay writing and citations)
- online learning activities (i.e., online modules)

This is an in-person course with 3 mandatory components:

1-Weekly in-class component: Attendance at in-class lectures on Tuesdays from 10:30am-12:20pm. Attendance will be taken in class (method described below). No alternate assignments can be substituted for this component because the whole point is to have the opportunity for active in-class learning, discussions and debates. Class attendance is important for meeting the class objectives. If you

cannot make it to class (e.g. due to an emergency), 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 are 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 is your responsibility to get notes from your note-buddy if you miss class.

Please remember the number one rule of this classroom: **mutual respect**, so while I hope that you develop friendships in this classroom, please do not share your note buddies' personal information with others, and treat your class colleagues with respect at all times.

In weeks 2 and 3, the second half of the class will feature a **writing workshop** devoted to supporting the essay assignment, including tips and tactics on how to write an introductory paragraph and how to use citations properly.

2- Weekly online component: Completion of weekly online readings/viewings. Each week you will also complete an online module with some readings that are designed to complement the in-class lecture.

There are no exceptions to this rule except for those who have received formal academic consideration/accommodation (for University policy: https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html).

My recommendation is to do your online work before attending the Tuesday lecture class; this way you will come to class with questions and topics for class discussion.

To access the course schedule and reading/viewing materials, go to the course Brightspace webpage and the 'Content' section on the top menu bar. Then go to specific week to get the course readings and a short online lecture to help you orient your own interpretations and understanding of the course materials. Readings that are not on the course website are located in the course textbooks, so please purchase these at the University Bookstore. Make sure to **take good notes** on all aspects of your weekly homework. The weekly homework will prepare you for the Tuesday in-class lecture and class discussion of scheduled topics.

3-Scheduled assignments: a) Critical Essay assignment to be submitted by electronic upload to the course website (assignment link). For full details on the essay question and required format, see below. **Due October 7, 2025 but essays will be accepted without penalty up until October 10, 2025 no later than 4 PM (EST).**

You cannot opt out of any of these components; all are necessary to fulfill the course requirements and learning objectives. Satisfying these requirements will demonstrate the minimal level of engagement to complete the course.

Schedule of Online/In-class Lectures: List of Weekly Topics

Week 1/Sep 9	Introducing course outline, themes, and mechanics; the concepts of 'sex' and 'gender'.
Week 2/Sep 16	Feminisms and Representations of Sex and Gender in Politics and Media; second half of class: writing workshop devoted to understanding the essay

	assignment expectation, grading rubric, how to identify and build arguments.
Week 3/Sep 23	Institutional Politics: The Problem of Gender Inequality; second half of class devoted to citations and how/where to use them in your essay assignment.
Week 4/Sep 30	No classes - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
Week 5/Oct 7	Liberal Feminism: Do Women and Men Have to Be the Same to be Equal?
Week 6/Oct 14	Marxist and Socialist Feminisms: Does Class Equality Solve the Problem of Gender Inequality?
Week 7/Oct 21	Radical Feminism: Is 'Patriarchy' a Universal and Global Phenomenon?
Week 8/Oct 28	'Queering' Identities: Is Gender 'Performative'?
Week 9/Nov 4	Fall Reading Week – no class
Week 10/Nov 11	Postcolonial, Global, and Third Wave Feminisms: Intersectionality
Week 11/Nov 18	Mid-term in-class test
Week 12/Nov 25	Sex Work
Week 13/Dec 2	Final exam prep Q&A and last class.

Relevant Key Sessional Dates for this course

September 4	First Day of Fall Term Classes
September 30	No classes - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
October 13	Thanksgiving Holiday/no class
November 3–9	Fall Reading Week/no classes
December 9	Fall Term Classes end
December 10	Study Day
December 11–22	Examination Period

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on BRIGHTSPACE for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

4. Course Materials

Course Materials, Required Textbooks, Brightspace website

- 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).

All course material will be posted to the OWL BRIGHTSPACE course website. Students are responsible for checking this course website on a weekly basis (minimum). This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class. If students need technical assistance with the course site, they can seek support on the BRIGHTSPACE Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Technical Requirements

A functional computer and stable internet connection are required to complete the online component and some of the assignments. If your computer crashes, malfunctions or has technical issues please contact the help desk at Western Technology services.

