PSCI 370: Women and Politics
Winter, 2019
AL 124, Mondays & Wednesdays 1-2:20pm
Instructor: Dr. Anna Drake

Email Address: amdrake@uwaterloo.ca
Office Location: Hagey Hall 317
Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:30-4:30pm and by appointment

Contact Policy: The easiest way to contact me is via email. I will typically respond within 24 hours (except during weekends and holidays). Please feel free to stop by during my office hours, or to speak with me before or after class. If you can’t make my office hours you can always email me to make an appointment for an alternate time.

Course Description: This course examines gender and politics with a particular emphasis on questions of power, equality, oppression, representation, and autonomy. What does it mean to be a feminist? Are there any “rules” and what does this mean for those who disagree with particular goals? We will examine the ways gender is informed by—and challenges—key political ideas (such as the public-private distinction, contract, rights, and justice). We will look at the various ways women and men mobilize to pursue women’s rights, examine major legal, political, social, and economic developments, and pay particular attention to challenges that arise. The category “women” will be analyzed as we examine questions of identity and look at the pursuit of gender equality alongside other forms of equality (race, class, sexuality, etc). This intersectional approach will guide much of the course’s analysis. We will examine conceptual and practical problems by looking at contemporary issues and policy questions (sexual violence, slutwalk, abortion access, prostitution, polygamy, pornography, etc), and profile women involved in the advancement of gender equality.

Pre-Requisites: At least one course in PSCI or WS; Level at least 2B

Learning Objectives:
Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the difference between sex and gender, and articulate the way that gender equality requires consideration of other forms of equality (race, class, sexuality, etc)
- Describe key concepts (oppression, representation, autonomy), understand the way they apply to the question of gender equality, and be able to explain how these concepts apply to specific problems that women encounter
• Identify the ways gender affects news and media coverage
• Develop critical analytical skills, both written and verbally, and develop research skills
  o Effectively convey understanding of different concepts
  o Develop their own arguments, and be able to support these with evidence

University Regulations:

Cross-listed course

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity and Discipline

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [Office of Academic Integrity webpage](#) for more information.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. Check the [Office of Academic Integrity](#) for more information. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

Grievances and Appeals

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances](#), Section 4. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

**Appeals:** A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72 - Student Appeals](#).

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

**Note for students with disabilities:** The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), collaborates with all academic departments to
arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

**Turnitin.com:** Text matching software (Turnitin®) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. Students will be given an option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin®. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin® in this course.

**Mental Health Support**
All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

**On Campus**
- Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 ext 32655
- MATES: one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek form Student Life Centre
- Amanda Cook, Sexual Violence Response Coordinator: amanda.cook@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 ext 36869

**Off campus, 24/7**
- Good2Talk: Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-433 ext. 6880
- Herc 24/7: Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- OK2BME: set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS website
Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources (PDF)](#)
Download the [WatSafe app](#) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information

**Texts:**
All course materials are available as e-readings on LEARN.

**Format:**
This is a lecture course that will also contain elements of class discussion. Students are expected to come to lectures having completed the assigned readings and ought to be prepared to engage with the issues.
Course Requirements and Assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Worth:</th>
<th>Due:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Monday February 25th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal</td>
<td>0%*</td>
<td>Monday March 4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Monday March 25th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Wednesday April 3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Monday April 8th</td>
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</tbody>
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*This is still a requirement of the course.

Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:

Assignments:

Essay assignment
There are three stages to the research essay (outlined below). This assignment is structured to give you feedback—and to help you improve your work—at multiple stages in the process. There will also be an in-class essay-writing workshop.

1) Proposal:
You must submit a short (one page) essay proposal. In the proposal you should set out the problem that you plan to address, include a brief overview of how you plan to structure the paper, and identify your main sources. Proposals will not be graded for content, but you MUST hand one in and have it approved before you submit your introduction and final paper. Failure to do so may result in a paper grade of “0”.

