

PLAP 4140
Gender and American Political Behavior
Summer 2016 (Session I)

M–F 10:30am–12:45pm
Gibson Hall 241

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office hours: after class & by appointment

Gender is a social system that defines relevant categories of people, proscribes appropriate attributes and behaviors to those categories, and regularizes power relations among individuals and between society and individuals. Children are socialized very early to recognize, understand, and enact gender, and adults understand and enact it as well.

Gender matters lots of ways. We'll focus on two related ways in particular: first, on citizen identities and relationship with the state, and second, on candidates' and leaders' identities and the perceptions of them by citizens. Less directly, we will touch on the ways the substance of politics—political issues—take on gender connotations, sometimes explicit, sometimes more subtle.

To do this, we will develop theoretical tools, drawing first from psychology, sociology, anthropology, feminist theory, and beyond, and then from American history. We will consider the theoretical place of gender in American politics. Has politics been constructed as a symbolically masculine realm? What effects does that have on citizens' attitudes and behavior? Is that changing? We will also take up a number of topics, including the unavoidable gender gap, the role of masculinity and femininity in conditioning our perceptions of issues and political candidates, the ways gender, politics, and society have interacted historically, and the ways race and gender (and class) interact in conditioning political behavior.

In addition, this course will emphasize research. We will pay careful attention to the different methods and types of evidence that scholars from diverse fields use to learn about gender and the social and political world. We will explore the ways that science informs our understanding of gender, as well as the reciprocal influence of those ideas on how we understand what the data show. And we will conduct and present research ourselves: in class exercises as well as in the culminating group research project.

This course has a prerequisite: you must have taken at least one course **either** on gender **or** on political behavior.

A Note on Summer Session Course Loads

This is a 4000-level seminar. We meet every day, and you will be expected to complete a substantial amount of reading daily, as well as preparing a series of reaction essays and reading your colleagues' reaction essays daily before class. One course is considered a full load during summer term, and I very strongly advise against taking more than one course at a time.

Course Requirements

Requirements for this course include: reading *and thinking about* the assigned material before each class meeting, attending and participating in class, submitting reading reaction essays (discussed below), reading other students' reaction essays before each class, completing a take-home midterm, and completing a final research project. In addition, there will be additional brief in-class written work.

Because this course is a seminar, what we all get out of it will depend greatly on what you put into it. Therefore, I expect that you will attend all classes, do the assigned reading before each class, and participate in the discussion. I will feel free to call on you in class to discuss the assigned material. Your participation grade will reflect the quality (not simply quantity!) of your class participation.

If an emergency prevents you from attending class you should let me know in advance. I do not distinguish excused and unexcused absences: it is my expectation that you will take this class seriously, which means, among other things, that you will be here unless something extraordinary happens in your life to prevent it. That said, if you are very ill, please do *not* attend.

Grades will be based on the following breakdown:

Item	Proportion
Attendance and participation	20 percent
Reading reaction essays	20 percent
Midterm exam	30 percent
Final project and presentation	30 percent

I do not accept late assignments without prior arrangement. If something comes up that prevents you from completing an assignment on time, you must get in touch with me as far in advance as possible.

Readings

The required books will be available at the UVa Bookstore and from the usual online retailers. All other materials are on Collab and/or linked from the syllabus.

- Boryczka, Jocelyn M. 2012. *Suspect Citizens: Women, Virtue, and Vice in Backlash Politics*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.
- Brooks, Deborah Jordan. 2013. *He Runs, She Runs: Why Gender Stereotypes Do Not Harm Women Candidates*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. (ISBN 978-0691153421)
- Dittmar, Kelly. 2015. *Navigating Gendered Terrain: Stereotypes and Strategy in Political Campaigns*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. (ISBN 978-1439911495)
- Hoganson, Kristin L. 1998. *Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics Provoked the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. (ISBN 978-0300085549)
- Kornblut, Anne E. 2009. *Notes from the Cracked Ceiling: Hillary Clinton, Sarah Palin, and What It Will Take for a Woman to Win*. New York: Crown Publishers. (ISBN 978-0307464262)

Reading Reaction Essays

You must turn in five (5) reading reaction essays over the course of the term, and you must read your colleagues' reactions before every class. We have 11 classes with readings (i.e., not research or movie days), so that means you must do an average of just under one every other class. You must turn in at least three reactions before the midterm exam.

