

POS BC3301

Fall 2005

Thursday 2:10-4pm, 421 Lehman Hall

Colloquium: Women as Voters, Candidates and Leaders

[Kathleen Knight](#)

Office: 419 Lehman Hall, Barnard (212 854-4877)

Email: kknight@barnard.edu

Open office hours: Wednesday 2:30-4:30, or by appointment (e-mailing for appointment preferred)

Introduction

The course has two major goals: 1) to familiarize students with the academic literature on women's political behavior, and 2) to identify and practice characteristics of leadership useful in politics and elective office. An underlying question that runs throughout the course is: Does it really make any difference whether our elected representatives and leaders are men or women?

The beginning of the course will provide a brief review of the history of women's roles in politics in the United States, and an overview on the current status of women in American politics. Following this, roughly equal time will be devoted to women as members of the electorate, women as candidates, and women as elected representatives and leaders. We will attend to the experiences of women in other countries for purposes of comparison, but major focus will remain on the American political system.

The course will be organized in seminar fashion with students responsible for discussion and scheduled presentations. The major product of the course will be a term paper of roughly 20 pages in length that should seek to extend knowledge with respect to some aspect of women in politics. Papers can focus on issues relevant to women, the broad behavior of women, e.g., the "gender gap," women's organizations, aspects of political campaigning or the trials and triumphs of women leaders, including biographical & psycho-biographical approaches. The topic of the paper will be decided in consultation with the professor. Several types of graded tasks will be assigned over the course of the semester leading to this final product. ***The final version of the paper will be retained in my office for a year, as it stands in lieu of a final exam. Please keep your own copies.***

Note: I reserve the right to change the outline as the course progresses to take account of student interests. *I will communicate any changes via e-mail to your official Barnard address. If you do not use this address regularly make sure messages are forwarded.*

Requirements:

Term Research Project

The major product of this class is the term research paper. The research paper has four written components:

Pre-proposal /Proposal 15%
First Draft 15%
Final Draft 25% = cum. 55%

The term project will also be the subject of two presentations:

Project Proposal 5%
Final Research Presentation 10% = cum. 70%

Participation

The other 30% of the course is based on participation. Ten percent of the grade is for traditional participation. The other 20% will be based upon two other presentations in which students take responsibility for part of the substantive material scheduled for a specific week in the course. These presentations will be arranged in direct consultation with the instructor. It is envisioned that one of them will focus upon issues of particular concern to women (i.e., *policy presentation*, e.g., education, Title IX, employment, reproductive rights, etc.), and one will focus upon a particular woman as exemplar of candidate or leader (i.e., *biographical presentation*). This component might change depending upon the enrollment or individual interest of students.

It is expected that the substantive presentations (policy & biography, or alternative as arranged) will be accompanied by either a PowerPoint/web component or a traditional paper. In addition, a single page overview (with your name on it) is strongly suggested in case something goes wrong with the classroom technology. (This is a good rule of life!) These presentation will be scheduled for *roughly* for weeks 5-6 and 11-12. I encourage co-ordination and team work on presentations, and in all aspects of the course except actual writing. See Barnard Honor Code [<http://www.barnard.edu/dos/honor.html>]

Books for the Course: (available at Labyrinth & on reserve)

Important note: There are a lot of new books this year. I do not recommend rushing out & buying all of them at the beginning of the semester. The first two will be used to most extensively. Some others will prove more useful to students depending on their research papers and presentations. The books are listed *approximately* in the order they will be used. *Additional required reading is listed by week in the syllabus.* This is generally available on-line, or as articles and chapters of books on reserve.

Conway, M. Margaret, Gertrude A. Steuernagel & David W. Ahern. 2005. **Women & Political Participation: Cultural Change in the Political Arena.** CQ Press.

Conway, M. Margaret, David W. Ahern & Gertrude A. Steuernagel. 2005. **Women & Public Policy: A Revolution in Progress**. CQ Press.

Dolan, Kathleen A. 2004. **Voting for Women: How the Public Evaluates Women Candidates**. Westview Press.

Bystrom, Diannne G., Mary Christine Banwart, Lynda L. Kaid, Terry A. Robertson. 2004. **Gender & Candidate Communication**. Routledge.

Clift, Eleanor & Tom Brazaitis. 2003. **Madam President: Women Blazing the Leadership Trail**. Routledge.

Wilson, Marie C. 2004. **Closing the Leadership Gap: Why Women Can & Must Help Run the World**. Viking.

Inglehart, Ronald & Pippa Norris. 2003. **Rising Tide: Gender Equality and Cultural Change Around the World**. Cambridge University Press

McGlen, Nancy E., Karen O'Connor, Laura van Assendelft and Wendy Gunther-Canada. 2002. **Women, Politics and American Society** (3rd edition). Longman.

Useful internet addresses: Those listed below represent a start. You are encouraged to find more and share them with the class.

