

## **POLITICAL SCIENCE 215 POLITICS of FEMINISM**

Fall 2005  
Chambers 2027

Dr. Mary Thornberry  
Ext. 2282

### REQUIRED TEXTS

Leon Dash – Rosa Lee  
Betty Friedan – The Feminine Mystique  
Catherine MacKinnon – Sex Equality: Family Law  
Linda Nicholson – The Second Wave  
Martha Nussbaum and Jonathan Glover – Women, Culture, and Development  
Joan Williams – Unbending Gender

### COURSE OVERVIEW

In this class we will examine issues of gender and justice. We will look at how the American legal system has defined rights and duties in terms of gender roles. We will not focus on women in politics but rather on how politics has been used to define women and men. Court cases will help us understand what gender means in contemporary American usage. We will also ask questions about how the rest of the world views such issues and how we can interact with other cultures.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There will be three papers, a mid-term, and a final exam. The first two papers count 15% each, the third paper and the mid-term will count 20% each, and the final will all count 30%. The final will be cumulative, though there will be a greater emphasis on the second half of the course. Although class participation is hard to quantify, any benefit of the doubt in close grade averages will be given to those who have made genuine contributions to class discussion. Note that Davidson academic regulations call for failing grades to be given to any student who misses more than 20% of the scheduled classes. I will assign paper topics at least two weeks in advance. All written work is covered by the Davidson Honor Code. Late papers will be penalized at the rate of three points per day. It is up to you to decide whether or not you can make the paper that much better by waiting one day. All papers are due at the beginning of the class hour on the day announced.

## OFFICE HOURS

My office is in Chambers 2027, and my office telephone is 704-894-2282. You may also call me at home (704-892-5055) during what Miss Manners refers to as civilized hours [9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.]. Tentative office hours: MWF 10:00-11:30 and TR 9:15-10:00.

## READING ASSIGNMENTS

In addition to the reading noted on the syllabus, there will be some Supreme Court cases that will be assigned from the web. Bring your texts to class. Merely reading through once will often not suffice for these works. Reading from beginning to end is usually not the most efficient way to absorb the important points. Try to see the larger picture and to test what is being said against your own experience and that of people you know.

## ACCOMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Full accommodations are the legal right of students with all kinds of disabilities, whether learning disabilities or physical disabilities. I am happy to provide these accommodations. If you are a student with a learning disability documented by Davidson College who might need accommodations, please identify yourself to me within the first week or two of class so that I can learn from you as early as possible how to best work with your learning style. Students with other disabilities are also encouraged to self-identify if there is any way in which I can make accommodations that will enhance your learning experience. All such discussions will be fully confidential unless you stipulate otherwise.

## MATTERS OF STYLE

In writing papers, you are expected to follow all rules of standard English and to produce a product of which a literate person would be proud. Buy a dictionary and use it. Use computer programs to check your spelling. Avoid slang, contractions, indefinite antecedents, starting sentences with conjunctions, ending them with prepositions, using split infinitives, relying on "et. cetera," and the thousand other sins of which First Year English tried to cure you. Papers should be typed, have a cover sheet, and be held together firmly with some marvel of modern technology. Notation should be in the style of in text citations (Jaggar 38) and be supported by a Works Cited page at the end. Textual footnotes are permitted, but should be used judiciously.

Please pay careful attention to the suggestions which follow. You can certainly insure better grades on any written assignment by observing the conventions mentioned there. I will mark papers for grammar and spelling as well as content. Points will be deducted for those who persist in obvious errors. You should have access to a Little-Brown Handbook as a reference for grammar and usage. If you do not have one from English composition or HUMES, borrow one.

1. Commit yourself to a specific stance. Frame and answer useful and interesting questions. Be controversial; don't be wishy-washy.

2. Have something to say. Present a thesis. Take a stand. Prove a point. You need to show that there may be other points of view, but you should show that your ideas are worth consideration.

3. Pre-write. Take time before you actually start the paper to jot down the major points that have to be made. Consider what details you want to emphasize and what examples will illustrate your ideas. Develop your thoughts. Not only the whole paper but also each paragraph should have a beginning, a middle, and an end.

4. Use specific examples. Quote directly from sources where appropriate and useful.

5. Be selective. Don't tell me everything you know. Use illustrations as an example of a larger point. Never waste time merely summarizing situations. You may take any information given as part of the assignment as common knowledge which you need not repeat.

6. Find your own voice. At times the first person may be appropriate. You may want to write to a third party. Write for a specific audience. Be clear and consistent in addressing that audience. Also be clear about your persona.

7. Use action verbs. Choose distinct nouns. Avoid "this" when the reference is vague.

8. Pay attention to spelling, punctuation, and grammar. [Examples include: Avoid split infinitives. Do not begin sentences with conjunctions except on rare occasions. Do not end sentences with prepositions. Avoid abbreviations.]