REACTION CONTENT

Reaction should be no more than one page (i.e., no more than about 225 words)

Your essay should engage with the material. This could consist of raising a theoretically-informed question *and suggesting avenues for answering it*; applying the insights from the reading to a novel example drawn from modern or historical politics; comparing and contrasting parts of two or more readings; or something else. Good essays generally will be *relatively specific* in some way, in order to reach beyond vague generalities; often they will include a brief quotation or quotations. In formulating your essay, you should go with issues, concerns, comparisons, questions, or confusions that struck you when reading the material. If none struck you while reading, go back and read more carefully!

Because your space is limited, you should get right to the point without wasting space on description or summary of the readings. Your essays need not be overly formal, though they should of course be clear, grammatical, and proof-read.

I will use these as feedback about what you are taking from the reading and to help shape class discussions. They also will also help you to read and think carefully about the material before getting to class.

REACTION LOGISTICS

Reaction essays will be posted in the Forum area of Collab; each week has its own topic. You should post your reaction as the body (not an attachment) of a new thread in the appropriate forum, with your name as the message title.

Reactions must be posted to the Forum no later than midnight on the evening before class. *Because other students must read your reactions, any reaction posted after the deadline will not count except in exceptional circumstances. If you skip too many early days you will **not** have an opportunity to make up missed reactions.*

In addition, you are also responsible for reading other students' reactions before each class, so you will need to check the forum each evening (or first thing in the morning). You may post a reply to a reaction essay if you wish to flag an issue for class discussion.

I will grade reactions on a three point scale: 3 for an excellent, insightful essay that goes beyond expectations; 2 for a solid essay; 1 for an essay that falls short in some real way; 0 for essays that are not turned in or that do not give evidence of any real effort. Most essays will be 2's.

Other Policies

I respect and uphold University policies and regulations pertaining to the observation of religious holidays; assistance available to students with physical, visual, hearing, and other disabilities or impairments; plagiarism; racial, ethnic, gender, sexual orientation, or religious discrimination; and all forms of harassment.

If you have (or suspect you have) a learning or other disability that requires academic accommodations, you must contact the Student Disability Access Center (<http://www.virginia.edu/studenthealth/sdac/sdac.html>) as soon as possible, at least two to three weeks before any assignments are due. I take learning disabilities very seriously and I will make whatever accommodations you need to be successful in this class. However, they must be properly documented by the LNEC and I must have enough notice to make appropriate arrangements.

Plagiarism, or academic theft, is passing off someone else's words or ideas as your own without giving proper credit to the source. You are responsible for not plagiarizing and are expected to abide by the University of Virginia Honor Code (see <http://www.virginia.edu/honor/what-is-academic-fraud-2/>).

Note on Course Content

At times this semester we will read and discuss work that touches on a number of sensitive, controversial, and difficult topics that may be disturbing to some students. If you suspect that specific material is likely to be emotionally challenging for you, I'd be happy to discuss any concerns you may have before the subject comes up in class. Likewise, if you ever wish to discuss your personal reactions to course material with the class or with me individually afterwards, I welcome such discussions as an appropriate part of our classwork.

If you ever feel the need to step outside during a class discussion you may always do so without academic penalty. You will, however, be responsible for any material you miss. If you do leave the room for a significant time, please make arrangements to get notes from another student or see me individually to discuss the situation.

In addition, I have posted some information on nonacademic support for UVA students here: <https://goo.gl/I1vXzH>.

I. CITIZENS

M May 16: Welcome

T May 17: The Gender Gap

Shapiro, Robert Y., and Harpreet Mahajan. 1986. "Gender Differences in Policy Preferences: A Summary of Trends From the 1960s to the 1980s." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 50(1):42-61.

Mansbridge, Jane J. 1985. "Myth and Reality: The ERA and the Gender Gap in the 1980 Election." *The Public Opinion Quarterly* 49(2):164-78.

Conover, Pamela J. 1988. "Feminists and the Gender Gap." *Journal of Politics* 50(4):985-1010.

