Course description

This course has two main goals: firstly, it aims to give insights into the importance of gender as a key dimension of politics that structures power relations in all societies: in terms of inclusion/exclusion, gendered and sexual identities, norms and institutions (hegemonic understandings of feminity and masculinity, heteronormativity, etc.), mobilisation (women's movements, gay movements etc.), political leadership, or in that it imbues key political concepts such as democracy, social justice or politics itself. We will read and discuss a range of readings on selected topics, from issues of political thought and political representation to gender equality policies (women's quotas, state feminism, etc.), identities and gay movements. In addition, the course participants will do punctual small researchers on the state of these or close-by issues in contexts of their choice. The aim here is to understand how and why gender issues have become central to politics, how they have progressively become integrated into political science, and how they inform and shape contemporary social science research. Secondly, the course aims to offer a space where the participants can explore topics of their own choice and interest (as part of small assignments and/or for the final paper).

Course format

The class meetings will take various forms: discussions of texts, exercises (on the basis of materials prepared ahead of class), lectures. Some (not all) Wednesday sessions will be rather more practical, whereas most Thursday sessions will be devoted to the readings.

Course requirements and assessment

The assessment will be based on the following:

Active participation and assignments (50%).
Assignments will be set from week to week, generally in connection (or in extension) with the set readings. They may require some reflection or, quite often, some practical work (collection of relevant information, examples etc.).

Final research paper with short oral presentation (50%)
6-8 page paper (3200 words max. without bibliography and footnotes) on a topic of the student's choice, within the broad field of gender&politics.

The exact format will have to be discussed individually with the instructor, but as a general rule, the paper could take forms such as:

- A small empirical analysis on the basis of existing documentation and literature
• A conceptual discussion;
• A critical review of selected element(s) of the literature around a given topic or concept
• …

A 2-3p proposal with bibliography will need to be elaborated at the very latest during week 7 (early November) and be submitted by Nov. 10 for discussion and feedback.

Each course participant will make a brief presentation of her/his research at the end of the course (exact schedule to be defined once the number of participants is known).

It is strongly recommended that the final paper be read by the Academic Writing Centre before submission, as poor writing will entail a reduction in the grade.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the semester, the participants will have acquired:
• An awareness of the relevance of gender issues in politics (and political science)
• Theoretical and practical knowledge on selected themes in the field of gender and politics
• Some practical research skills (documentary research in particular).

Audience

This course is prioritarily for MA students in Political Science and Gender Studies. Students from other Departments may be accepted if places are available.

Auditors can be accepted if places are available. They are exempted from the final paper and oral presentation, but are requested to do the weekly assignments and participate regularly and actively.

CEU rules of academic honesty and active participation apply.
Course Outline
Provisional – adjustments may be made depending on the number of participants

Week 1

**Wed 24 Sept.**
Introduction to the course.

**Thu 25 Sept.**
At the origins of modern democratic thought (1)

**Required readings:**

Week 2

**Wed 1 Oct.**
Seminar

**Thu 2 Oct.**
At the origins of modern democratic thought (2)

**Required readings:**

**Additional readings:**
Wollstonecraft, Mary (1792). "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman".

Week 3

**Wed 8 Oct.**
Gender and politics, gender and power (1)

**Required readings:**

**Thu 9 Oct.**

**Gender and politics, gender and power (2)**

**Required readings:**


**Additional readings:**

**Week 4**

**Wed 15 Oct.**
Seminar

**Thu 16. Oct.**

**Gender identities and patterns in peace and war (1)**

**Required readings:**


**Additional reading:**

**Week 5**

**Wed 22 Oct.**

**Gender identities and patterns in peace and war (2)**

Seminar.

**Required reading:**

Thu 23 Oct.

Political Representation (1)

Required readings:


Week 6

Wed 29 Oct.
Seminar

Thu 30 Oct.

Political Representation (2)

Required readings:


Week 7

Wed 5 and Thu 5 Nov. – no class meetings.

Week 8

!!! Monday 10 Nov – deadline for submission of a 2-3p preliminary version of the final paper.

Wed 12 Nov.
Seminar

Thu 13 Nov.

Political Representation (3)

Required readings:


Additional readings:

**Week 9**

*Wed 19 Nov.*
Seminar

*Thu 20 Nov.*

**Gender Policy (1)**

**Required readings:**


Additional readings:


Special issue of the Greek Review of Social Research, 117.

**Week 10**

*Wed 26 Nov.*
Seminar

*Thu 27 Nov.*

**Gender Policy (2)**

**Required readings:**


Additional readings:

**Week 11**

**Wed 3 Dec.**

**LGBT movements (1)**

**Required readings:**

(20) Tremblay, Manon, Paternotte, David and Johnson, Carol (eds.) 2011, *The Lesbian and Gay Movement and the State. Comparative Insights into a Transformed Relationship*, Farnham, Ashgate, ch. 7, 8.

**Additional readings:**
Holzhacker, R. 2012 "National and transnational strategies of LGBT civil society organizations in different political environments: Modes of interaction in Western and Eastern Europe for equality". *Comparative European Politics* 10(1): 23-47.
Tremblay, Manon, Paternotte, David and Johnson, Carol (eds.) 2011, *The Lesbian and Gay Movement and the State. Comparative Insights into a Transformed Relationship*, Farnham, Ashgate (other chapters).

**Thu 4 Dec.**

**LGBT movements (2)**

**Required reading:**


**Week 12**

**Wed 10 Dec.**
Final presentations

**Thu 11 Dec.**
Final presentations.

*Monday 22nd December: deadline for the final paper. (to be confirmed).*