9. Use gender-inclusive language.

\*\*\*\*\* MOST IMPORTANT  
RULE OF ALL \*\*\*\*\*

10. Document properly and concisely.

14. BE INTERESTING! Writing is hard work, but the results should be fun.

11. Watch transitions. Try reading your work out loud to a sympathetic friend. Can someone who hears your thoughts make sense of them?

12. Be sure to leave enough time for revising, editing, and proofreading your papers. You ought to have 24 hours between each draft. Two drafts are a minimum.

13. Keep a journal of your own errors. You will identify patterns of mistakes that will make improving your writing much easier.

## Court Cases

A. *Bradwell v. Illinois* 83 US 130 (1873) – Bradley  
*Muller v. Oregon* 208 US 412 (1908)

B. *Dothard v. Rawlinson* 433 US 321 (1977)  
*California Fed. Savings + Loan v. Guerra* 479 US 272 (1987) I, II, IIIB of majority  
*Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent School District* 524 US 274 (1998)

C. *Hoyt v. Florida* 368 US 57 (1961)  
*Reed v. Reed* 404 US 71 (1971)  
*Frontiero v. Richardson* 411 US 677 (1973) – Brennan  
*Craig v. Boren* 429 US 190 (1976)  
*United States v. Virginia* 518 US 515 (1996) Ginsberg (I, II A+B, IV, VI,  
 VII); Scalia

D. *Griswold v. Connecticut* 381 US 479 (1965) – Douglas + Goldberg  
*Roe v. Wade* 410 US 113 (1973) Blackmun (I, II, VII-XII); Rehnquist  
*Planned Parenthood of SE Pennsylvania v. Casey* 505 US 833 (1992) –  
 O’C+K+So (I+II, IV, VI)  
*Lawrence v. Texas* 539 US 558 (2003)

The best way to get to most cases is to use Google. Use your common sense from there. The Cornell site and FindLaw are respected sources. You are looking for the actual opinion. However, most of your searches will produce other sources that can give some helpful insights into the background.

Unless I tell you otherwise, read all decisions: majority, concurring, dissenting. Most opinions will begin with a syllabus, an introduction in which the editing agency has excerpted the key issues and the holding of the Court. Somewhere near the beginning of the majority opinion there will be a review of the facts of the case to guide you as to how the Court saw the context of the issues presented.

For other readings: some are on electronic reserve (marked as ER) and some are on regular reserve (R). The Taylor reading is a short story – “A Wife of Nashville” – which can be found in either of two books on reserve. The Jaggar volume comes in three editions. Any one will do. Read the Freud section there. All readings from the net give the site, but these may not work from off campus.

- Aug. 23 – Seneca Falls  
<http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/infousa/facts/democrac/17.htm>
- 25 – Taylor (R); Friedan 15-102
- 30 – Court Cases A
- Sept. 1 – Library day; Friedan 182-257
- 6 – Friedan 103-181; Jaggar (R)
- 8 – Williams 1-113; Friedan 338-378
- 13 – Dash 1-146; Nicholson 272-287
- 15 – Dash 147-274
- 20 – Nicholson 63-70, 241-259; hooks  
<http://search.epnet.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=afh&an=3767342>
- 22 – Paper #1
- 27 – Williams 143-176
- 29 – Nicholson 1-62
- Oct. 4 – Nicholson 93-145, 216-240
- 6 – Mid Term
- 11—Fall Break
- 13 – Court Cases B
- 18 –Davidson handbook  
[http://www2.davidson.edu/studentlife/handbook/honor\\_sxharas.asp](http://www2.davidson.edu/studentlife/handbook/honor_sxharas.asp)
- 20 –Nicholson 181-215; Williams 178-204; Belkin  
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=434089451&sid=3&Fmt=2&clientId=15042&RQT=309&VName=PQD>
- 25 –Nicholson 153-172,300-315; Nussbaum  
[http://www.eyedea.ch/archiv/texte/the\\_professor\\_of\\_parody.html](http://www.eyedea.ch/archiv/texte/the_professor_of_parody.html)
- 27 – Court Cases C; Blackstone (ER)
- Nov 1 – Court Cases D
- 3 – Paper #2
- 8 – MacKinnon 1-35; Williams 205-242
- 10 – MacKinnon 553-601
- 15 – MacKinnon 624-649
- 17– Williams 114-141; MacKinnon 680-714
- 22 – Paper #3
- 24 -- Thanksgiving
- 29 – Nussbaum 1-13, 37-104; Williams 243-270
- Dec. 1 – Nussbaum 116-152; Rawls (ER)
- 6– Nussbaum 259-330; Nicholson 396-414
- 8 – Reading day