Cook, Elizabeth A., and Clyde Wilcox. 1991. "Feminism and the Gender Gap—a Second Look." *Journal of Politics* 53(4):1111-22.

W May 18: "Women" and "Men" as Political Groups

Campbell, Angus, Philip E. Converse, Warren E. Miller, and Donald E. Stokes. 1960. "Membership in Social Groups." In *The American Voter*. New York: John Wiley and Sons, chap. 12 (295-332).
Skim this to get the basics of their model and to think about how the groups "women" and "men" might work in their model.

Young, Iris M. 1994. "Gender As Seriality: Thinking About Women As a Social Collective." *Signs* 19(3):713-38. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/10.2307/3174775.pdf>

Elder, L., and S. Greene. 2007. "The Myth of 'Security Moms' and 'NASCAR Dads': Parenthood, Political Stereotypes, and the 2004 Election." *Social Science Quarterly* 88 (1):1-19.
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1540-6237.2007.00443.x/pdf>

II. WHAT IS GENDER? HOW DO WE MAKE IT? HOW DO WE USE IT?

R May 19: What is Gender & How Does it Work?

Fausto-Sterling, Anne. 1993. "The Five Sexes: Why Male and Female Are Not Enough." *The Sciences* 33(2):20-24.

Macur, Juliet. 2014. "Fighting for the Body She Was Born With." *The New York Times*. 7 October.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/07/sports/sprinter-dutee-chand-fights-ban-over-her-testosterone-level.html>

Fausto-Sterling, Anne. 2000. "Should there be only two sexes?" In *Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality*. New York: Basic Books, chapter 4 (78-114).

Lorber, Judith. 1994. *Paradoxes of Gender*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chap. 1, 13-36.

F May 20: Movie Day

We will watch and then discuss *Miss Representation*.

M May 23: Biological and Cultural Takes on Gender Difference

Fausto-Sterling, Anne. 1992. "Of Genes and Gender." In *Myths of Gender: Biological Theories About Women and Men*. 2nd ed. New York: Basic Books, chapter 3 (61-89).

Skim to p. 72; read to p. 85; read carefully from there.

- Fausto-Sterling, Anne. 2000. "Do Sex Hormones Really Exist?" In *Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality*. New York: Basic Books, chapter 7 (170-194).
- Martin, Emily. 1991. "The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles." *Signs* 16 (3):485-501.
- Condry, John, and Sandra Condry. 1976. "Sex Differences: A Study of the Eye of the Beholder." *Child Development* 47(3):812-19.
Focus on the research design and on the findings about how subjects perceive the baby's emotions.
- Hurlbert, Anya C., and Yazhu Ling. 2007. "Biological Components of Sex Differences in Color Preference." *Current Biology* 17(16):R623-R625.
- Goldacre, Ben. 2007. "Bad Science: Out of the Blue and in the Pink." *The Guardian*. 25 August 2007. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2007/aug/25/genderissues>
This is a commentary on Hurlbert & Ling

III. LEADERS' AND CANDIDATES' IDENTITIES

T May 24: Male and Female Candidates I

- Kahn, Kim F. 1996. *The Political Consequences of Being a Woman: How Stereotypes Influence the Conduct and Consequences of Political Campaigns*. New York: Columbia University Press.
Chapter 1 (1-17).
- Brooks, Deborah Jordan. 2013. *He Runs, She Runs: Why Gender Stereotypes Do Not Harm Women Candidates*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
We will divide and conquer.
- Bauer, Nichole M. 2013. "Rethinking Stereotype Reliance." *Politics and the Life Sciences* 32 (1):22-42.

W May 25: Male and Female Candidates II

- DeWall, C. Nathan, T. William Altermatt, and Heather Thompson. 2005. "Understanding the Structure of Stereotypes of Women: Virtue and Agency as Dimensions Distinguishing Female Subgroups." *Psychology of Women Quarterly* 29 (4):396-405.
- Glick, Peter, and Susan T. Fiske. 2001. "An Ambivalent Alliance: Hostile and Benevolent Sexism as Complementary Justifications for Gender Inequality." *American Psychologist* 56 (2):109-18.
- Abrams, Dominic, G. Tendayi Viki, Barbara Masser, and Gerd Bohner. 2003. "Perceptions of Stranger and Acquaintance Rape: The Role of Benevolent and Hostile Sexism in Victim Blame and Rape Proclivity." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 84 (1):111-25.

