

Pol S 537
Concepts and Methods in Comparative Politics
Gender and Politics

Fall 2005
6:10-9:00, Tuesday
TODD 304

Prof Amy G. Mazur
822 Johnson Tower
Office Hours: T/TH 1:30-3:00 and by appointment
Phone: 335-4615/E-mail: Mazur@Mail.wsu.edu

DESCRIPTION

The goal of this seminar is to introduce students to the area of Gender and Politics through the lens of the sub-field of Comparative Politics, with a focus on methodology. Students will be exposed to some of the major analytical issues within the growing field of Gender and Politics. They will also become acquainted with a mix of approaches to designing research, including small 'n' analysis – the comparative method and the case study approach, large 'n' quantitative analysis, qualitative comparative analysis (QCA), and strategies that bring together or “bridge” qualitative and quantitative approaches. Concept operationalization and measurement in comparative contexts will be a central issue of this seminar as well. The major skill students will be developing is how to design good theory building studies in the field of comparative gender and politics.

The driving premise of this course is that studying gender and politics through comparing and contrasting political phenomena in a variety of different cultural settings, situated at the nation-state or sub-national level, should be an integral aspect of the new and growing field of Gender and Politics. Too often, both empirical and normative studies in this area have been bound by ethnocentric assumptions tied to the Anglo-American world. As a consequence, our readings cover a range of countries from different regions of the world. A major focus of these works will be questions of gender and the state.

In the first part of the course, you will be introduced to Gender and Politics as it crosscuts Comparative Politics. The major methodological issues and approaches will be reviewed as well as the key concepts used in comparative gender research. You will become initially acquainted with the relevant methodological approaches and contested concepts. In the second part of the class, students will examine how discrete studies in comparative gender and politics have dealt with, or not, the various methodological issues raised in the first part. Three sessions will be devoted to learning about the methodological issues in the RNGS study and then the remaining classes will examine other comparative gender and politics studies with a focus on the state.

The assignments this class are designed to help students develop skills of concept formation and research design; thus allowing students to work on links between theory building and methodological choices.

READING

The following books are available for purchase in the bookstore.

Htun, Mala. 2003. Sex and the State: Abortion, Divorce and the Family Under Latin American Dictatorships and Democracies. Cambridge University Press.

- Inglehart, Ronald and Pippa Norris. (2003). Rising Tide: Gender Equality and Cultural Change Around the World. New York and Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Mazur, Amy G. 2002. Theorizing Feminist Policy. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Outshoorn, Joyce. 2004. The Politics of Prostitution: Women's Movements, Democratic States and the Globalisation of Sex Commerce. Cambridge University Press.
- Rai. Shirin. 2003. Mainstreaming Gender, Democratizing the State? Manchester University Press.
- Wiarda, Howard. 2000. Introduction to Comparative Politics. Harcourt College Publishers.

Some required readings will be in a class file in Johnson Tower 713. (The access code for the room is 6135.) You may also get the mainstream journal articles on JSTOR or PROQUEST. Some readings will be distributed to students electronically; others will be available on the RNGS homepage -- <http://libarts.wsu.edu/rngs/>. In the syllabus, readings in the JT class file are indicated by a **J**; e-mailed readings by **E**, and readings on the RNGS website by **R**.

Students should send me their e-mail addresses the first week of classes, so I can send them all of the electronic readings at once.

SOURCES

Throughout the semester, you should peruse back and current issues of some of the journals below. Women and Politics, International Feminist Journal of Politics, Social Politics, Gender and Society and the new journal Politics and Gender are particularly strong.

International Journal of Women's Studies
 Feminist Studies
 Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies
 Signs
 Journal of Women's History
 Feminist Review

Gender articles are also frequently found in the general political science journals as well.

The following homepages contain cross-national data on gender and politics issues:

EU Women in Decision-making Data Base: <http://www.db-decision.de/>
 UNIFEM/ UN: <http://www.undp.org/unifem/>
 Interparliamentary Union: <http://www.ipu.org/>
 Women's e-News: <http://www.womensenews.org/index.cfm>
 Worldbank Gender Stats: <http://genderstats.worldbank.org/>

REQUIREMENTS

Your grade will have four components. I do not accept late assignments.

