



FALL 2021

POLS 4100/ 6180

Women, Justice, and Public Policy

Wednesdays 11:30- 2:20

MCKN 312

Professor Candace Johnson
Department of Political Science

Office: MCKN 511

Office Hours: Thursdays 12-2
Or by appointment

Description

In this seminar class we will examine relationships among gender, politics, and public policy from a number of perspectives. We will begin with discussions of feminist theory and its main contemporary debates as a way to build a foundation for more concrete discussions of gender politics and public policy. We will then build on theoretical foundations and frameworks to consider women's and gendered participation in formal and informal politics, and consider the impacts and deficits of this participation. The final segment of the course will be dedicated to public policy issues such as body politics, reproduction, and family policy. Much of our readings and discussions will focus on these issues and debates in Canada but we will also consider comparative cases and global contexts.

Students are expected to be prepared for classes, which means that they have read all assigned material for that week's class and are ready to participate in discussions. The quality of the class experience and discussion will be dependent on student participation and engagement, and learning will be the product of examining ideas together. The instructor will be a guide and a participant in the process and will facilitate discussion, explain concepts and terms when necessary, and fill-in knowledge gaps as required.

Grading**POLS 4100**

Weekly Assignment	20%
Major Project/ Paper (due week 12)	25%
(Topic to be chosen by student by list provided by instructor; details to follow)	
Presentation	20%
In-Class final exam (week 11)	35%

POLS 6180

Weekly Assignment	20%
Paper Proposal (due week 6, 5-7 pages plus bibliography)	25%
Presentation	20%
Major Research Paper (due week 12)	35%

Weekly assignment

Each week before class (beginning week 2) students will submit (via Courselink dropbox) a one page (single spaced) summary and analysis of one of the assigned readings for that week. Late papers will not be accepted. Papers also are not accepted if you do not attend the class.

Presentations

Each week there will be two individual student presentations to introduce the readings and guide discussion for the class. Each presentation should be 15 minutes long, should identify key debates and controversies, and provide questions for discussion. A visual aid is recommended (handout or powerpoint presentation). Each student will be responsible for introducing some of the readings and key ideas to the class. Presenters will divide the readings and workload and should coordinate their presentations. The purpose of the presentation is to introduce key ideas, main debates, and to generate interest and class discussion. Do not try to be comprehensive. In addition to the in-class presentation, students may also submit a prepared, recorded version of their presentation within one week of their in-class presentation, which will be factored-in to their grade.

Late penalty for all assignments is 1% per day.

Learning Outcomes

This course will emphasize the following learning outcomes:

1. **Critical and creative thinking:** This course will emphasize analytical inquiry (through theoretical examinations and gendered analyses); creativity, and innovation; and depth and breadth of understanding.
2. **Global understanding:** We will consider a number of debates and cases in comparative and global perspective; we will consider a number of transnational issues and phenomena.
3. **Communicating:** We will develop both verbal and written communications skills although in this virtual class we will focus mainly on the development of written skills.

Required Text: Jacquetta Newman, Linda A. White, and Tammy Findlay. 2020. *Women, Politics, and Public Policy: The Political Struggles of Canadian Women*. Third Edition. Toronto and Oxford: Oxford University Press.

All other articles and books are available through ARES course reserve, on the Courselink website and through the library.

Policies

University of Guelph Policy on Academic Misconduct

“Academic misconduct is behaviour that erodes the basis of mutual trust on which scholarly exchanges commonly rest, undermines the University's exercise of its responsibility to evaluate students' academic achievements, or restricts the University's ability to accomplish its learning objectives.” Please make sure that you have read and understand the University's policy on academic misconduct:

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

COVID

Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g.. final exam or major assignment).

Safety

For information on current safety protocols, follow these links: <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campuses/how-u-of-g-is-preparing-for-your-safe-return/>
<https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campuses/spaces/#ClassroomSpaces>

Please note, these guidelines may be updated as required in response to evolving University, Public Health or government directives.

Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings, changes in classroom protocols, and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. This includes on-campus scheduling during the semester, mid-terms and final examination schedules. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

Voice or audiovisual recording of any portion of the course is prohibited.