5. Methods of Evaluation

The multiple assessment methods have been carefully designed to complement the multiple instructional methods of the course.

The overall course grade will be calculated as listed below:

Assessment Type	Description/Deadline	Worth	Aims
In-class Quizzes (begins in week 2 September 16, 2025)	Weeks 2-12 (except for holidays when there is no class). At the end of each week's in-class lecture, you will complete a short mandatory quiz relating to that week's online and in-class content. Each quiz paper will be provided to you in class and you must bring your own pen to write the quiz. You will have 20 minutes to complete and submit the quiz in class.	Best 5 of 8 quizzes; worth 5% each for a total of 25% . True/False and Multiple choice questions. Closed book.	To: a) ensure that you complete the weekly readings b) ensure that you attend the lecture class c) measure how well you have retained/understood the week's online and in-class course materials.
Critical Essay (does not require extra research; just use the course materials and lectures)	Typed, double-spaced, approx.. 10 pages with title, intro, body with citations (and page numbers), conclusion, and works cited. To be submitted by electronic upload to the course website (assignment link). For full details on the essay question and required format, see below. <u>Due October 7, 2025 but essays will be accepted without penalty up until October 10, 2025 no later than 4 PM (EST).</u> After this period, no further accommodation will be given to anyone without a	30% *writing workshops will be held in the second half of class (weeks 2 and 3) to help you get going on this assignment.	To a) demonstrate that you can apply the course concepts to answer the question posed; b) demonstrate your knowledge and grasp of the course materials thus far; c) to facilitate communication of arguments in writing.

	<p>penalty of 2%/day, including weekends and holidays (except those that have applied and been granted formal academic consideration).</p> <p><i>Please note that because the submission deadline for this assessment already includes flexibility in the form of a 4 day grace period, the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for assignments that are submitted following the end of the period of flexibility.</i></p>		
In Class Midterm Test	In-class on November 18, 2025 from 10:30AM-12:20PM; Paper test will be distributed in class; bring a pen! Closed book.	15% Short Answer questions covering materials from weeks 5-10 inclusive; closed book.	To a) demonstrate your knowledge and retention of the main feminist political theories from weeks 5-10.
Cumulative Final Exam (covers all course materials)	Scheduled during final exam period; Booklets will be provided to each student. This is a closed book test and students will not be permitted to bring anything but a writing tool (pen/pencil), UWO ID cards, and a drink to their desk.	30% Long answer/essay style questions.	To a) demonstrate your retention and understanding of the course materials b) demonstrate your facility in applying course concepts c) develop your ability to make concise and well-formulated arguments in writing.

You cannot opt out of any of the assignments; all are necessary to fulfill the course requirements. To pass the course, you must complete and submit a minimum number of: 5 quizzes, 1 essay, and 1 mid-term test, and a final exam. Satisfying these requirements will demonstrate the minimal level of engagement to complete the course. You will not be penalized for failing to meet a requirement due to circumstances beyond your control, but you must apply and be granted formal academic consideration to get the opportunity to make up this work as determined by the course instructor in accordance with university policies. The instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for these missed elements.

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.

The Critical Essay Assignment and the Essay Question:

This exercise evaluates your familiarity with the course materials and main concepts by asking you to answer an open-ended question. Your goal is to demonstrate your comprehension and retention of, and proficiency with the course materials you have encountered in the first half of the course (from weeks 1-3).

A critical essay is not a report or summary of the readings and course materials; rather it is a structured interpretation of course materials demonstrated through the use of well-reasoned judgments and persuasive argumentation.

By drawing from as many of the relevant course materials and concepts to formulate, build and defend your answer to the essay question, you will demonstrate: a) your comprehension and mastery of the course materials in scholarly writing b) your ability to communicate your arguments in writing with concise, clear, and persuasive arguments.

Essay-writing workshops: During the second half of class in weeks 2 and 3, you will have a chance to learn more about how to tackle this assignment, how to identify and build strong arguments, how to write a strong introductory paragraph and thesis statement, and all about citations.

