

Women and Politics: PLSI 339

Department of Political Science

California State University, Bakersfield

Fall 2007

Instructor: Gitika Commuri

Class: MW: 6 to 8.05 p.m.

Location: CB 108

Contact Information: Office: BDC 238

Phone number: 654-6080

Email: gcommuri@csub.edu

Office Hours: M/W: 9.30 to 12.00.

Also by appointment.

Course Description: Politics has been defined as who gets what, where, when and how. Thus understanding politics is critical to our understanding of the social, cultural, economic and political aspects of our world. This understanding becomes even more significant where women are concerned since they have historically suffered exclusion. This course examines the consequences of such exclusion on women in various arenas – what is it that women get, where when, how and why? At the same time the course also focuses on women as actors – as agents of change. The course is broadly divided into 2 sections. The first examines women and politics within the United States – their participation and policy implications. The second section considers women in the

international sphere and examines how they have been affected by conditions of war, structures of international/local economy, the environment, and the debate on human rights.

Objectives of the Course:

- * Increase awareness among students about the status of women in developing and developed countries

- * Develop critical skills so that students are able to question the underlying implications of public policies and practices for women

Course Requirements:

Paper: 35%

Book Review: 15%

Final Exam: 35%

Presentation: 5%

Participation: 10%

Required Reading:

Margaret Conway, Ahern, Steuernagel, Women and Political Participation: Cultural Changes in the Political Arena, Washington D.C. CQ Press, 2004.

Cynthia Enloe, The Curious Feminist: Searching for Women in a new age of empire, Berkeley, University of California Press, 2004.

Vandana Shiva, *Staying Alive: Women, Ecology and Development*, London, Zed Books, 1989.

Course Package [CP] will be available at the Print Shop on Campus.

Paper: Students are required to compile a term paper that discusses a specific problem with reference to women. Students will be required to pick 2 countries: one from the developed world and another from the developing/underdeveloped world [Example: Sweden/Sudan]. The student will then provide a brief review of the country, identify specific problems faced by women in these countries in relation to specific issue areas [such as human rights, environment, economy] and discuss the same thoroughly. The purpose of such a paper is to provide students an opportunity to become familiar with women's issues in different parts of the world (informative), to engage in descriptive writing, and finally to engage in comparative analysis (analytical). As students examine these countries, they should be able to understand the common or distinct nature of problems faced by women in these countries. This will require the student to think very carefully about the issues because not all women face the same kinds of problems. Students are required to provide a brief description [1 to 2 pages] of the topic and the countries by October 10th. The due date for the paper is November 19.

Students will also be required to present some of their findings. The presentation should be approximately 5 minutes long and focus on the key findings of the paper. The presentation is worth 5% of the grade.

Book Review: Students will be required to write a book review. A book list is provided and students can select any one text. Most of

these texts may not be available at the Cal State Library and it is the responsibility of the student to order the relevant text through the Interlibrary loan. The review constitutes 15% of the student grade and must be approximately 5 pages long. The book review is due on October 15.

Final Exam: The exam will cover materials from the assigned readings, lectures and class discussion. The final exam will be held on November 28. There will be no make up exam unless there is a documented emergency.

Turnitin.com: Students are expected to turn in their reviews/papers/exams to turnitin.com.

Class Attendance and Discussion: Students are expected to have read the assigned texts prior to the class and to participate actively in class discussions. Students will also be required to engage in class activities. Please be warned that if you do not engage in discussion and attend only 70% of the sessions your grade will be a C-. It is vitally important that you come to class prepared to discuss the reading material assigned for the session.

Students with Disabilities: Students should notify the instructor of any special requirements at the earliest so that alternate arrangements can be made.

Academic Honesty: All CSUB students are expected to maintain high standards of academic integrity. Please refer to the CSUB catalogue for the University policy in this regard. Severe penalties apply for cheating, plagiarism and other instances of academic dishonesty.

Cell Phones and Pagers: Please turn off these devices in class.

Changes to the Syllabus: The instructor may change items in this syllabus. Students will be kept informed of any such changes.

Journals:

Signs

Human Rights Quarterly

Women's Studies Quarterly

Book Review List

Cynthia Enloe, *Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics*.

-----, *The Morning After: Sexual Politics at the End of the Cold War*.

----- *Maneuvers: The International Politics of Militarizing Women's Lives*, University of California Press.

Marilyn Septhoe, *Then, They Were Twelve: The Women of Washington's Embassy Row*, Greenwood, 2000.

Jean Bethke Elshtain, *Women and War*, University of Chicago Press, 1995.

N. Yural Davis, *Gender and the Nation*, Sage Publication, 1997.

K. Moon, *Sex Among the Allies: Military Prostitution in U.S- Korean Relations*, Columbia University Press, 1997.

Christine Chin, *In Service and Servitude: Foreign Female Domestic Workers and the Malaysian \geq Modernity \leq Project*, Columbia University Press, 1998.

Sandra Whitworth, *Men, Militarism and UN Peacekeeping*, Lynne Rienner, Boulder, 2004.

Laura Wexler, *Tender Violence: Domestic Visions in an Age of US Imperialism*, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 2000.

