**Course Description**
This course will serve as an introduction to the comparative study of women and politics. Please be advised that this is not a course on feminist theory. Instead, we will be focused on questions such as: Does the descriptive representation of women guarantee their substantive representation? Which electoral rules favor the election of women? Do the negative effects of gender quotas outweigh their impressive ability to increase the number of women in office? Have the news media helped or harmed female candidacies? Once in power do women govern differently than men? The majority of our time in the course will be spent on the obstacles that women face in obtaining positions of power.

**Course Goals**
The goal of the course is to have students well-versed in the ever-growing literature on women and politics. Students will also be expected to make their own small contribution to the field by writing an original research paper.

**Course Policies**
Students with special needs should identify themselves to the instructor during the first 10 days of the semester. Students with disabilities that require academic accommodations should present a letter from the Disability Resource Center to the instructor in order for special accommodations to be made.

Those students who will need to be absent due to religious observance should talk to the instructor within the first 10 days of the semester. Students should discuss any other expected absences with the instructor. Students are responsible for notifying the instructor in a timely manner of any situation that is interfering with their academic performance.

Students who violate the tenets of academic honesty will face disciplinary action and will automatically receive a failing grade in this course. Students are expected to abide by the Student Academic Integrity Policy. You can read more at: <http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>. Arizona State University has asked that the following statement appear in this syllabus:

In the “Student Academic Integrity Policy” manual, ASU defines "Plagiarism’ [as] using another's words, ideas, materials or work without properly acknowledging and documenting the source. Students are responsible for knowing the rules governing the use of another's work or materials and for acknowledging and documenting the source appropriately." Academic dishonesty, including inappropriate collaboration, will not be tolerated. There are severe sanctions for cheating, plagiarizing and any other form of dishonesty. You can find this definition at: <http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/studentlife/judicial/academic_integrity.htm#definitions>.
Course Requirements
Course grades will be based on your participation in course discussions, your weekly discussion questions, your role as a discussion leader, your research presentation, and your final research paper.

Your participation in class discussions and your weekly discussion questions will count for 25% of your final course grade. Weekly attendance is expected and unexcused absences will figure into final course grades. Participation in discussions will be judged on the quantity and quality of comments that you make. Your questions and comments should reflect thoughtful analysis of the readings and intellectual engagement not only with the authors that we will read each week but with your fellow classmates. You will also be graded on the weekly discussion questions that you submit. Each week, you will be expected to post 3-5 questions on Blackboard that can then be used by the discussion leader to spur an interesting and fruitful discussion. These discussion questions are due no later than 9 AM on the Tuesday preceding our weekly meeting. The discussion leader is responsible for carefully considering the suggested questions for that week. I will grade these discussion questions using a check plus, check, check minus system. Discussion questions which arrive after the stated deadline will receive a grade of zero. You will be allowed to skip discussion questions on two occasions.

You will be asked to serve as a discussion leader for two weeks of the semester, and you will have some choice in deciding which weeks you would like to be our discussion leader. This assignment will be worth 20% of your final course grade. The discussion leader will be able to access discussion questions on the Tuesday before class, and should consider using these questions to formulate topics that can stimulate an interesting class discussion. The discussion leader should not simply read the questions that his/her classmates submitted. The discussion leader is not expected to do any further reading or research into that week’s topic.

During our final course meeting, all students will have an opportunity to present their research. Your research presentation should be 15 minutes in length and will be followed by a brief question and answer period. You should prepare as if for a professional conference, like a meeting of the American Political Science Association. Your research presentation will be 20% of your final grade.

The research paper for this course is due by 5 PM on December 13. This assignment will be worth 35% of your final course grade. I encourage you to use this research paper to pursue a subject of inquiry that will be useful for your dissertation; for that reason, you will be allowed to choose any topic relevant to the study of women and politics. Your paper should have a clearly stated research question, a literature review, a thesis, and evidence/data. Further instruction on this assignment will be provided during class. Late papers will be accepted; however, unless the student has previously obtained approval from the instructor, late papers will be docked half a letter grade for every 2 days that they are late.

The vast majority of the readings listed below are available via online databases that can be accessed through our library website. Nearly all readings will also be available electronically for you (on a CD-ROM) to borrow from the department office. The books have been placed on reserve at Hayden Library. I suggest that you purchase or borrow the following books:


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**WEEK 1: (8/23)**

Introduction to Women and Politics

**WEEK 2: (8/30)**

Research Day

**WEEK 3: (9/6)**

Issues in Representation


**WEEK 4: (9/13)**

Issues in Representation


**WEEK 5: (9/20)**

**Issues in Representation**


**WEEK 6: (9/27)**

**The Political Participation of Women**


**WEEK 7: (10/4)**

**Women’s Movements**


**WEEK 8: (10/11)**

**Political Culture: Obstacle to Women’s Representation?**


**WEEK 9: (10/18)**

**The Effects of Electoral Systems**


Hinojosa, Magda and Susan Franceschet. “Separate but Not Equal: The Effects of Municipal Electoral Change on Female Representation in Chile.” (Published online, doi: 10.1177/1065912911427449; Forthcoming in print March 2013)


**WEEK 10: (10/25)**

**Party Politics: Do Parties Keep Women Out?**


**WEEK 11: (11/1)**

**Gatekeepers: The Recruitment and Selection of Female Candidates**


**WEEK 12: (11/8)**

**Gender Quotas**


**WEEK 13: (11/15)**

**A Different Lens: Media Coverage**


**WEEK 14: (11/22)**

Thanksgiving Break

**WEEK 15: (11/29)**

Women in Power


**WEEK 16: (12/6)**

Class Presentations