

SYLLABUS FOR SPRING 2019

PROFESSOR LAUREN MATTIOLI



WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT

PO 505: Readings in American Politics

Professor Contact Information

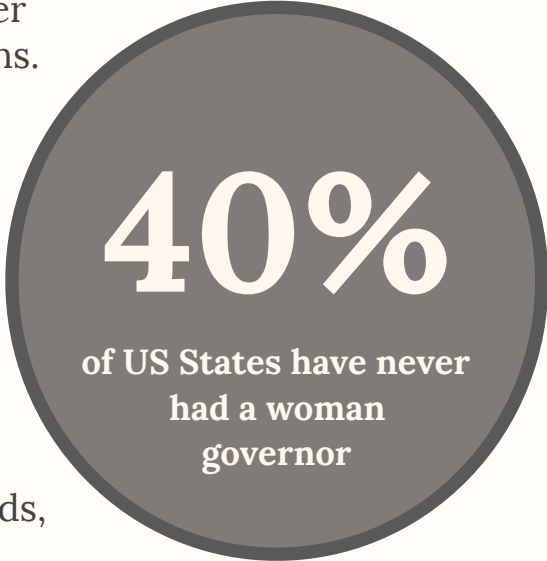
lamattio@bu.edu
Office: (617) 353-449
Office Hours:
Wednesday, 10a-12p
Or by appointment:
<https://mattioli.youcanbook.me/>

Office Location:
Rm. 211
232 Bay State Road

- • • • • LEARNING OBJECTIVES.....2
- • • • • MATERIALS.....2
- • • • • REQUIREMENTS.....3
- • • • • COURSE POLICIES.....4
- • • • • UNIVERSITY POLICIES.....5
- • • • • SCHEDULE.....6

IN THIS COURSE...

We will examine power, institutions, and gender through an analytic lens. Our focus will be on how women have gained access to, occupied, and changed the institutions of American government. You will become familiar with the vocabulary, methods, and theories used by scholars who study women in government. Finally, you will apply your new knowledge to a real-world case study or quantitative analysis.



As a senior-level seminar, this course emphasizes critical thinking, careful communication, and scientific rigor.



In 1992, one woman was re-elected and four women were newly elected to the U.S. Senate. It was dubbed the “Year of the Woman”

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Develop

as a written and oral communicator of social-scientific concepts.

Describe

how institutional diversity contributes to different in-office behavior among men and women.

Become

conversant in the contemporary social scientific research on women in government.

Evaluate

the representativeness of women in government by multiple definitions of representation.

