

Course Syllabus



Comparative Politics Research Seminar (POLS 979)

Instructor Information

Dr. Alice J. Kang, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Fall 2020

Email me at akang2@unl.edu (<mailto:akang2@unl.edu>).

I check email and Canvas once a day Mon-Fri and try to respond within 24 hours (excluding weekends).

Help (aka office) hours are Tue 11am-noon & Thu 1-2pm in Kang's Zoom Room ID: 772 268 6471

Our Principles

1. The humane option is the best option.
 - We prioritize supporting each other.
 - We value and take care of our own mental and physical health and well-being.
2. We will foster accommodation.
 - Accessible content for diverse situations.
3. We will be flexible and adjust.
 - Nobody knows what will happen and when things will change but we can adapt.
4. We will learn.
 - We will allow our brains to think in new ways and find joy in learning.

Course Overview

Course Format

We will meet on Zoom, Wednesdays, 2-4pm.

Meeting ID: 915 7628 6364 Passcode: 453666

Course Goal

The goal of this seminar is to quickly immerse students in the fast-growing comparative politics scholarship on women and gender. The causes and consequences of gender inequality and women's

representation are central to understanding democracy, peace and conflict, and human rights cross-nationally. While for decades relegated to the margins, the study of women and gender has become mainstreamed in comparative politics and a prominent cross-cutting area of work in political science. In 2020, an all-women team including scholars of women's movements and intersectionality took the editorial helm of the *American Political Science Review*, and the co-editors of the *American Journal of Political Science* are leading researchers of women and politics. In the 21st century, there is no question that women's rights are human rights and that politics is gendered.

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, students will be able to

1. Evaluate theories and evidence of the origins of gender inequality
2. Synthesize main theories and debates about women's representation
3. Evaluate feminist theories and debates about gender and conflict
4. Evaluate theories of women's rights and gender equality policymaking
5. Produce a polished draft of a conference research paper on a topic related to women, gender, and comparative politics.

Schedule

(subject to change)

Week	Date	Theme	Assignments Due
1	Aug 19	Introduction	
2	Aug 26	<u>Origins of gender equality</u>	Reaction paper
3	Sep 2	<u>Intersectionality</u>	Reaction paper
4	Sep 9	<u>Gender stereotypes</u>	Reaction paper; <u>Draft research question</u> due
5	Sep 16	No class	(Meet with instructor)
6	Sep 23	<u>Descriptive representation</u>	Reaction paper
7	Sep 30	<u>Substantive and symbolic representation</u>	Reaction paper
8	Oct 7	<u>Gender and sexual minorities</u>	Reaction paper
9	Oct 14	<u>Women, gender, and conflict (I)</u>	Reaction paper
10	Oct 21	<u>Women, gender, and conflict (II)</u>	
11	Oct 28	<u>Gender-based violence</u>	(Draft research paper

			due-AJK: updated this to 10/28)
12	Nov 4	No class	(Revise draft paper)
13	Nov 11	No class	(Revise draft paper)
14	Nov 18	Last class	Final research paper

Course Materials

There are no required books for this course. Readings will be posted in the Modules.

As you will see this semester, the comparative politics scholarship on women and gender draws on theory and evidence from a wide range of fields (American politics, IR, theory) and disciplines (economics, psychology). Many of the readings are empirical studies involving statistical analyses, but this course does not assume or require any prior coursework in statistics.

A wonderful and optional companion textbook for this class is Pamela Paxton, Melanie M. Hughes, and Tiffany Barnes. 2020. *Women, Politics, and Power: A Global Perspective*. Rowman and Littlefield.