Schedule of Classes

Week 1

Wednesday, September 15

Introduction to the course

Reading: Newman, White, Findlay, Chapter 1

Week 2

September 22

Modern Feminist Theory

Readings: Newman, White, Findlay (NWF), Chapter 2

- Shulamith Firestone. 2003 (1970). From the *Dialectic of Sex: The Case for Feminist Revolution*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux; 1 edition. Originally published in 1970. Chapter 1, 3-14.
- Sara Ruddick. 1995. *Maternal Thinking: Toward a Politics of Peace*. Beacon Press. Chapter 1.

Week 3

September 29

Contemporary Debates in Feminist Theory

Readings: NWF Chapter 3

- TEDTalks: Kimberlé Crenshaw: The Urgency of Intersectionality. (available through library website)
- Patricia Hill Collins. 2015. "Intersectionality's Definitional Dilemmas." *Annual Review of Sociology*, 41:1-20.

Week 4

October 6

The Women's Movement in Canada

Readings: NWF Chapter 4

- Brenda O'Neill. 2017. "Continuity and Change in the Contemporary Canadian Feminist Movement." *CJPS*. 50(2): 443-459.
- Tamara Small. 2020. "The Promises and Perils of Hashtag Feminism." In Fiona MacDonald and Alexandra Dobrowolsky, eds. *Turbulent Times, Transformational Possibilities? Gender and Politics Today and Tomorrow*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 177-198.

Week 5**October 13**

Women and Policy Change

Readings: NWF Chapter 5

MMIWG

- Pamela Palmater. 2016. "Shining Light on the Dark Places: Addressing Police Racism and Sexualized Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls in the National Inquiry." *Canadian Journal of Women and the Law*, 28: 253-284.
- Paulina García-Del Moral. 2018. "The Murders of Indigenous Women in Canada as Femicides: Toward a Decolonial Intersectional Reconceptualization of Femicide." *Signs*, 43(4): 929-954.

Week 6**October 20**

Women and Formal Political Participation

Readings: NWF Chapter 6

- Amanda Bittner and Melanee Thomas. 2017. "Moms in Politics: Work is Work." *Canadian Parliamentary Review*, 40(3).
- Kelly Oliver. 2010. "Motherhood, Sexuality, and Pregnant Embodiment: Twenty-Five Years of Gestation." *Hypatia*, 25(4): 760-777

Week 7**October 27**

Family Policy

Readings: NWF Chapter 7

- Dave Snow. 2017. "Litigating Parentage: Equality Rights, LGBTQ Mobilization and Ontario's All Families Are Equal Act." *Canadian Journal of Law and Society*, 32(3): 329-348.
- Ciara Smyth, Patricia Cullen, Jan Breckenridge, Natasha Cortis, and Kylie Valentine, 2021. "COVID-19 lockdowns, intimate partner violence and coercive control." *Australian Journal of Social Issues*, 56(3): 359-373.

Week 8**November 3**

Reproductive Rights

Readings: NWF Chapter 8

- Rachael Johnstone and Emmett Macfarlane. 2015. "Public Policy, Rights, and Abortion Access in Canada." *International Journal of Canadian Studies*, 51:97-120.
- Kelly Gordon and Paul Saurette. 2013. "Arguing Abortion: The New Anti-Abortion Discourse in Canada." *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 46(1): 157-185.

Week 9**November 10**

Body Politics

Readings: NWF Chapter 11

- Hester Baer. 2016. "Redoing feminism: digital activism, body politics, and neoliberalism." *Feminist Media Studies*, 16(1): 17-34.
- Jason Lim and Alexandra Fanghanel. 2013. "Hijabs, Hoodies and Hotpants'; negotiating the 'Slut' in SlutWalk." *Geoforum*, 48: 207-215.

Week 10**November 17**

Canada in the World

Readings: NWF Chapter 12

- Rebecca Tiessen. 2015. "'Walking Wombs': Making Sense of the Muskoka Initiative and the Emphasis on Motherhood in Canadian Foreign Policy." *Global Justice: Theory Practice Rhetoric*, 8(1): 1-16.
- Erin Aylward and Stephen Brown. 2020. "Sexual orientation and gender identity in Canada's 'feminist' international assistance." *International Journal: Canada's Journal of Global Policy Analysis*. 75(3): 313-328.

Week 11**November 24****In-Class Final Exam****Week 12****December 1**

- Overflow