

**WOMEN AND POLITICS**  
**PUP 3323**  
**WST 3930**  
**FALL 2016**

**DR. LYNN LEVERTY**  
**319 ANDERSON HALL**  
**232 PUGH HALL**

[lleverty@ufl.edu](mailto:lleverty@ufl.edu)

**Office hours:** Monday 12:30 – 2:00 pm  
232 Pugh Hall  
Wednesday 1:00 – 2:30 pm  
319 Anderson Hall

### **WOMEN AND POLITICS SYLLABUS**

“In evaluating women who could be taken seriously as a potential president, we looked to the traditional feeder systems: statehouses, the Senate and the House. Four of the last five presidents are former governors, which suggests that voters value executive experience higher than a legislative record....Political analysts believe the first women president will be a “Sister Mister” having the body of a woman with the character traits of a man. More likely she will come from the moderate-to-conservative segment of the ideological spectrum.” Taken from *Madam President* by Eleanor Clift and Tom Brazaitis (2003), pages. x-xi.

In many ways the 2016 presidential election defies the expectations of political analysts. While the Democratic candidate does have executive experience as the US Secretary of State, she is also a former First Lady, US Senator, corporate lawyer and activist on issues primarily pertaining to women and children. The Republican candidate is a businessman with no personal experience in politics beyond campaign donations to both Republicans and Democrats. Both have high negatives as well as committed supporters.

Political races outside of the presidential are more typical. Thirteen women are running for the US Senate, hundreds for the US House of Representatives and two for governor of their state as representatives of the two major political parties. Several other races will be determined after the August 30 and September primaries. Each party considers the campaigns for the US Senate to be particularly important; Republicans hope to retain control of the Senate, while Democrats hope to gain control.

This semester we will focus primarily on the presidential election and the Senate and gubernatorial races in which women are running. These races have more visibility and can be analyzed more effectively than most down ballot races.

By the end of this class, you will be able to:

1. Identify issues that confront women running for public office;
2. Understand voting trends among women and the impact of these trends on elections; and
3. Evaluate what women have brought to the political sphere.

There is a normative bias in the course. It rests on an assumption that diversity in public office creates a more representative and effective government. Diversity includes not only gender, but race and ethnicity, stance in the political spectrum, age, sexual orientation and personal background.

**Philosophy:**

Learning is an active and interactive process. For this reason, the amount of time devoted to lectures will be as minimal as possible. UF undergraduates are among the best in the nation. You are all capable of doing this work very well. With that in mind, the class will focus heavily on in-depth discussion and analysis of the readings. Good preparation is a necessity for doing well in this course. We will talk in considerable detail about this in class, but do feel free to come by my office early and often to discuss any class assignments, readings or other issues.

**Requirements:**

1. Paper analyzing a woman's campaign for the US Senate or Governor (30%)
2. An issue brief for either Secretary Clinton or a female Senate or gubernatorial candidate (30%)
3. Final analysis (take-home final exam) (30%)
4. Class participation (10%)

You will also have the option of taking a mid-term exam due October 5. If you choose this option the paper, issue brief and final exam will count for 25% of your grade and the mid-term will count for 15%. There will be no change in class participation.

Extra credit opportunities will be available, but some will only be announced in class.

Information on this course is on the university's e-learning course management system (Canvas). The syllabus is located there as well as lecture notes and other information. Please check this regularly. I will also send some announcements out through the listserv e-mail. Note: I do not put grades on e-learning. For this reason, you will need keep a record of your grades or retain your returned papers.

I expect assignments to be turned in on the due date. One letter grade per day (not class days) will be taken off for late papers unless you have obtained prior approval for a different date due to special circumstances or have a documented illness or family emergency. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have some type of special circumstance, but you must do so before the due date unless it is an emergency.

If 90% of life is just showing up, class participation is important. This grade depends not only on physical presence (this will be checked at the beginning of most classes), but also your active participation in class and your "class manners." This means being on time, refraining from side discussions and other distracting behavior and respecting each other's viewpoints. We will be discussing controversial issues about which many people have strong opinions and beliefs so mutual respect is critical. **Phones and computers should not be out unless needed for a particular class.**

The easiest way to reach me is to come by during office hours or through e-mail. If my office hours are not convenient, I am always happy to set a time to meet, so please do not hesitate to ask me for a scheduled appointment. If you have any special needs, please let me know so that we can work together to make this class a success.