Philippa Levine, *Prostitution, Race and Politics: Policing Venereal Disease in the British Empire*, Routledge, NY, 2003.

Piya Chatterjee, *A Time for Tea: Women, Labor and Post/Colonial Politics on an Indian Plantation*, Duke University Press, Durham, 2001.

Elisabeth Prugl, *The Global Construction of Gender: Home-Based Work in the Political Economy of the 20th Century*, NY, Columbia University Press, 1999.

Valerie M. Hudson and Andrea M. den Boer, *Bare Branches: The Security Implications of Asia's Surplus Male Population*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2004.

Seungsook Moon, *Militarized Modernity and Gendered Citizenship in South Korea*, Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2005.

Mino Moallem, *Between Warrior Brother and Veiled Sister: Islamic Fundamentalism and the Politics of Patriarchy in Iran*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005.

Suzanne Bergeron, *Fragments of Development: Nation, Gender, and the Space of Modernity*, Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2004.*

V. Spike Peterson, *A Critical Rewriting of Global Political Economy: Integrating Reproductive, Productive, and Virtual Economies*, London: Routledge, 2003*

Kira Sanbonmatsu, *Democrats/Republicans and the Politics of Women's Place*, Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2002.

Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Sexual Politics: African Americans, Gender, and the New Racism*, New York: Routledge, 2004.

Elisabeth Friedman, *Unfinished Transitions: Women and the Gendered Development of Democracy on Venezuela, 1936–1996*, University Park, Pennsylvania State University Press, 2000.

Carmen Deere and Magdalena Leon, *Empowering Women: Land and Property rights in Latin America*, Pittsburg, Pittsburg University Press, 2001.

Week 1: Introduction/ Women and Political Participation in the United States

How and with what consequences do women participate? Does participation by women make a difference?

September 10: Introduction

September 12: Mark Kann, *The Gendering of American Politics: Founding Mothers, Founding Fathers and Political Patriarchy*, Praeger, 1999. Chapters 1, 2, 3. [CP]

Week 2: Women and Political Participation in the United States

September 17: Margaret Conway, Ahern, Steuernagel, *Women and Political Participation: Cultural Change in the Political Arena*, Washington D.C., CQ Press, 2004. Chapters 1 to 5

September 19: Discussion continued. Chapters 6 and 7

Optional: Robin Lakoff, ≥Hillary Rodham Clinton: What the Sphinx Thinks≤ in *The Language War*, University of California Press, Berkeley, 2000. [CP]

Week 3: Women and Public Policy in the US

September 24: Women and Reproductive Policy, in *Women and Public Policy: A Revolution in Progress*π, Margaret Conway, Ahern, Steuernagel, CQ press 2005. [CP]

September 26: Women and Employment Policy in Conway et al. [CP]

Week 4: Women in International Politics/War

Where do women fit in international politics? What is the relationship between gender and war? How does war affect women?

October 1: Ann Tickner, *Gendering World Politics: Issues and Approaches in the Post-Cold War Era*, NY, Columbia University Press, 2001. Chapter 1 [CP]

October 3: Cynthia Enloe, *The Curious Feminist*, Part 2

Week 5: Women and War

October 8: Joshua Goldstein, War and Gender: How Gender Shapes the War system and Vice versa, Cambridge University Press, 2001. Chapter 1 [CP]

October 10: Goldstein, Chapter 5 [CP]

Week 6: Women and War

October 15: Goldstein, Chapter 6 and 7 [CP]: Book Review Due

October 17: Enloe, Part 3

Week 7: Women in the Global Economy

Where are the women in the economy and why? How does globalization affect women?

October 22: Cynthia Enloe, The Curious Feminist, Part 1

Drucilla Barker and Susan Feiner, Liberating Economics : Feminist Perspectives on Families, Work and Globalization, University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, 2004. Chapters 1 and 2. [CP]

October 24: Chapters 6 and 8.

Week 8: Women and Human Rights

Are Human rights women's rights? Should all women have the same rights?

October 29: H. Charlesworth, "What are Women's International Human Rights?" in R. Cook, *Human Rights of Women*. [CP]

October 31: Susan Moller Okin, *Is Multiculturalism bad for women?* ed., Joshua Cohn, Matthew Howard and Martha Nussbaum, Princeton University Press, NJ, 1999. [CP]

Responses: Bonnie Honig, "My Culture Made me Do it"

Azizah Al-Hibri, *Is Western Patriarchal Feminism Good for Third World/Minority Women?* [CP]

Week 9: Women, Human Rights and Environment

What is the relationship between women and ecology?

November 5: Responses: Bhikhu Parekh, *A Varied Moral World*

Martha Nussbaum, *A Plea for Difficulty* [CP]

November 7: Vandana Shiva, *Staying Alive: Women, Ecology and Development*, Zed Books, London, 1989. Chapters to be announced.

Week 10: Women and Environment

November 12: Holiday

November 14: Shiva.

Week 11: Review and Presentations

November 19: Last Day of Class: Presentations/Discussions

Research Papers Due

November 28: Final Exam: 5 to 7.30 p.m.