1. Seminar Facilitation (10%)

Students will be required to lead one seminar in the second part of the course when we are discussing a book – 5 seminars in all. Two students may share the facilitation role. Rather than giving a formal presentation, seminar leaders are expected to facilitate group discussion of the readings within the bounds of the analytical foci of the class.

2. Participation (30%)

Students will be expected to come to all classes prepared to actively discuss the readings. Your grade will be based on the degree to which in-class participation reflects that you have done the assigned readings for each class and attempted to link them to the larger issues of the course.

3. Concept Review Essays (30%)

Each student is required to write two concept review essays (5 to 10 pages in length, typed and double-spaced, not including the bibliography). Essays may be turned in at any point throughout the semester and students may rewrite each essay once. You should select one of the concepts covered in class related to comparative gender and politics research. Your essay should review the literature that covers the concept both theoretically and empirically, identify and discuss the operational definitions and how the concept is measured. If possible, the essay should identify if there is a common definition, discuss the problems with the treatment of the concepts and suggest some ways of improving the use of the concepts for empirically-based theory-building. Your essays should assess the concept operationalizations in term of the common standards for good concept formation in comparative empirical theory building, elaborated in the early part of this class.

Essays will be evaluated on four components: 1) coverage of literature; 2) discussion of operationalization and measurement of concepts; 3) critique and 4) writing quality. There are no deadlines for this assignment. You should begin tackling this assignment after the two specific sessions on concepts. I will do my best to grade your paper and return it to you within a week from when you turn it in. I would discourage you from waiting until the end of the semester; you will learn from each paper and you may rewrite each paper once. Final rewrites are due no later than December 16th.

4. Comparative Research Design (30%)

You are required to write a research design for an empirical comparative study that addresses one of the theoretical issues raised in the current comparative gender and politics literature. The research design should reflect an understanding of the various methodological issues touched upon in this class. Students will make an informal presentation of their in-progress designs at the last seminar as a means to receive collective feedback from the class for the final paper. Papers must be double-spaced, typed, 15 to 25 pages (excluding, endnotes and bibliography) and use the APSA style format. Research designs are due Friday December 16th, in my office at 5:00 pm.

SCHEDULE

I. CONCEPTS AND METHODS

August 23rd

Presentation of Course and Syllabus

August 30th

Class cancelled; APSA meetings.

September 6th Introduction to the Study of Gender and Politics in Comparative Perspective

Reading:

JCarroll and Zerilli. 1993. "Feminist Challenges to Political Science." In The State of the Discipline 11, Finifter, ed.

JSapiro, Virginia. 1998. "Feminist Studies and Political Science" In Phillips. ed. Feminism and Politics. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 67-89.

Wiarda. Chapters 1, 3, 5, & 11.

Mazur, Amy. 2002. Theorizing Feminist Policy. Chapter 1.

JLovenduski, Joni. (1998). 'Gendering Research in Political Science'. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 1: 333-56.

JLaitin, David D. 2002. "Comparative Politics: The State of the Subdiscipline." In Katsnelson and Milner, ed. Political Science: State of the Discipline III. New York and London: W.W. Norton and Co. 630-659.

September 13th

Methods and Approaches in Gender and Politics

Reading:

JRandall, Vicky. 1991. "Feminism and Political Analysis." *Political Studies*. 39: 513-532.

JBlack, Naomi. 1989. Social Feminism. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Introduction, Part I.

JHarding, Sandra, ed. 1987. Feminism and Methodology. Chapter 1 & 12.

APSA 2005 Papers:

ECelis, Karen. "Theory and Empirical Research Reconciled. Methodological Reflections on 'Women MP's Representing Women'"

EKrook, Mona Lena, "Comparing Methods for Studying Women in Politics: Statistical, Case Study, and Qualitative-Comparative Techniques"

EOrtbals, Candice D. "N = 5 to 20: A Challenge to Feminist Research?"

September 20th

Methods and Approaches in Comparative Politics

JRagin, Charles C., Dirk Berg Schlosser, Gisèle de Meur. 1996. "Political Methodology: Qualitative Methods" In Goodin and Klingemann., ed. A New Handbook of Political Science. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 749-768. ?

JSartori, G. 1970. "Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics." American Political Science Review, 64(4), 1033-1053.