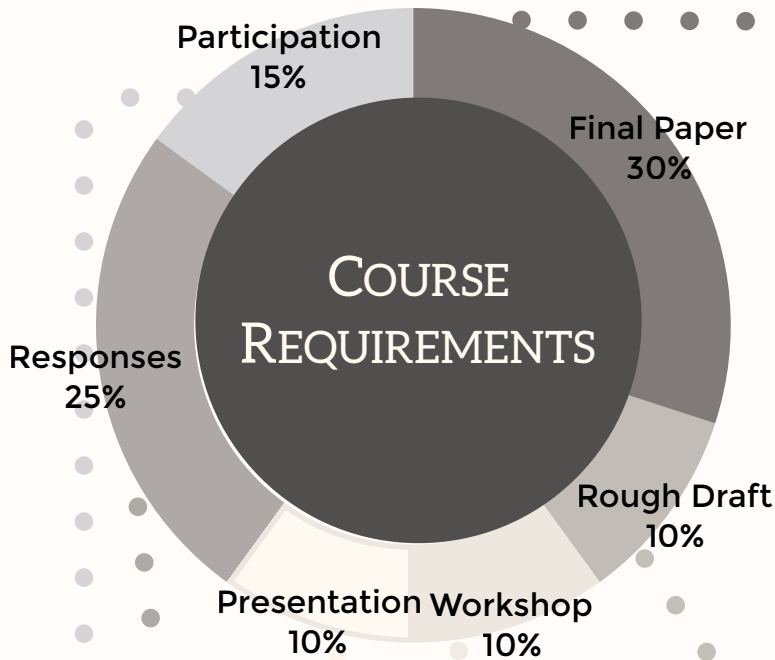
Show

substantive knowledge of how the history of women in American government shapes the present.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Alderman, Naomi. *The Power*. First North American edition. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2017. (any edition/version is fine)
- Dittmar, Kelly, Kira Sanbonmatsu, and Susan J. Carroll. *A Seat at the Table: Congresswomen's Perspectives on Why Their Presence Matters*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2018. [DSC]
- Han, Lori Cox, and Caroline Heldman. *Women, Power, and Politics: The Fight for Gender Equality in the United States*. First Edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018. [H&H]
- Lawless, Jennifer L., and Richard Logan Fox. *Women, Men & U.S. Politics: Ten Big Questions*. First edition. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2018. [L&F]

Any additional required readings will be made available on the course Blackboard site. [BB]



Final Paper

Each student is required to submit a final paper. Your paper can take one of two forms.

Option 1- In depth case study. These papers will contain original qualitative research conducted by the student. You will choose a particular woman who has held authoritative public office and research her career. Then, you will conduct an analysis of how that individual woman's experience in government reflects or contradicts the scholarly research on women in government.

Option 2- Original Quantitative Research. These papers will contain data analysis conducted by the student related to a topic discussed in class. These should be written as research notes: situate the research question within a literature, posit a clear research design, and—using existing or original data—conduct suitable analysis.

Reading Responses

You will write 3 reading responses throughout the semester. After the first day of class, you will sign up for the three weeks for which you will write a reading response using the course Wiki. Each response is weighted equally.

These should be about 1-2 pages, double-spaced. Provide a summary and critical reaction to a significant aspect of the required readings. Concisely address a major point in the reading and engage with it—what seems right, and why? What is missing or neglected and why does that matter? You may talk with your classmates about the readings, but you need to write your own response.

Rough Draft

A rough draft of your final paper will be used to workshop with other students in the class. You will submit your rough draft to Blackboard. The rough draft is expected to be incomplete and imperfect. You will only be graded on on time submissions and the demonstration of conscientious effort.

Workshop

You will be assigned to a workshop group by Professor Mattioli. You will receive the rough drafts of everyone else in your workshop group and prepare thoughtful comments for the day of the workshop. We will discuss how to be a good workshop participant in class.

Participation

Participation should be early, often and thoughtful. Your comments should demonstrate detailed knowledge of the readings and respect for other seminar participants.

It is impossible to be a good seminar participant without being present in class, both physically and mentally.

Presentation

You will present the findings of your research to the rest of the class using a presentation software medium of your choice. Presentations will be 5-10 minutes long.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance in this class is not mandatory. There is no need to let me know if you are going to miss class. **If you miss class** it is your responsibility to gather notes.

Extensions may be granted in extreme circumstances. To get an extension, you must get approval 24 hours before the assignment is due *in writing*.

Tablets and Laptops can be used for note taking. If it becomes clear that these devices are a disruption or distraction I will withdraw my permission for their use.

Grade disputes should be timely, lodged via email, and accompanied with a written explanation.

Changes to the reading schedule are unlikely, but if necessary will be announced via email at least 1 week in advance of the affected class.

Cell phones shouldn't be out during class. Your lap counts as "out"

Extra credit will not be offered for this class under any circumstances.

Late assignments can be submitted with a penalty. For each day the assignment is late you will receive a 10% grade reduction, beginning immediately after the assignment is due.

Regular access to a computer with a reliable internet connection is essential to succeed in this course. All assignment submissions are electronic.

Course communications will happen by email. Students are expected to check their BU email every day. Student emails will be responded to within one business day.

