

PSCI 370: Women and Politics

Fall, 2013

RCH 207, Tuesday and Thursday 1pm-2:20pm

Instructor: Dr. Anna Drake

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Office Location: Hagey Hall 317

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:30-4:30 and by appointment

Contact Policy: The easiest way to contact me is via email. I will typically respond within 24 hours (although this may not always apply 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 that 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 that 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 problematized 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 highlight conceptual and practical problems by looking at contemporary issues and policy questions (slutwalk, gender and the media, abortion, protest, etc).

Pre-Requisites: *Two of PSCI 250, 252, 255, 260, 264*

Learning Objectives:

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

- 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
- 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)

- Develop critical analytical skills, both written and verbally
 - Effectively convey understanding of different concepts
 - 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:

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.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. 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,

[Student Discipline <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>](http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71).

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, [Student Petitions <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>](http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70). In addition, consult [Student Grievances <http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes>](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes) for the Faculty of Arts’ grievance processes.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, [Student Appeals <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72>](http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72).

Academic Integrity website (Arts): [Academic Integrity \[http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html\]\(http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html\)](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html)

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): [Academic Integrity Office](http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/)
<http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, 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: Plagiarism detection 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. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin in this course.

Note: students must be given a reasonable option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin. See [Turnitin](http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/integrity-waterloo-faculty/turnitin-waterloo) <http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/integrity-waterloo-faculty/turnitin-waterloo> for more information.

Texts:

All course materials are available as e-readings on course reserves at the library and 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:

Assignment:	Worth:	Due:
Midterm	20%	Tuesday October 22 nd
Proposal	0%*	Thursday October 31 st
Introduction	10%	Thursday November 21 st
Essay	40%	Wednesday December 4 th
Final Exam	30%	Final exam period (date TBA)

*This is still a requirement of the course.

Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:

Assignments:

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 Thursday October 31st (in class)

*Students who would like feedback earlier on can submit before this date

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: Thursday November 21st (in class)

*Students who would like feedback earlier on can submit before this date

Essay

Students are required to write a 12 page (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: Wednesday December 4th (in the PSCI dropbox)

Tests & Examinations:

Midterm Exam: (To be written in class Tuesday October 22nd)

Students will write an in-class midterm exam. We will go over the structure and expectations in-class. The midterm will cover assigned readings and lecture material.

Final Examination:

A 2.5 hour final exam will be scheduled during the exam period. The details of this will be discussed in class. The exam will be cumulative, with an extra emphasis on material covered since the midterm.

Please note: Student travel plans are not an acceptable reason for granting an alternative examination time.

Late Policy:

The essay and introduction are subject to a 5% per day late penalty. This **INCLUDES** weekend days. If for any reason you complete an assignment late on a weekend email me proof of completion to "stop the clock"; the electronic document will be checked against the hard copy that you submit

to my dropbox at the first opportunity. If there are any discrepancies between the two copies, the latter will be used for grading purposes (and the electronic submission forfeited).

Policy on Extensions:

Extensions will be granted for documented medical or compassionate reasons only. Please speak with me as soon as a problem arises.

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.

Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction

Tuesday September 10th

Introduction

Thursday September 12th

Iris Marion Young. 1997. "Gender as Seriality: Thinking about Women as a Social Collective." *Intersecting Voices: Dilemmas of Gender, Political Philosophy, and Policy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 12-37.

Week 2: Political Representation

Tuesday September 17th

Elizabeth Cady Stanton. 2003. "Address at Seneca Falls." *Ripples of Hope: Great American Civil Rights Speeches*. New York: Basic Civitas Books. 36-42.

Sojourner Truth. 2003. "Ar'n't I a Woman?" *Ripples of Hope: Great American Civil Rights Speeches*. New York: Basic Civitas Books. 43-44.

Susan B. Anthony. 2003. "Suffrage and the Working Woman." *Ripples of Hope: Great American Civil Rights Speeches*. New York: Basic Civitas Books. 98-102.

Thursday September 19th

Lisa Young. 2013. "Slow to Change: Women in the House of Commons." *Stalled: The Representation of Women in Canadian Governments*. Vancouver: UBC Press. 253-272.

