POLS 3311.001: Women and Politics  
Spring 2016  
Department of Social Sciences  
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  

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Class Meeting Time: MWF 11-11:50am, BH-207  
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 1:00-2pm, Tuesday 12-3  

Course Description and Goals  
This course is designed to provide students with a diverse examination of the role of women in politics. The readings emphasize the status of women in politics, political behavior of women, the role of women as political candidates, and political representation of women. The course further examines the intersection of race/ethnicity, class, and gender for all of these topics.  

Student Expectations  
To ensure a good semester, please observe the following class expectations:  
- Respect for others is very important. Each person should feel comfortable sharing opinions and ideas in an appropriate fashion.  
- Make every effort to be on-time to class. Latecomers are a distraction to me and your fellow classmates.  
- Reading newspapers, doing anything on a laptop that is not related to class, working on crossword puzzles, listening to music, texting or doing any outside work is not allowed in class.  
- Turn off all cell phones.  
- You are expected to have all readings complete BEFORE class. Preparation before class will facilitate better class discussions, aid in your completion of in class assignments, and enhance your overall learning experience.  
- You are also expected to complete all assignments on time. No late work will be accepted.  

Learning Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes:  
1. Students should be able to identify the differences why there are large discrepancies among women in politics and political office.  
2. Students will be able to discuss of definitions, concepts, and theories that analyze the political behavior of women.  
3. Completion of the course should allow students to demonstrate advanced knowledge in how gender plays a pivotal role in our political system.  

Contact Preferences  
If you would like instruction and clarification beyond the lectures and discussions, please feel free to come to my office hours which are listed at the top of this page. If these times do not work into your schedule, I am also willing to set up an appointment to meet with you at a time...
that works for both of us. A face-to-face meeting is the most effective means of communication for more complex issues and allows me to work with you at your individual level of understanding. Please use email (juan.urbano@tamucc.edu) to voice any questions/comments you may have that will involve a ‘quick’ response. Effort will be made to address you email within 48 hours, if you do not receive an email within than time frame please send me another email. I do not answer emails on the weekends and I will not answer exam questions on the day of or the day before an exam.

**Students with Disabilities/Religious Needs:**
If you are a student with a disability or have special needs, please let me know during the first week of class. In addition, students observing religious holidays that conflict with class exams/presentations must let me know during the first week of class.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Driftwood 101.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Academic Honesty:**
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) If unsure of what honesty entails or if for more information regarding the penalties for academic dishonesty, please refer to the University Catalog.

**Academic Advising:**
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

**Intellectual Property Issues**
Course materials prepared by myself, including the course syllabus, together with the content of all lectures and review sessions presented by me are my property alone. Video and audio recording of lectures and review sessions without my consent is prohibited. On request, I usually grant permission for students to audio tape lectures, on the condition that these audio tapes are only used as a study aid by the individual making the recording. Unless explicit permission is obtained by me, recordings of lectures and review sessions may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other person, whether or not that individual is enrolled in the
course. Any individual or organization violating my copyright on course materials and lectures could be subject to charges of academic misconduct and/or to civil action for copyright violations.

**Grading**

Your POLS 4390 grade is broken down in the following fashion:

- In Class Attendance, Participation, & Quizzes: 15%
- Blackboard Discussions Postings: 5%
- 2 Reaction Papers/Discussion Leader: 20%
- 3 Exams: 60%

A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, F=Below 60

**Grade Appeals:**

Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts' website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

**Attendance and Participation**

If you would like to earn the full 10% for attendance and participation you must attend regularly and eagerly participate in a way that reflects careful preparation for class. This includes taking the initiative to introduce relevant ideas and asking/answering well-reasoned questions.

**Blackboard Discussions/Writing Assignments**

Because this is a hybrid course a significant section of this course will be conducted online rather than in class. During these Blackboard Assignments you will be asked to enter posting in our blackboard discussion section pertaining to the readings and questions I ask. You will be allowed to use your notes that you might take while you read, but you will not be allowed to use your books or articles. Read the material before class each week. The quizzes will be optional for me to give on Monday and/or Wednesday.

**Reaction Papers and Presenter/Class Leaders**

At the beginning of the semester, each student will be required to sign up for 2 weeks in which you will decide to write a 3 page reaction paper and lead discussion on Monday and/or Wednesday of our schedule, usually Wednesday, depending on time constraints. We will decide the day of the week on a case-by-case basis and dependent on the # of presenters in a week. You are free to choose any of the weeks that are available and any of the topics that we will be discussing throughout the course. When you choose the weeks that you will be writing your reaction paper you will also be responsible for leading our class discussion. This will require you to be prepared to discuss the important topics and issues regarding the week’s readings, obtaining interesting and relevant information about the week’s topics outside of class, and
formulating questions to bring up during class that will stimulate discussion and debate with your classmates. Your questions can come from readings that we read for the week or from your own research. Your questions should be provocative, interesting, and engaging to your peers and should create thoughtful perspectives and interesting debate.

*Students should strive for polished and academic writing in each category. They must be stapled, and all works should be cited. There will be NO MAKE-UP REACTION PAPERS. Please choose a week that will work for you.*

**Exams**
There will be 3 exams during the semester. The first will be a short answer exam, the second and third will be a research paper. The exams will test students on the content covered in class and in the assigned reading materials. For a polished research paper, students should be able to make an argument and defend it with their readings from class along with outside readings from scholarly articles or books. Each of the student’s exam scores count as 20% of the total grade (totaling 60%).

**Required Texts:**

**TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR**
As the topic of American government is ever changing, I reserve the right to adapt our course calendar if new issues arise that begs for our attention. The syllabus schedule is always tentative to our needs of the class.

Week 1 1/20-22:
- Introduction, review course syllabus
- Blackboard Friday-Get set up on discussion board

Week 2 1/25-29:
- -Lien, Pei-te, Carol Hardy-Fanta, Dianne M. Pinderhughes, and Christine M. Sierra. 2008.

Week 3 2/1-5:
- DDS- Introduction and Theoretical Framework
- DDS-Chapter 2 Women in Social Movements and Interest Groups
- Bejarano- Introduction
- Blackboard Friday

Week 4 2/8-12:
DDC-Chapter 3 Gender Gap in Elections and Public Opinion
Bejarano- Chapter 1
Blackboard Friday

Week 5 2/15-19:
DDC-Chapter 4 Gender and The Decision To Run for Office
Blackboard Friday

Week 6 2/22-26:
Exam 1

Week 7 2/29-3/4:
DDC-Chapter 5 Women on the Campaign Trail
Bejarano-Chapter 2 Positive Interaction of Gender and Race/Ethnicity
Blackboard Friday

Week 8 3/7-11:
Blackboard Friday

Week 9 3/14-18: Spring Break No Classes

Week 10 3/21-25:
Bejarano -Chapter 3 Predicting Latina Political Office-holding
Blackboard Friday

Week 11 3/28-4/1:
Exam 2

Week 12 4/4-8:
DDC-Chapter 6 Women and Local Politics and Government
Bejarano-Chapter 4 Diverse State Legislators in Texas
Blackboard Friday

Week 13 4/11-15:
DDC-Chapter 7 Women in Congress and the State Legislature

Blackboard Friday

Week 14 4/18-22
DDS- Chapter 8 Women in the Executive Branch
Blackboard Friday

Week 15 4/25-4/29
DDS- Women in the Judiciary
Blackboard Friday

Week 16 5/2 Last Day of Class
Discussion of class, review

Final Exam