Assignments

Category	Description	Due	Percent
Reaction papers	To help stimulate meaningful discussion of the readings, students will write a one-page, single-spaced reaction paper for eight (8) weeks. See <u>Assignment Tips: The Reaction Paper</u>	9am on the day of class	30%
Draft research problem, gap, and question	Topic needs to have something to do with women and/or gender. See <u>Assignment Tips: The Draft Research Question</u>	Sep 9	5%
Polished draft research paper	A polished draft of 12-15 pages of the research paper.	Oct 28	(Preliminary grade)
Final research paper	A 20-25 page research paper with a clear research question, theory, hypotheses, method, findings, and conclusion.	Nov 18	50%
Engagement and participation	We all benefit when everyone participates and is respected. I know I will learn from	Throughout the semester	15%

	<p>you just as you should expect to learn from your peers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Quality</i> counts. Does the student talk about the readings? Engage productively with what other students say? One does not need to talk all the time to do well. • That said, if one consistently needs to be called on, one cannot earn an A in this seminar-based graduate course. 		
Optional mock take-home comps	A comprehensive exam style essay question. See Assignment Tips: The Mock Comp (Optional) .	Nov 23-24	?

Week-by-Week Readings

Week 2, Origins of Gender Equality, Aug 26

The vast majority of localities around the world can be characterized as gender unequal. Where did this inequality between men and women come from? Why do some places seem to have greater gender inequality than others? The objective of this week is to evaluate theories and evidence of the origins and persistence of gender inequality.

- Lorber, Judith. 1994. "Night to his Day": The Social Construction of Gender." Excerpts from: *Paradoxes of Gender* (Chapter 1). New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Alesina, Alberto, Paola Giuliano, and Nathan Nunn. 2013. "On the Origins of Gender Roles: Women and the Plough." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 128(2): 469-530.
- Gneezy, U., Leonard, K.L. and List, J.A.. 2009. "Gender Differences in Competition: Evidence from a Matrilineal and a Patriarchal Society." *Econometrica* 77 (5): 1637-1664.
- Liu, Amy H., Sarah Shair-Rosenfield, Lindsey R. Vance, and Zsombor Csata. 2018. "Linguistic Origins of Gender Equality and Women's Rights." *Gender & Society* 32 (1): 82-108.
- Oyèwùmí, Oyèrónké. 1997. *The Invention of Women: Making an African Sense of Western Gender Discourses*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. Chapter 2.

Week 3, Intersectionality, Sep 2

Gender is an institution and an identity group (see Lorber from Week 2). But intersecting with gender are other categories of social status, such as race, ethnicity, class, and sexuality. This week's readings introduce scholars to theories of intersectionality. We will engage with intersectional scholarship at various points of the semester, so it is important to be exposed to these important ideas in the beginning.

- Crenshaw, Kimberlé. 1989. "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics." *University of Chicago Legal Forum*.
- Weldon, S. Laurel. 2006. "The Structure of Intersectionality: A Comparative Politics of Gender." *Politics & Gender* 2 (2): 235-48.
- Hancock, Ange-Marie. 2007. "When Multiplication Doesn't Equal Quick Addition: Examining Intersectionality as a Research Paradigm." 5 (1): 63-79.
- Hughes, Melanie H. 2011. "Intersectionality, Quotas, and Minority Women's Political Representation Worldwide." *American Political Science Review*, 604-620.

Week 4, Gender Stereotypes, Sep 9; Draft research problem, gap, and question due

Stereotypes about what men are like and what women are like abound in politics and worldwide. What do these readings teach us about gender stereotypes? What important questions have yet to be asked and addressed?