**Required reading:**

Carroll, Susan J. and Fox, Richard L, eds. **Gender and Elections: Shaping the Future of American Politics**, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

**Center for the American Woman and Politics**

Fact Sheets and Articles

<http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/home>

**Political Parity**

<https://www.politicalparity.org/>

**Real Clear Politics**

<http://www.realclearpolitics.com/>

Polling data by state and for the presidential election

**FiveThirtyEight**

<http://fivethirtyeight.com/>

Additional data on the elections

**Other material as assigned**

**Course schedule:** (given the volatility of this election season this is definitely subject to change as we go through the semester)

**Part 1: Introduction**

**[The goal of this section is to provide a brief history of women in US politics and examine which women hold public offices today.]**

**August 22:** First class

**August 24:** Declaration of Sentiments

<http://ecssba.rutgers.edu/docs/seneca.html>

**August 26:** Early political activity

Suffrage time line

[http://womenshistory.about.com/od/suffrageoverview/a/suffrage\\_timeline.htm](http://womenshistory.about.com/od/suffrageoverview/a/suffrage_timeline.htm)

True Womanhood

<http://pinzler.com/ushistory/culttwo.html>

**August 29:** Discussion about assignments and women in elected office history

CAWP "Summary of Women Candidates for Selected Offices: 1970 – 2014"

[http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/resources/can\\_histsum.pdf](http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/resources/can_histsum.pdf)

**August 31:** Women in elected office today

Carroll and Fox: introduction and pages 190 - 194

CAWP "Women in Elective Office 2016"

<http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/current-numbers>

## **Part 2: Women and the presidency**

**[The goal of this section is to review the women who have run for president or vice president and the challenges they faced.]**

**September 2:** Female candidates for president or vice president history  
Carroll and Fox: chapter 2

**September 5:** Labor Day no class

**September 7 – 9:** What happened in 2012?  
Carroll and Fox: chapter 1 and review chapter 2

**September 12 - 14:** Modern presidential political campaigns – how different is 2016?  
Reading TBA

## **Part 3: Women as voters**

**[The goal of this section is to review and understand differences in voting between men and women, different generations and racial/ethnic groups.]**

**September 16 - 19:** Impact of female voters  
Carroll and Fox: chapter 4  
CAWP Gender Gap “Voting Choices in Presidential Elections”  
<http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/> [listed under the heading “facts”]

**September 21 - 23:** Are there generational differences among female voters?  
Carroll and Fox: chapter 3  
CAWP Voter Turnout “Young Women and Politics”  
<http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/> [listed under the heading “facts”]

**September 26:** What about race and ethnicity?  
CAWP Voter Turnout “Gender Differences in Voter Turnout”  
<http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/> [listed under the heading “facts”]

## **Part 4: What affects women’s decision to run for office?**

**[One of the reasons there are fewer women in office is that fewer women choose to run. The goal in the section is to examine past and present barriers to election.]**

**September 28 – 30:** Geography, history and culture  
Carroll and Fox: chapter 10 and pages 195 - 210  
CAWP “See How Your State Fairs”  
<http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/state-by-state>

**October 3 – 7:** Role of political parties  
Carroll and Fox: chapter 8  
Political Parity: “Clearing the Primary Hurdles: Republican Women and the GOP Gender Gap”  
<http://www.politicalparity.org/research/primary-hurdles/>

**October 10:** Gender stereotypes  
Project Implicit – Gender and Career relationship  
<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/>

**October 12 - 17:** Fundraising  
Carroll and Fox: review pages 226 -236  
Political Parity: Money and Women Candidates  
<https://www.politicalparity.org/research-inventory/> [scroll down to article]  
Women’s Campaign Fund  
ww.wcfoonline.org

**\*\*\*October 12: Policy brief due\*\*\***

**October 14:** Homecoming no class

**October 19 – 24:** Impact of the media  
Carroll and Fox: chapter 9  
Name it. Change it.  
<http://www.nameitchangeit.org/pages/about>

**October 26 – 28:** Challenges for African-American women  
Carroll and Fox: chapter 6  
CAWP Women of Color “Facts on Women of Color in Office”  
<http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fact-sheets-women-color>  
(click on tab for black women in elective office)

**October 31 – November 2:** Challenges for Latinas  
Carroll and Fox: chapter 5  
CAWP Women of Color “Facts on Women of Color in Office”  
<http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fact-sheets-women-color>  
(click on tab for Latinas)

**November 4:** Knowledge gaps for Asian, Native American, Multiracial and LGBTQ women  
CAWP Women of Color “Facts on Women of Color in Office”  
<http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fact-sheets-women-color>  
(click on Asian, Native American and Multiracial tabs)  
Victory Fund  
<https://www.victoryfund.org/mission>

**November 7:** Update on the presidential and Senate campaigns and class vote  
Real Clear Politics  
FiveThirtyEight

**November 9:** Outcome of the election discussion

**November 11:** Veteran’s Day no class

**Part 5: Appointed officials and the impact of women in elected and appointed office**  
[Women who are appointed to executive offices or the court also play a key role in policy making]

**November 14 – 18:**

CAWP “Women in Presidential Cabinets”

<http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/> [listed under the heading “facts” Federal Executive]

U.S. Supreme Court

[http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/facts/levels\\_of\\_office/us\\_supreme\\_court](http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/facts/levels_of_office/us_supreme_court)

**\*\*\*November 18: Campaign paper due\*\*\***

**November 21:** day off because you have earned it!

**November 28 – December 2:** Impact of women in office

Political Parity “The Impact of Women in Elected Office”

<https://www.politicalparity.org/research-inventory/>

(click on tab to read the full report)

Political Parity “Why Women”

<https://www.politicalparity.org/why-women/>

**December 5:** Most important issues facing women in politics class discussion

**December 7:** Last day of class

**Final:** Take home due December 12 at 12:30