The White House Project <http://www.thewhitehouseproject.org/> "Vote, Run, Lead"
Votes for Women 2004 <http://www.votesforwomen2004.org/> "Gender Gap Watch"
Center for American Women and Politics <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~cawp/>
Women & Politics Institute <http://www.american.edu/oconnor/wandp/>
Centre for Advancement of Women in Politics <http://www.qub.ac.uk/cawp/>

Role Models: (obviously only a beginning here, as well. You are encouraged to propose your own examples.)

Jo Freeman <http://www.jofreeman.com/index.htm>

Pippa Norris <http://ksghome.harvard.edu/~pnorris.shorenstein.ksg/>

POLS 3301

Colloquium: Women as Voters, Candidates and Leaders Fall 2005

Class Outline and Schedule of Reading Assignments

Note: All reading material is required unless noted as recommended. Recommended reading is meant to serve two purposes: to provide background references for concepts discussed in class and to provide detailed material that may be of use to students preparing presentations or assignments.

Week 1 (9/8)

Introduction – The U.S. and the World

Norris, Pippa and Ronald Inglehart. 2004. “It’s the Women Stupid,” *Ms.* (Spring): 47-49. (pdf available through *Proquest*)

OR Inglehart, Ronald and Pippa Norris. 2003. “The True Clash of Civilizations,” *Foreign Policy*, (March/April): 62-70. (pdf available through *Proquest*)

Inter-parliamentary Union – women’s representation by country
<http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>

Week 2 (9/15) -- The U.S. Experience

“**Iron-Jawed Angels**” (HBO – DVD/VHS – showing in class)

Recommended: Clift, Eleanor. 2003. **Founding Sisters and the Nineteenth Amendment.** N.Y.: Wiley.

Week 3 (9/22) -- Women’s Representation in Politics

Conway, M. Margaret, Gertrude A. Steuernagel & David W. Ahern. 2005. **Women & Political Participation: Cultural Change in the Political Arena.** CQ. Ch 1-4.

McGlen, Nancy E., Karen O’Connor, Laura van Assendelft and Wendy Gunther-Canada. 2004. **Women, Politics and American Society.** Longman. Intro, Ch 1, 2.

Recommended:

Burns, Nancy, Kay Lehman Schlozman and Sidney Verba. 2001. **The Private Roots of Public Action.** Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Ch. 1, 3 & 4.

Video: “**One Woman, One Vote**” – available in Barnard media library

Read ahead – Marie Wilson’s (2004) **Closing the Leadership Gap** confronts many of the arguments addressed in the class in summary form while discussing the practice of leadership. It isn’t formally assigned until the last section of the class, but may serve you well to read ahead.

DISCUSSION OF ASSIGNMENTS FOR FIRST PRESENTATIONS

See Weeks 6-7 below for further details.

You are encouraged to e-mail me in advance if there is a particular issue that you are interested in, or to meet during office hours to discuss ideas for your presentation. Since all of the policy areas will need to be covered not everyone will get their first choice.

Week 4 (9/29) – Is the Personal Political?

Inglehart, Ronald and Pippa Norris. 2003. **Rising Tide: Gender Equality and Cultural Change Throughout the World.** Cambridge U. Press. (Part I)

Crittenden, Ann. 2001. **The Price of Motherhood.** Metropolitan Books (Henry Holt & Co.)

Recommended:

McGlen, et al 2004. **Women, Politics and American Society.** Ch 6. “Women’s Place in the Family”

Jamieson, Kathleen Hall. 1995. **Beyond the Double Bind.** Oxford U. Press.

Burns, et. al. 2001. **The Private Roots of Public Action.** Ch. 5-7, 12 & 14.

[POSSIBLE PRESENTATIONS – compare socialization of Eleanor Roosevelt & Hillary Clinton. This presentation would be in lieu of either your policy or biographical presentation.]

Roosevelt, Eleanor. 1961. **The Autobiography of Eleanor Roosevelt.** Harper Bros. Preface through Ch. 5.

Clinton, Hillary Rodham. 2003. **Living History.** N.Y.: Simon & Schuster. Ch. 1-5.

Week 5 (10/6) -- Women as Citizens, Voters and Activists

Conway, M. Margaret, et. al. 2005. **Women & Political Participation: Cultural Change in the Political Arena.** CQ. Ch 5-6.

Norris, Pippa. 2003. "The Gender Gap," Ch. 6 in Carroll, ed. **Women & American Politics**. Oxford University Press.

CAWP Gender Gap <http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/Facts5.html>

Inglehart, Ronald & Pippa Norris. 2003. **Rising Tide: Gender Equality and Cultural Change Throughout the World**. Cambridge U. Press. (Part II)

Recommended:

McGlen, et. Al. 2004. **Women, Politics and American Society**. Longman. Ch 2

PAPER PRE-PROPOSAL DUE

Week 6 & 7 (10/13-20)

Policies Affecting Women

Conway, M. Margaret, David W. Ahern & Gertrude A. Steuernagel. 2005. **Women & Public Policy: A Revolution in Progress**. CQ.