- Eagly, Alice, and Karau, S.J. 2002. "Role Congruity Theory of Prejudice toward Female Leaders." *Psychological Review* 109 (3): 573.
- Schneider, M.C. and Bos, A.L. 2014. "Measuring Stereotypes of Female Politicians." *Political Psychology* 35: 245-266.
- Mo, Cecilia H. 2015. "The Consequences of Explicit and Implicit Gender Attitudes and Candidate Quality in the Calculations of Voters." *Political Behavior* 37: 357–95.
- Benstead, Lindsay, Amaney Jamal, and Ellen Lust. 2015. "Is It Gender, Religiosity or Both? A Role Congruity Theory of Candidate Electability in Transitional Tunisia." *Perspectives on Politics* 13 (1): 74-94.
- Geva, Nehemia and Michelle Taylor-Robinson. 2019. "Traditional or Modern Leadership Templates? A Meta-Analysis of Experiments in Eight Democracies." APSA conference paper/book project.
- Optional (U.S. research): [Cassese 2019 Intersectional Stereotyping.pdf](https://canvas.unl.edu/courses/94253/files/6710026/download?download_frd=1) ↓
(https://canvas.unl.edu/courses/94253/files/6710026/download?download_frd=1)

Week 5, No class, individual meetings with professor

Week 6, Descriptive Representation, Sep 23

Part I: Theories of Representation

- Pitkin, Hanna. *The Concept of Representation*. [Excerpt]
- Mansbridge, Jane. 1999. "Should Blacks Represent Blacks and Women Represent Women? A Contingent 'Yes'." *Journal of Politics* 61 (3): 628-657.

Part II: Descriptive Representation

- Rule, Wilma. 1987. "Electoral Systems, Contextual Factors and Women's Opportunity for Election to Parliament in Twenty-Three Democracies." *The Western Political Quarterly* 40 (3): 477-98.

- Bjarnegard, Elin and Meryl Kenny. 2015. "Revealing the "Secret Garden": The Informal Dimensions of Political Recruitment." *Politics & Gender* 11 (4): 748-53.
- Fox, Richard L., and Jennifer L. Lawless. 2004. "Entering the Arena? Gender and the Decision to Run for Office." *American Journal of Political Science* 48 (2): 264-80.
- Piscopo, Jennifer and Meryl Kenny. 2020. "Rethinking the ambition gap: gender and candidate emergence in comparative perspective." *European Journal of Politics & Gender* 3 (1): 3-10.
- Bush, Sarah Sunn. 2011. "International Politics and the Spread of Quotas for Women in Legislatures." *International Organization* 65 (1): 103-137.

Week 7, Substantive and Symbolic Representation, Oct 1

Frameworks

- Schwindt-Bayer. "An Integrated Model of Women's Representation."
- Hassim, Shireen. 2010. "Perverse consequences? The impact of quotas for women on democratization in Africa." In I. Shapiro, S. Stokes, E. Wood, & A. Kirshner (Eds.), *Political Representation* (pp. 211-235). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Substantive Representation (pick 3)

- Chattopadhyay, Raghavendra and Esther Duflo. 2004. "Women as Policy Makers: Evidence from a Randomized Policy Experiment in India." *Econometrica* 72: 1409-1443.
- Bulut, Alper. 2020. "What Drives Women's Substantive Representation in Muslim-Majority Countries? Lessons from Turkey." *Political Research Quarterly*. OnlineFirst.
- Barnes, Tiffany D., Victoria D. Beall, and Mirya R. Holman. 2020. "Pink-Collar Representation and Budgetary Outcomes in US States." *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. OnlineFirst.
- Piscopo, Jennifer. 2020. "Women Leaders and Pandemic Performance: A Spurious Correlation." *Politics & Gender* 1-15. doi:10.1017/S1743923X20000525

Symbolic Representation

- [Beaman Female Leadership Raises Aspirations India.pdf](https://canvas.unl.edu/courses/94253/files/7076896/download?download_frd=1) ↓
(https://canvas.unl.edu/courses/94253/files/7076896/download?download_frd=1)
- [Gilardi Temporary Importance of Role Models.pdf](https://canvas.unl.edu/courses/94253/files/7067554/download?download_frd=1) ↓
(https://canvas.unl.edu/courses/94253/files/7067554/download?download_frd=1)

Week 8, Gender and Sexual Minorities, Oct 7

This week we have the important opportunity to immerse ourselves in the burgeoning (comparative) political science scholarship on the representation and rights of gender and sexual minorities. What is the impact of electing LGBTQ officials on LGBTQ rights? What explains variation in the election of LGT candidates across institutional contexts and individuals? Finally, including a work from critical legal studies, what are the limits of focusing on political representation and rights?