R May 26: Research Day I

- Dittmar, Kelly. 2015. *Navigating Gendered Terrain: Stereotypes and Strategy in Political Campaigns*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. Chapters 1 & 5.

We will work in class on your final research projects.

F May 27: Midterm Exam in class

IV. GENDER & HISTORY

M May 30: No Class – Happy Memorial Day

T May 31: The Founding & Early Republic

Kerber, Linda K. 1992. "The Paradox of Women's Citizenship in the Early Republic: The Case of Martin Vs. Massachusetts, 1805." *The American Historical Review* 97 (2):349-78.

Vogel, Ursula. 1994. "Marriage and the Boundaries of Citizenship." In *Condition of Citizenship*, ed. Bart van Seenbergen. London: Sage Publications, 76-89

Kann, Mark E. 1999. *The Gendering of American Politics: Founding Mothers, Founding Fathers, and Political Patriarchy*. Westport, CT: Praeger. Chapter 3 (49-67).

Kann, Mark E. 1998. *A Republic of Men: The American Founders, Gendered Language, and Patriarchal Politics*. New York: New York University Press, chapters 2 (30-51) & 7 (155-177)

W Jun 1: Teddy Roosevelt & The Spanish-American War

Bederman, Gail. 1995. *Manliness and Civilization: A Cultural History of Gender and Race in the United States, 1880-1917*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, Chapters 1 & 5 (1-44 & 170-215).

Hoganson, Kristin L. 1998. *Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics Provoked the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
Everyone read Introduction, Chapter 1 & Conclusion; we will divide and conquer the other chapters.

Optional, for a brief historical overview of the Spanish-American war:

Brinkley, Alan. 1993. "The Imperial Republic." In *The Unfinished Nation: A Concise History of the American People*. New York: McGraw-Hill. Chap. 20 (537-555).

R Jun 2: Ambivalent Nature of Women and Citizenship through American History

Boryczka, Jocelyn M. 2012. *Suspect Citizens: Women, Virtue, and Vice in Backlash Politics*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.
We will divide and conquer.

F Jun 3: Research Day II

We will work in class on your final research projects.

M Jun 6: Masculine Political Bodies from the 1980s through the War on Terror

Jeffords, Susan. 1994. *Hard Bodies: Hollywood Masculinity in the Reagan Era*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press. Chapters 1-2 (1-63)

Bloodsworth-Lugo, Mary K., and Carmen R. Lugo-Lugo. 2005. "'The War on Terror' and Same-Sex Marriage: Narratives of Containment and the Shaping of U.S. Public Opinion." *Peace & Change* 30 (4):469-88.

Gregg, Richard B. 2004. "Embodied Meaning in American Public Discourse During the Cold War." In *Metaphorical World Politics*, ed. Francis A. Beer and Christ'l De Landtsheer. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 59-73.

Optional, for a brief historical overview of the Reagan era and its antecedents:

Brinkley, Alan. 1993. "The Unfinished Nation." In *The Unfinished Nation: A Concise History of the American People*. New York: McGraw-Hill. Chap. 33 (872-896).

T Jun 7: Research Day III

We will work in class on your final research projects.

W Jun 8: Female Action Heros and Politics

Gilpatric, Katy. 2010. "Violent Female Action Characters in Contemporary American Cinema." *Sex Roles* 62 (11):734-46.

Brown, Jeffrey A. 2011. "Gender and the Action Heroine: Hardbodies and the Point of No Return." In *Spectacular bodies: gender, genre, and the action cinema*. Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 20-42.

R Jun 9: Gender in 2008

Kornblut, Anne E. 2009. *Notes from the Cracked Ceiling: Hillary Clinton, Sarah Palin, and What It Will Take for a Woman to Win*.
We will divide and conquer.

Greenlee, Jill S. 2014. "Soccer Moms, Hockey Moms, and Waitress Moms: 1980-2008." In *The Political Consequences of Motherhood*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Chapter 3 (74-118).

V. YOUR RESEARCH**F Jun 10: In-class Research Symposium**

You will present your final research project