Due Monday March 4th (by 10am uploaded to the LEARN dropbox)
*Students who would like feedback earlier on can submit before this date

2) Introduction:
Students must submit the introduction to their essay. This should be a polished piece of writing and should conform to the requirements (we will discuss this in class). In order to complete this assignment well you are advised to have written a detailed outline or a draft of your essay.

Due: Monday March 25th (by 10am uploaded to the LEARN dropbox)
*Students who would like feedback earlier on can submit before this date

3) Essay
Students are required to write a 3000 words, excluding bibliography (approx. 12 pages, double-spaced; standard font and margins) research essay. You are free to write on an issue of your choice, but students MUST ground their paper in one of the course’s themes and the essay MUST be sufficiently analytical. Papers will (in addition to content, organization, and style) be graded for engagement with the central issues of the course and of the texts, and for quality of analysis.
Due: Monday April 8th (by 10am uploaded to LEARN and in the PSCI dropbox)

Tests & Examinations:
Exam #1: (To be written in-class Monday February 25th)
Students will write an in-class exam. We will go over the structure and expectations in-class. It will cover assigned readings and lecture material.

Exam #2: (To be written in-class Wednesday April 3rd)
Students will write an in-class exam. We will go over the structure and expectations in-class. It will cover assigned readings and lecture material and focus primarily upon material from the second-half of the term.

Late Policy:
The introduction and essay are subject to a 5% per day late penalty. This INCLUDES weekend days. If students require an extension (see policy below), or miss an exam date, please contact me as soon as possible. Failure to do so within 48 hours after the deadline may result in denial of an extension/forfeiting the assignment.

Policy on Extensions:
Extensions will be granted for documented medical (physical or mental health) or compassionate reasons only. Please speak with me as soon as possible and, if you can, before the assignment is due. Please note that verification of illness forms required by UW will cost you $20.

The student success office and the writing centre offer a number of workshops and one-on-one sessions. Counselling services offers a variety of free resources, including coping skills workshops and crisis support.

https://uwaterloo.ca/student-success/
https://uwaterloo.ca/writing-centre/
https://uwaterloo.ca/counselling-services/node/1
https://uwaterloo.ca/health-services/mental-health-services

Extensions will not be granted for a heavy workload or for computer problems. It is strongly recommended that students use a program such as dropbox to continually back up their files.

Care obligations:
If you have an unexpected care obligation during lectures (i.e: unable to find child care on a PD day) you are welcome to bring the person under your care with you to class—and to office hours).
Schedule:

**Week 1: Introduction: Gender & Politics**

**Monday January 7th**

Introduction (no assigned readings)

**Wednesday January 9th**


**Week 2: Gender and Collective Movements**

**Monday January 14th**


**Wednesday January 16th**


**Week 3: Political Representation**

**Monday January 21st**

**Wednesday January 23rd**


**Week 4: Representation and the Media**

**Monday January 28th**


**Wednesday January 30th**


**Week 5: Oppression**

**Monday February 4th**


**Wednesday February 6th**


**Week 6: Consciousness-Raising and Mobilization**

**Monday February 11th**


**Wednesday February 13th**

READING WEEK: FEBRUARY 18TH-22ND

Week 7: Exam & Essay-writing

Monday February 25th

* * * Exam #1 * * *

Wednesday February 27th

Essay writing workshop. Please read the slides posted in the “Writing Slides” folder on LEARN.

Week 8: Gender, Rights, and Justice

Monday March 4th


Wednesday March 6th


Week 9: Sex, Gender, and Autonomy

Monday March 11th


Recommended: Steven Shainberg. 2002. “Secretary.” [movie]

Wednesday March 13th


Week 10: Agency & Intersectionality

Monday March 18th


Wednesday March 20th


Week 11: Feminism, Pluralism, and Intersectionality

Monday March 25th


Wednesday March 27th


Week 12: Revisiting Gender & Collective Movements

Monday April 1st


Wednesday April 3rd

* * * Exam #2 * * *