Lecturer: Muireann O’Dwyer

Office Hours: May currently be arranged via appointment. A weekly open office hour will be confirmed at the start of term.
E-mail: muireann.o-dwyer@ucdconnect.ie Please contact me with any queries that are not answered in the syllabus!

Course Timetable
Classes are held on Tuesdays from 10am to 11am, and Thursdays from 10am to 11am.
The Tuesday class is held in G-08 in the Agriculture Building and the Thursday class is held in Building 71.
Attendance is mandatory and will be recorded in class.

Description:
Gender is political. Politics is gendered. Both academic, policy and media discussions now routinely interrogate questions of political power from a gendered perspective. This module will explore these approaches, and equip students to engage in these critical and important debates. The purpose of this module is to introduce students to the wide-ranging debates on gender and politics. There will be three themes throughout the course, with key questions that we will return to at various points during the term
(I) We will discuss questions of women’s representation in politics, in particular at national and European levels. The competing explanations for male dominance of the political arena will be explored, as well as some of the remedial efforts being attempted, such as quotas.
(II) The gendered outcomes of policies will form the second theme. How and when do policies have a specific gendered outcome? What can policy makers do in response to this?
(III) The final theme covers theoretical accounts of gender and power. Is sexism inherent in our political institutions? How do our understandings of gender interact with power?
The course will offer an overview of the key contributions in the field, as well as engaging with cutting edge research and approaches.

Learning outcomes
Following completion of the module students will have developed key skills, both specific to the subject area as well as wider skills. A particular focus will be on
developing critical skills – students will be encouraged to bring their learning to bear on other topics of political science and international relations, and also to critically evaluate the material of the course itself. The focus will be on developing consistent argumentation, rather than memorisation of the ideas of others.

Subject Specific:
- An ability to utilise gender as a variable within political science.
- Be able to evaluate competing accounts of participation and power.
- Have a thorough grounding in the key texts of gender and politics.
- Be able to bring to think critically about questions of gender.

Transferable skills:
- Writing skills.
- Analytical skills.
- Critical reading and response.
- Policy analysis.

Class Blog – You can find the course blog at https://genderandpoliticsucd.wordpress.com/ This will have updates on current issues regarding gender and politics, and should be checked regularly.

Assessment:

40% Continuous Assessment
60% End of Semester Two Hour Exam

In class assessment – there will be three in class exams throughout the term. Your best two grades from these will count towards 20% of the continuous assessment marks (10% each). There will be no opportunity to make up these tests. Attendance for this course is mandatory – if you have missed class with a valid excuse (illness, emergency etc.) then contact the lecturer.

Blog Post – 20% of the continuous assessment grade will be given for a 1,500 word blog post, which is due in Week 10. The blog post must be submitted via SafeAssign on blackboard as well as via email and should comprise a researched argument concerning some interaction between gender and politics. You will select the topic yourself. Drafts or potential titles may be emailed to the lecturer before Week 9 for feedback. A selection of these blog posts will be posted on the course blog, and promoted.

Deadline for blog posts is Friday November 13th. Extensions will only be granted in line with the School of Politics and International Relations policy.

Exam – 60% of the grade for this course will comprise a two-hour exam at the end of term. You will be required to answer two essay style questions.
Assessment Policies – You should familiarise yourself with the policies regarding academic integrity. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. Work should always be presented according to the school style guidelines. Referencing for this course should follow the Harvard style. Copies of the plagiarism policy, the style guide and the referencing guide are available on the course blackboard site, under learning and study skills. You will also find advice on writing, exam revisions and other study skills here.

Course Reading: There is no textbook for this course. Reading is essential for this course. You will be expected to have read the assigned material before class. Do not be surprised if you are expected to discuss it! If you have any difficulty in retrieving materials please contact the lecturer.

Course announcements will be emailed to your UCD email address and posted on Blackboard.

Revision materials will be posted closer to the exam. However, full lecture slides/notes will not be posted.

