



**Women in Politics**  
**PSC 246/WST 203**  
**Fall 2010**

Nora Bredes, Director  
Susan B. Anthony Center for Women's Leadership  
Dewey 4-145; 585/275-9283  
nora.bredes@rochester.edu  
Office hours by appointment

OVERVIEW:

**Regular attendance** is expected and essential. If you must be absent, please notify me by e-mail or phone. Please let me know if you will be away from class to observe religious holidays.

**Readings & Discussion:**

This course is designed to teach through readings, lectures, films and discussions. Students must keep current with the reading in order to learn through participation. The quality of your preparation will shape our discussions. What's critical is not how much you speak in class, but whether or not what you say indicates that you're familiar with theories, facts, history and data discussed in readings and that you've thought about their implications and applications.

**Research paper:**

A twelve to fifteen page research paper about analyzing a barrier to women's political progress is required. The barrier may be one we discuss in class, one you read about in course texts or other works or one you develop independently. You may discuss the barrier theoretically, as current or historic barrier and/or as encountered by one woman candidate during her campaign. You should develop a hypothesis about the barrier you explore. For example,

“Women with short hair cannot win election in Massachusetts.” Your research should then support your hypothesis.

Your topic and a one-page abstract are due Wednesday, **October 20<sup>th</sup>** and, along with your in-class participation and reaction papers will form the basis of your mid-term evaluation.

### **Reaction papers:**

Three 1 – 2 page reaction papers are required. Questions will be posed to encourage students to think about and respond to ideas and theories raised in the assigned readings. These will not be graded but must be completed. Each paper will be discussed in class; the second reaction paper will form the basis of a debate in class.

### **Grades:**

Grades will be based on class participation (informed discussion, presentations, campaign volunteer experience and reaction papers) – 30%; the final exam – 30%; and the research paper – 10% at mid-term evaluation, 30% for your final paper.

### **Important Dates:**

**Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup>,** -- Labor Day, no class

**Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>** – Primary Election Day; primaries in Republican gubernatorial race, Democratic U.S. Senate race and

**Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup>** – film screening – *Not for Ourselves Alone*

**Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup>** – Fall Break, no class

**Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>** --12 noon – 3 pm: 2010 Stanton/Anthony Conversations:  
How Women Use Power: Luncheon and Discussion with Gloria Feldt

**Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>** – Paper abstract due for mid-term evaluation

**Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>** – General Election

### **Campaign 2010 Project: Follow the Women**

To enrich our understanding of how, where and why women run for office, each student will select a 2010 campaign to follow through field work, news reports and on the internet from the start of class to Election Day. Students will examine candidates' campaign websites, local newspapers (available online), appropriate blogs, NYS Board of Elections campaign finance filings (available online) and any other relevant resources. Students should also participate in a campaign; no more than three hours of participation is required. After Election Day (November 2nd), each student will report on his/her candidate's campaign.

In 2010, there are many opportunities to follow women running for office. In Rochester, two women, Robin Wilt and Mary Wilmot, are challenging incumbent state senators. In all, ten Democratic women across the state are challenging incumbent state senators – a record number. Kirsten Gillibrand is running to secure her U.S. Senate seat and Kathleen Rice, a Democratic primary candidate for Attorney General, may be a candidate for statewide office in the general election.

**Texts:**

Gender Power, Leadership and Governance  
Georgia Duerst-Lahti and Rita Mae Kelly, editors

The Feminist Papers  
Alice Rossi, editor

Women, Media and Politics  
Pippa Norris, editor

It Takes a Candidate: Why Women Don't Run for Office  
Jennifer Lawless and Richard Fox

The Impact of Women in Public Office  
Susan J. Carroll, editor

**Assignment and Reading Calendar:**

***GENDER THEORY:***

**September 8th**

**Gender Power, Leadership & Governance**

Introduction & Chapters One & Two

**September 13th**

**Gender Power, Leadership & Governance**

Chapters Three & Four

**September 15th**

**Gender Power, Leadership & Governance**

Chapters Five & Six

**\*\*\*Reaction Paper #1 Due\*\*\*** Choose and respond: ***Masculinism has OR has not influenced my behaviors, beliefs and values.*** Be prepared to discuss your paper in class on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

**September 20<sup>th</sup>**

- **2010 Campaign Project:** Present your candidate and campaign
- **Discuss Reaction Paper #1**

**September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**ROOTS OF FEMINISM –**

Visit to the Susan B. Anthony House

**September 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Video Presentation - *Not For Ourselves Alone***

Documentary by Ken Burns & Paul Barnes examining the work and lives of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony

**September 29<sup>th</sup>**

**The Feminist Papers**

Part 1, Introduction, “Remember the Ladies” & Mary Wollstonecraft

**October 4<sup>th</sup>**

**The Feminist Papers**

Part 3, Introduction & the Right to One’s Own Body: Margaret Sanger  
Margaret Sanger and Reproductive Rights

**October 6<sup>th</sup>**

**\*\*\* Reaction Essay #2 Due & DEBATE \*\*\***

***Choose one: Education OR Suffrage OR Birth Control has been most essential to women’s social progress in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.***

**October 11<sup>th</sup> – NO CLASS/FALL BREAK**

**CHALLENGES IN PRESENTATION**

**October 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Women, Media & Politics – Part I**

**October 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Women, Media & Politics – Part II**

“Media Framing of the Gender Gap”, Thomas Confirmation hearings & the Year of the Woman

**THE AMBITION DEFICIT**

**October 20<sup>th</sup> - PAPER TOPIC and ABSTRACT DUE**

**Women, Media & Politics – Part III**

**Gender Power, Leadership & Governance, part 5, and section 10**

**October 25<sup>th</sup>**

**It Takes a Candidate** – Chapters 1 - 3

**October 27<sup>th</sup>**

**It Takes a Candidate** – Chapters 4-6

**November 1<sup>st</sup>**

**It Takes a Candidate** – Chapters 7 & 8

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Third reaction paper due: “***Why I Will/Would Never Run for Political Office***”  
Review and discussion of strategies and organizations designed to increase women's political participation.

**November 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>:**

Presentations of Campaign 2010 candidates, campaigns and field work experiences.

**November 15<sup>th</sup>**

**The Impact of Women in Public Office** – Introduction, Part 1, One and Part 1, Three

**November 17<sup>th</sup>**

**The Impact of Women in Public Office** – Part II, Seven & Eight

**November 21<sup>st</sup> – Film: Iron-Jawed Angels**

**November 23<sup>rd</sup> – NO CLASS**

**November 29<sup>th</sup>**

**The Impact of Women in Public Office** – Part III, Eleven

**December 1<sup>st</sup> - RESEARCH PAPER DUE**

**Gender Power, Leadership & Governance**, part 6, section 11

**December 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>**

**In class presentations of student papers; distribution of Take-Home Final**

**December 13<sup>th</sup> – Wrap Up and Distribution of Take-Home Final**

**December 20<sup>th</sup> – 5 pm**

**\*\*\* Take Home Finals Due\*\*\***

Return completed exams to Dewey 4-145.