Collaboration is encouraged, but all submitted materials must comply with the Academic Code of Conduct. Suspected violators of the Code will be referred to the Dean's office.

Reading Responses are due at 5pm the day before class. If class is meeting on Monday, reading responses are due at 5pm on Sunday. If class is meeting on Tuesday, responses are due Monday, and so on.

Grading Scale:

C+ 77-79	C 73-76
A 93-100	C- 70-72
A- 90-92	D+ 67-69
B+ 87-89	D 60-67
B 83-86	F 0-59
B- 80-82	

BU ACADEMIC POLICIES

Disability Services

Students with documented disabilities, including learning disabilities, may be entitled to accommodations intended to ensure that they have integrated and equal access to the academic, social, cultural, and recreational programs the university offers. Accommodations may include, but are not limited to, additional time on tests, staggered homework assignments, note-taking assistance. If you believe you should receive accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services to discuss your situation. This office can give you a letter that you can share with instructors of your classes outlining the accommodations you should receive. The letter will not contain any information about the reason for the accommodations.

If you already have a letter of accommodation, you are encouraged to share it with your instructor as soon as possible. <http://www.bu.edu/disability/>

Bereavement

In the event of the death of an immediate family member, you should notify your advisor, who will help you coordinate your leave. You will be automatically granted five weekdays of leave, and if necessary, your advisor will help you to petition the Dean for additional leave time. You may also request a leave of absence due to bereavement. Please contact your advisor, who will help you with the process.

Incomplete Grades

An incomplete grade (I) is used only when the student has conferred with the instructor prior to the submission of grades and offered acceptable reasons for the incomplete work. If you wish to take an incomplete in this class, please contact the instructor as soon as possible but certainly before the submission of final grades. To receive an incomplete, you and your instructor must both sign an “Incomplete Grade Report” specifying the terms under which you will complete the class.

<https://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/incomplete-coursework/>

Academic Conduct

All Boston University students are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty and integrity. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the Academic Conduct Code, which describes the ethical standards to which BU students are expected to adhere and students' rights and responsibilities as members of BU's learning community. All instances of cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct will be addressed in accordance with this policy. Penalties for academic misconduct can range from failing an assignment or course to suspension or expulsion from the university.



COURSE SCHEDULE

Date & Week	Topic	Readings	Assignments due (in addition to reading responses)
1/28 1	Intro to the course	The Power	Sign up for Reading Responses after class
2/4 2	State of the Union	L&F Ch. 1 & 2 Clinton p. 111-145 [BB] DDS vii-xxviii [BB]	
2/11 3	Gendering Institutions and Leadership	Ritter [BB] H&H Ch. 4 MKM [BB]	
2/19 4 (Tuesday!)	Running for Office & Political Ambition	L&F Ch. 3 & 4 H&H p. 91-96 & Ch. 6	
2/25 5	Representation	DSC Ch. 2 Ford p. 175-193 [BB]	
3/4 6	Agenda Setting & Policy Impact	DSC Ch. 6 DDS 215-231 [BB]	
Spring Break			
3/18 7	In Legislatures	H&H Ch. 7 Ford p. 193-197 [BB]	
3/25 8	Congress	L&F Ch. 7 DSC Ch. 1&3 VWW [BB]	
4/1 9	Federal Executives	H&H p. 160-174 Ford p. 203-210 [BB] DDS 255-265 [BB]	
4/8 10	Mayors & Governors	Ford p. 197-198 [BB] H&H p. 175-179 DDS 157-166 [BB] Hers to Lose (Documentary on BB)	
4/17 11 (Wednesday!)	The Judiciary	H&H Ch. 9 Boyd, Epstein & Martin [BB]	Rough Draft
4/22 12	Workshop & Wrap Up	TKR [BB] H&W [BB]	Workshop Comments
4/29 13	Research Presentations		Presentation

Final Paper due 5/3/2019 at 5 PM