

# Women and Politics Syllabus

(POLS 4364-001)

3 credit hours

Spring 2025

January 21, 2025 to May 5, 2025

Tuesday, Thursday

2:00 - 3:15

Classroom: Madla 354

## Instructor Information

Emily Naasz, PhD

E-mail: enaasz@tamusa.edu

Phone: (210) 784-2527

Office: 351 H

Office hours: Fridays, 1-4pm

## 1. COURSE OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

This course explores key topics in the study of gender and politics, from both a comparative and international perspective. It covers key topics such as institutions, poverty, armed conflict, and representation across time and space.

As with any other social or behavioral science course, this course aims to increase students' knowledge of interactions among and between individuals, groups, institutions, and ideas. In doing so, students will leave with a better understanding of the political process and the role they themselves play in federal and state politics.

## 2. GRADING

There are 475 possible points available in this class. The points are broken down as follows:

- **Discussion responses (32%)**: 150 points possible (10 responses at 15 points)
- **Participation (21%)**: 100 points possible
- **Discussion lead (11%)**: 50 points possible
- **Project prospectus (3%)**: 15 points possible
- **Project check-in (5%)**: 25 points possible
- **Project draft (7%)**: 35 points possible

- **Final Project (21%):** 100 points possible (100 points total)

**Grade scale.** To calculate your grade at any point in this class, divide the number of points you currently have by the total possible points (as found in Blackboard).

Your letter grade in turn is based on the traditional grading scale:

- (A) 90 - 100%
- (B) 80 - 89%
- (C) 70 - 79%
- (D) 60 - 69%
- (F) Below 60%

**Discussion responses.** Over the course of the semester, you will complete ten short answer responses (in class). At the beginning of class, I will give a discussion question/topic based on the week's reading(s)/topic. You will have ten minutes to write a response by hand. You are allowed to use the reading, your notes, and/or the discussion leader's outline to help you answer the question.

**Participation.** This is an upper-division course where regular attendance *and* participation are considered basic prerequisites for success in this class. While I don't penalize for absences, you will be graded on your ability to show up and participate in in-class conversations in a meaningful and constructive way.

**Discussion lead.** Each student will be responsible for leading (or co-leading, depending on the week) one week's worth of readings. The purpose of the leader is to help guide our discussion of that week's topics and to help you better understand the main themes of the course. As discussion leader, your responsibilities are as follows:

- 1 Prepare (and post on Blackboard) a discussion outline<sup>1</sup> for that day's reading(s)
- 2 Give a brief presentation and discussion (5-10 minutes) based on the reading(s)/topic

Discussion outlines will be due before class on Blackboard by noon on Thursday. Everyone will be expected to read the outline before class in order to help prepare for discussion.

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<sup>1</sup>See Blackboard for more detailed instructions

**Final Project.** Over the course of the semester, you will complete an original research project addressing a political institution, event, or behavior (e.g. legislative representation, peacebuilding, voting, etc.) from a gendered lens. Your project must address how a gendered perspective provides new understanding or insight into the issue.

To help break up the process (and keep you on track), you will submit three different assignments<sup>2</sup> pieces of the project, including a:

- Prospectus
- Check-in
- Draft

### 3. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Required Text.** There is no textbook for this course. Instead, all required readings are available on Blackboard.

You are required to access and complete all readings before class.

### 4. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

**Withdrawal Policy and Course Drop Date.** Students should note that the last day to drop the course with an automatic “W” is April 21, 2025.

**A&M-San Antonio Academic Policies.** See the current *A&M University-San Antonio Student Handbook*

**Writing Center.** The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Students can make individual or group appointments with a writing tutor. The Writing Center is located in Central Academic Building, Suite 208. The Writing Center can be reached by emailing [writingcenter@tamusa.edu](mailto:writingcenter@tamusa.edu) or calling 210-784-1222. Students can also make appointments with the Writing Center under the Student Services tab in JagWire.

**Americans with Disabilities Act Statement.** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disability. If you believe you have a disability that may require accommodations, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. DSS is located

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<sup>2</sup>See Blackboard for detailed instructions for each

at the Main Campus on the 2nd floor of the Central Academic Building in suite 210. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is [dss@tamusa.edu](mailto:dss@tamusa.edu).

**In-Class Discussions and Classroom Civility.** Students are expected to come to class prepared and ready to discuss that day's readings. In-class discussion gives students a chance to increase their understanding of the material and how it relates to their everyday lives. Students who are not able to participate in an appropriate or productive manner will not receive full participation points, or will be asked to leave.

**Technology.** Students are allowed to bring computers to class for note taking only and are asked to sit in the first two rows. If you are caught browsing the web, etc. you will be asked to leave class for the day and will forfeit your participation points for that day. Should it become a re-occurring problem, you will forfeit your computer privileges and may face further disciplinary action as I see fit or as the situation calls for.

Cell phones are to be silenced before class begins and not to be answered in class.

**Plagiarism and Cheating.** Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a 0 for the assignment and may face further punitive actions from the University. I do not take this issue lightly and reserve the right to fail a student from the course for cheating and/or plagiarizing. For more information, please see the University's statement on academic honesty.

*Use of Generative AI(Artificial Intelligence).* Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all writing assignments must be prepared by the student and the student alone. Developing strong competencies in this area will prepare you for a competitive workplace. Therefore, AI-generated and/or assisted submissions are *not* permitted in this course and will be treated as plagiarism.

Any student suspected of using AI to complete an assignment will be called in for an oral defense of their assignment.

**E-mail.** I respond to student e-mails within 24 to 36 hours on the weekdays. I generally do not respond to e-mail on the weekends, so your best bet is to contact me during the weekdays.

*Etiquette.* When you contact me (or any other faculty for that matter), please observe appropriate e-mail formatting guidelines and etiquette. To insure a timely response, please include the following in your e-mail:

- A descriptive subject in the subject line that includes your (1) course number and section (found at the top of this syllabus) and (2) a brief description of the subject matter
- An appropriate greeting with the recipients preferred title (Dr. Naasz or Professor Naasz are both appropriate)
- A brief description of the reason for the e-mail
- Full sentences with punctuation
- Your full legal name (as it appears in the class roster)

**Grade Appeals.** If you wish you to contest a grade, you must submit a written appeal over e-mail within one week logically explaining why you feel your assignment should be reviewed. Please note however that I will review the entire assignment and reserve the right to *lower* your grade should I see fit.

**Student Academic Progress.** Students are encouraged to discuss academic goals and degree completion with their instructors. Specific advising is available throughout the semester from academic advisors and career specialists.

**Late Work.** Late work will be accepted (at a 5% penalty/day) up to two days late. Work submitted after two days will not be accepted.

## 5. TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

See Blackboard for reading schedule and links to articles.