Foucault, Michel. *The History of Sexuality*. New York: Pantheon Books, read pages 1-13.

Haider-Markel, Donald. 2007. "Representation and Backlash: The Positive and Negative Influence of Descriptive Representation." *Legislative Studies Quarterly*.

Reynolds, Andrew. 2013. "Representation and Rights: The Impact of LGBT Legislators in Comparative Perspective." *American Political Science Review* 107 (2): 259-74.

Juvonen, Tuula. Forthcoming. "Out Lesbian and Gay Politicians in a Multiparty System." *Oxford Research Encyclopedias*.

Magni, Gabriele and Andrew Reynolds. Forthcoming. "Voter Preferences and the Political Underrepresentation of Minority Groups: Lesbian, Gay, and Transgender Candidates in Advanced Democracies." *Journal of Politics*.

Spade, Dean. 2015. *Normal Life: Administrative Violence, Critical Trans Politics, and the Limits of Law*. Duke University Press. Read the Introduction.

Week 9, Women, Gender, and Conflict (I), Oct 14

Theories

- Enloe, Cynthia. 2000. *Maneuvers*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- Moon, Seungsook. 2005. *Militarized Modernity and Gendered Citizenship in South Korea*. Duke University Press. Introduction.
- Hudson, Valerie, Mary Caprioli, Bonnie Ballif, Rose Spanvill, et al. 2008. "The Heart of the Matter: The Security of Women and the Security of States." *International Security* 33 (3): 7-45.

Empirics

- Koch, Michael T., and Sarah A. Fulton. 2011. "In the Defense of Women: Gender, Office Holding, and National Security Policy in Established Democracies." *The Journal of Politics* 73, 1: 1-16.
- Dube, Oeindrilla and S. P. Harish. 2020. "Queens." *Journal of Political Economy* 128 (7).

Optional:

- Thomas, Jakana, and Kanisha Bond. 2015. "Women's Participation in Violent Political Organizations." *American Political Science Review* 109 (3): 488.

Week 10, Women, Gender, and Conflict (II), Oct 21

- Karim, Sabrina and Daniel Hill. Book Manuscript. *Precis and Chapter 4*.
- Hughes, Melanie M, and Aili Mari Tripp. 2015. "Civil War and Trajectories of Change in Women's Political Representation in Africa, 1985-2010." *Social Forces* 93 (4): 1513-40.
- Webster, Kaitlyn, Chong Chen, and Kyle Beardsley. 2019. "Conflict, Peace, and the Evolution of Women's Empowerment." *International Organization* 73 (Spring): 225-89.
- Kim, Nam Kyu, and Alice J. Kang. "External Threat Environments and Individual Bias against Female Leaders." Conditionally accepted at *Political Science Research & Methods*.

Week 11, Gender-Based Violence, Oct 28; Polished draft research paper due*Gender-Based Violence (GBV) during Conflict*

- Wood, Elisabeth Jean. 2006. "Variation in sexual violence during war." *Politics & Society* 34 (3): 307-342.
- Cohen, Dara K. 2013. "Explaining Rape during Civil War: Cross-national Evidence (1980–2009)." *American Political Science Review* 107 (3): 461-477

Anti-GBV Movements

- Htun, Mala, and S. Laurel Weldon. 2012. "The Civic Origins of Progressive Policy Change: Combating Violence against Women in Global Perspective, 1975–2005." *American Political Science Review* 106 (3): 548-569.
- Medie, Peace. 2020. *Global Norms and Local Action: The Campaigns to End Violence Against Women in Africa*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Intro chapter.