The Essay Question: *Are the problems of gender inequality best addressed by institutional politics or by non-institutional politics?* Clearly explain and defend your answer.

Instructions: Answer the questions posed after having completed all the relevant online and in-person weekly components of the course. You have the option of choosing one side or the other, or both, or neither. In all cases, be sure to provide a clear, coherent, and persuasive justification for your response drawing exclusively on the course materials from weeks 1-3. This means that you do not have to do any additional research outside the course materials for this assignment. The aim of this assignment is to develop and defend a well-informed, well-argued, and well-written interpretation of the course materials in the first half of the course.

Format: All responses should be formulated in standard essay-style (introduction, body, conclusion, citations and bibliography); Typed, 12 point font, double-spaced, 1 inch margins, about 10 pages including citations and bibliography. Use Chicago citation style (footnote, bibliography format). http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

For more information, please contact your TA.

6. Student Absences

University policy on academic considerations are described [here](#). This policy requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation. Further information about academic considerations, and information about submitting this self-attestation with your academic consideration request may be found [here](#).

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline.

Absences & Academic Consideration

https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html

We all know that short-term absences can occur because all students must contend with ailments, varying demands, and the pressures of everyday life. Missing an occasional class/lecture/quiz will not have a significant impact on your academics as a whole, and for the most part, you are able to catch up without incident. Part of being a student means learning to cope with and manage these ailments, demands, and pressures – all of which are reasonably expected to surface during the school year.

What will **not** qualify for academic consideration:

https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/exams/index.html#No_AC

- Sleeping in
- Misreading the timetable
- Flight arrangements
- Moving

Professors are not required to set a special examination and requests of this nature will be denied. Students are expected to schedule their personal business such as changing residence, vacations and flights so that these activities do not conflict with the exam schedule.

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

Assessments worth less than 10% of the overall course grade

There are no alternate assignments unless you have official documentation proving that you had an unforeseen and unavoidable medical or other type of emergency/accident preventing you from either attending the Tuesday class or submitting the essay in which case, the instructor may decide upon an alternate assignment; you must contact the instructor and apply through your Academic Counselling office for formal academic consideration (including providing your documentation as soon as possible).

There are no makeups for missed weekly quizzes, the in-class midterm test, the essay, and the final exam except in circumstances of emergency and unless you have applied and been granted academic consideration (*remember, only the top 5 quiz grades will count towards your final grade). If you are granted a make-up, you will be instructed on the date/time of the makeup by your TA.

Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade:

For work totalling 10% or more of the final course grade, you must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as possible. For further information, please consult the University's medical illness policy at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

The Student Medical Certificate is available at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Note: missed work can only be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is not sufficient on its own. You should check the Western website to see what directives for COVID are to be followed. Western University has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.

6. Accommodation and Accessibility

Religious Accommodation

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic Accommodation_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf).

7. Academic Policies

The website for Registrarial Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>.

In accordance with policy,

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf,

the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

No electronic devices will be permitted during the final in-class test.

Policy on Using AI Tools in this Course

Using AI tools can be useful for some disciplines. But for this course, AI tools can be more harmful and unreliable than useful for research. For instance, tools like chatGPT often fail to cite correctly, adequately, or reliably. For these reasons, The use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT, DALL-E, etc.) to complete any of the course assignments *are not permitted* in this class; therefore, any use of AI

tools for work in this class may be considered a violation of the University of Western Ontario's Academic Misconduct which may constitute a Scholastic Offence. The use of unauthorized AI tools can result in: a failure to receive full grades, the need to resubmit the assignment, need to orally present the assignment in office hours, or a failure to complete the requirements of the course.

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.

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.

All required essays are 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>).

8. Support Services

Academic Counselling

Please visit the Social Science Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: [Academic Counselling - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](http://www.uwo.ca/socialscience/academic_counselling/)

Accessible Education

For issues of accessibility contact Accessible Education at

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

If you have any questions regarding academic accommodations, contact (http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/academic_accomodation.html)

Health and Safety

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Learning Success Centre

Learning-skills counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.