Two weeks of presentations on topics previously assigned. Each student is expected to do a presentation on a policy issue affecting women. The general topics (roughly following the outline in the Conway, et. al. Policy book) are: education, employment, other economic policies, health care, reproduction, family law, child care, crime, security & women in the military. Other topics may be proposed. You are encouraged to narrow your focus to a specific application, or question about, of the more general policy.

Presenters should assume that everyone has read the Conway, et al. Policy book. With this as broad background presenters should pick a specific aspect of the policy to examine in detail. The presentation should remind the class of the material in the Conway book without feeling required to repeat it. It should seek to justify the importance of further examination of the specific part of the policy. This examination might include an update (web resources are encouraged), a case study, recommendation for policy change, etc.

[PowerPoint and web based presentations are encouraged & may stand in lieu of traditional papers. The will be discussed further in class. Students are strongly encouraged to bring a *single page* hand-out for each person in class as back-up in case the technology doesn't work. You are also encouraged to arrange to test an electronic presentation on the classroom equipment in advance.]

Recommended:

McGlen, et. Al. 2004. **Women, Politics and American Society**. Policy chapters.

Week 8 (10/27)

Women as Candidates, Part 1

Clift & Brazaitis. 2003. **Madam President**. Routledge. Ch. 1-5 and “Coda.”.

Kahn, Kim Fridkin. 2003. “Assessing the Media’s Impact on the Fortunes of Women,” Ch. 7 in Carroll, ed. **Women & American Politics**. Oxford University Press.

Bystrom, Diannne G., Mary Christine Banwart, Lynda L. Kaid, Terry A. Robertson. 2004. **Gender & Candidate Communication**. Routledge.

Recommended:

Kahn. 1996. **The Political Consequences of Being a Woman**. Columbia University Press.

O’Connor, Karen. 2001. **Women and Congress: Running and Winning**. New York: Hawthorne Press. Ch. 1-6 (Intro and articles by: Francia; Dolan; Hoffman et al.; Palmer & Simon; Kropf & Boiney) Note – this is also a double issue of the journal **Women & Politics** available in Barnard library.

Freeman, Jo. 2000. **One Room at a Time: How Women Entered Party Politics**. Rowman & Littlefield.

REVISED RESEARCH PAPER PROPOSAL DUE

Week 9 (11/3)

Women as Candidates, Part 2

Clift & Brazaitis. 2003. **Madam President**. Ch. 7-13.

Dolan, Kathleen. 2004. **Voting for Women**.

Recommended:

Clinton, Hillary Rodham. 2003. **Living History**. N.Y.: Simon & Schuster. Ch. 37-38.

Harpaz, Beth. 2001. **The Girls in the Van: Covering Hillary**. Thomas Dunne.

PRESENTATIONS ON WOMEN CANDIDATES

From this week forward we will be scheduling second (biographical) presentations on topics keyed to the syllabus. Each student is expected to do a second presentation on a particular woman as an example of either a candidate or a leader.

Week 10 (11/10)

Women as Leaders, Part 1 - Electoral Representation

O'Connor. 2001. **Women and Congress: Running and Winning**. New York: Hawthorne Press. Ch. 7-10.

Thomas, Sue. 2003. "The Impact of Women in Political Leadership Positions," Ch. 4 in Carroll, ed. **Women & American Politics**. Oxford University Press.

PRESENTATIONS ON WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES

Week 11 (11/17)

Women as Leaders, Part 2 - Executives, Judges and Heads of State

Wilson, Marie. 2004. **Closing the Leadership Gap**. Viking.

Clift & Brazaitis. 2003. **Madam President**. Ch. 12-13.

Recommended:

Liswood, Laura. 1997. **Women World Leaders**. (Selected biographies.)

Borrelli, Mary Anne. (2002). **The President's Cabinet: Gender, Power and Representation**. Boulder CO: Lynne Rienner.

Watson, Robert P. & Ann Gordon (ed.) 2003. **Anticipating Madam President**. Boulder CO: Lynne Rienner. Ch. 2-5, 15-17

PRESENTATIONS ON WOMEN LEADERS.

FIRST DRAFT OF TERM PAPER DUE.

Sooner, if you want to work on revisions over Thanksgiving.

Week 12-13 (12/1-12/8)

Conclusions – The Future of Women in Politics, You!

TERM RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Date of Presentation will be assigned in order to provide coherence across the topics.
Everyone is expected to be present both weeks.

TERM PAPERS DUE

© [Kathleen Knight](#)

Posted 6 September 2005 by
[Nell Dillon-Ermers](#)