Student Supports: There are several supports within UCD for any students facing difficulties. A list of student supports and services can be found at http://www.ucd.ie/students/services.html

Students whose disabilities, medical conditions or learning difficulties (such as dyslexia) have been recognized and documented by UCD’s Disability Support Services and who expect that their disability will affect the conditions of their assessment in this course are encouraged to contact the lecturer as soon as possible. Others who suspect that they may have such a disability are encouraged to contact the DSS office as soon as possible. For more information, see http://www.ucd.ie/disability/index.html.
Course Outline

**Week 1: Introduction to the course and key concepts**
(Tuesday 8th September and Thursday 10th September)

This week will comprise an introduction to the course, outline of the assessment approach and overall themes. We will also discuss the foundational concepts of the course – **What is gender? What is politics?**

There is no reading for the first lecture, however, you are required to have read the below reading for the second lecture, on Thursday September 10th

**Required:**

**Week 2: Feminism and Politics**
(Tuesday 15th September and Thursday 17th September)

What are the key feminist approaches the politics? This week we will discuss the historical feminist schools, as well as contemporary approaches of liberal, radical, intersectional and post-modern feminism.

**Required:**

**Additional:**


Week 3: Gender and Policy-Making and Policy- Outcomes  
(Tuesday 22nd September and Thursday 24th September)

In week 3 we will explore the gendered nature of policy making, and examine how policies can have a gendered outcome. We will look at responses to gendered policy making, including gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting.

Required:


Additional:


Week 4: Gender and Political Representation  
(Tuesday 29th September and Thursday 1st October)

One of the key questions of gender and politics is that of representation. What are the different types of representation? Does it matter that women are or are not present in various forms of representation? This week we will discuss these issues, and look at some of the arguments for the greater representation of women.

Required:

**Additional:**


**Week 5: Gender and Political Representation – Quotas and Other Measures (Tuesday 6th October and Thursday 8th October)**

This week will continue our discussion of gender and representation by looking at attempts to solve the problem of women’s underrepresentation/men’s overrepresentation. We will look at quotas in particular, in Ireland and elsewhere.

**Required:**


**Additional:**


**Week 6: Gender and Political Institutions**  
(Tuesday 13th October and Thursday 15th October)

Are political institutions themselves gendered? This week we will look at political institutions to see how gender is present in their structure and practice.

**Required:**  

**Additional:**  

**Week 7: Gender and Informal Politics: Feminist Campaigning**  
(Tuesday 20th October and Thursday 22nd October)

This week we will look at the interaction between gender and informal politics – looking outside formal institutions to the behavior of lobby groups and campaigning. We will explore the changed role of feminist campaign groups over time as a case study to explore how gender plays out in informal politics.

**Required:**  

**Additional:**  


**Week 8: Intersectionality and Politics**  
(Tuesday 27th October and Thursday 29th October)

Intersectionality is a key concept in contemporary gender studies. This week we will introduce the concept, and discuss how it relates to studies of politics more generally.

**Required:**

**Additional:**


Hancock, A. M. (2007). When multiplication doesn’t equal quick addition: Examining intersectionality as a research paradigm. *Perspectives on politics*,5(01), 63-79.


Week 9: Gender and International Relations  
(Tuesday 3rd November and Thursday 5th November)

This week we will look at how gender is a key concept for international politics. We will discuss how gender interacts with key issues such as security, war and trade.

**Required:**

**Additional:**


Week 10: Gender and the European Union  
(Tuesday 10th November and Thursday 12th November)

(Blog Post due this week!!)

The European Union is a complex political structure with several key interactions with gender. This week we will discuss the gender policies of the EU, as well as exploring how the theoretical concepts we have covered so far can be applied to the EU.

**Required:**

**Additional:**


Week 11: Gender and the Economic Crisis
(Tuesday 17th November and Thursday 19th November)

The economic crisis of recent years has had profound political implications. This week we will look at the role of gender in these changes – looking at the role of gender in the crisis in the Irish context, as well as the gendered implications of responses to the crisis.

Required:

Additional:


Week 12: Gender and Politics – Is Politics Gendered?  
(Tuesday 24th November and Thursday 26th November)

We will close the course by asking again the key question – is politics gendered? We will recap the key arguments and case studies covered in the course as preparation for your exam revision. The reading for this week will serve to structure a final debate.

**Required:**