Week 3: Equality and Representation

Tuesday September 24th

Janine Brodie. 2008. "We are all equal now: Contemporary gender politics in Canada." *Feminist Theory* 9(2): 145-164.

Thursday September 26th

Rosalind Gill. 2008. "Empowerment/Sexism: Figuring Female Sexual Agency in Contemporary Advertising." *Feminism & Psychology* 18(1): 35-60.

Week 4: The Media and Oppression

Tuesday October 1st

Heather Latimer. 2009. "Popular Culture and Reproductive Politics: *Juno*, *Knocked Up* and the enduring legacy of *The Handmaid's Tale*." *Feminist Theory* 10 (2): 211-226.

Thursday October 3rd

Marilyn Frye. 1983. "Oppression." *The Politics of Reality: Essays in Feminist Theory*. New York: The Crossing Press. 1-16.

Week 5: Oppression

Tuesday October 8th

Rookie Staff. 2012. "It Happens all the Time: A private conversation about street harassment, made public." *Rookie: Yearbook One*, Tavi Gevinson, ed. Montreal: Drawn & Quarterly. 306-315.

Thursday October 10th

Betty Friedan. 1963. "The Problem That Has No Name." *The Feminine Mystique*. New York: W. W. Norton & Co. 15-32.

Week 6: Mobilization and Protest

Tuesday October 15th

Rebecca E. Klatch. 2001. "The Formation of Feminist Consciousness Among Left- and Right-wing Activists of the 1960s." *Gender & Society* 15 (6): 791-815.

Thursday October 17th

Lizzie Seal. 2013. "Pussy Riot and Feminist Cultural Criminology: a new 'Femininity in Dissent'?" *Contemporary Justice Review* 16 (2): 293-303.

Pussy Riot. 2013. "Virgin Mary, Put Putin Away (Punk Prayer)." *Pussy Riot!: A Punk Prayer for Freedom*. New York: The Feminist Press. 13-14.

Week 7: Gender, Rights, and Justice

Tuesday October 22nd

MIDTERM EXAM (TO BE WRITTEN IN-CLASS)

Thursday October 24th

Lara Karaian. 2005. "Troubling the Definition of Pornography: *Little Sisters*, a New Defining Moment in Feminists' Engagement with the Law?" *Canadian Journal of Women and the Law* 17 (1): 117-133.

Week 8: Feminism and Autonomy

Tuesday October 29th

Sonya Charles. 2010. "How Should Feminist Autonomy Theorists Respond to the Problem of Internalized Oppression?" *Social Theory and Practice* 36 (3): 409-428.

Thursday October 31st

Midterm overview and essay writing workshop

Week 9: Feminism and Autonomy

Tuesday November 5th

Mary Gaitskill. 1989. "Secretary." *Bad Behavior* New York: Vintage Books. 131-147.

Recommended: Steven Shainberg. 2002. "Secretary." [movie]

Thursday November 7th

Carole Pateman. 1988. "Contracting In." *The Sexual Contract* Stanford: Stanford University Press. 1-18.

Week 10: Intersectionality and Essentialism

Tuesday November 12th

Kimberle Crenshaw. 1991. "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color." *Stanford Law Review* 43 (6): 1241-1299.

Thursday November 14th

Audre Lorde. 1984. "Learning from the 60s" (134-144) and "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House" (110-113.) *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*. Trumansburg, NY: Crossing Press.

Week 11: Feminism and Multiculturalism

Tuesday November 19th

Leti Volpp. 2001. "Feminism versus Multiculturalism." *Columbia Law Review* 101 (5): 1181-1218.

Thursday November 21st

Chandra Mohanty. 2003. "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses" *Feminism Without Borders*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. 17-42.

Week 12: Women and Global Justice

Tuesday November 26th

Marsha Henry. 2013. "Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in UN Peacekeeping Missions: Problematising Current Responses." *Gender, Agency, and Coercion*, Sumi Madhok, Anne Phillips, and Kalpana Wilson, eds. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 122-142.

Thursday November 28th

Anaheed Alani. 2012. "Smells Like Teen Spirit." *Bust* August/September. 38-45.

Course overview & final exam review