JCollier. 1993. "The Comparative Method." In Finifter, ed. Political Science: The State of the Discipline 11.

JLijphart. 1971. "Comparative Politics and Comparative Method." American Political Science Review. September.

JMunk, Gerardo L. 2004. "Tools for Qualitative Research." In Rethinking Social Inquiry: Divers Tools, Shared Standards. Brady and Collier, eds. Rowman and Littlefield. 195-122.

JMcKeown, Timothy. 2004. "Case Studies and the Limits of the Quantitative Worldview." . In Rethinking Social Inquiry: Divers Tools, Shared Standards. Brady and Collier, eds. Rowman and Littlefield. 139- 168.

JTarrow, Sidney, 2004. "Bridging the Qualitative-Quantitative Divide." In Rethinking Social Inquiry: Divers Tools, Shared Standards. Brady and Collier, eds. Rowman and Littlefield. 171-180.

September 27th and October 4th **Concepts in Comparative Gender and Politics**

For these two seminars, each student will select one concept (or series of concepts) to discuss in class. You should be prepared to discuss competing definitions of the concept(s), debates over their meanings, and operationalization. These sessions will help you out a great deal with your concept essays. Readings may cover several different concepts. Remember that these concepts will be used throughout the semester. Note that these readings are supposed to generate discussion about the application of these concepts; they are by no means the definitive works on these issues.

9/27

Sex/Gender

Intersectionality

Women's interests/Issues

Feminist/Feminism/ Women Friendly

Equality/Equity/Difference/Parity

Discrimination/ Patriarchy/ Male Domination/ Gender Bias/Sexism

Women's Empowerment and Representation

Women's Movements/ Feminist Movements

**Note that many of these concepts were covered in gender readings previously assigned.

JHobson, Barbara, Jane Lewis and Birte Siim. ed. 2002. Contested Concepts in Gender and Social Politics. Cheltenham UK & Northampton MA: Edgar Elgar. Chapters 1 and 7.

JPhillips, Anne. Ed. 1998. Feminism and Politics. Oxford: Oxford University Press: Part III (Four articles).

JWalby, Sylvia. 1989. "Theorizing Patriarchy." Sociology.

JSquires, Judith. 1999. Gender in Political Theory. Cambridge: Polity Press. Chapters 2,4, & 7.

Mazur (2002) . Appendix A.

APSA 2005 PAPERS:

R McBride, Dorothy and Amy Mazur "Comparative Study of Women's Movements: Conceptual Puzzles and RINGS Solutions"

EWeldon, Laurel. "Rethinking Intersectionality: Conceptual Problems in Comparative Research on Gendered Welfare States"

10/4

State/Nation/ Nation-state
Regime Types: Authoritarian/Totalitarian/Socialist/Communist/ Liberal
Democratic
Democratizing/Democratic Development
Economic/Social Development
Traditional/Modern/Post-Industrial
Political Culture

Wiarda, Chapters 4,6,7, 8&9

JFrederich, Carl J. and Zbignew K. Brzezinski. 1962. Totalitarian Dictatorship and Autocracy. Chapter 1.

JNettl, J. P. (1968). The State as a conceptual variable. World Politics, 20, 559-592.

JCollier, David and Steven Levitsky. 1997. "Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research." World Politics 49(3): 430-451. Also available online.

Inglehart, Ronald and Pippa Norris. (2003). Rising Tide: Gender Equality and Cultural Change Around the World. New York and Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1.

II. APPLICATIONS

Women's Movements and Women's Policy Agencies: RNGS and Beyond October 11th

Getting to Know RNGS

Review the RNGS homepage and read over the following materials:

- 1) RNGS Project Description
- 2) [Executive Summary \(2004\)](#)
- 3) [Draft Code Plan and Book \(2004\)](#)
- 4) [Guide to constructing dataset \(2004\)](#)
- 5) [RNGS IWPR Paper Packet](#) (Hard copy available in class.)

October 18th

A Sectoral Perspective: The Prostitution Network Results

Outshoorn, Joyce. 2004. The Politics of Prostitution: Women's Movements, Democratic States and the Globalisation of Sex Commerce. Cambridge University Press.

FACILITATOR (s):

October 25th

QCA and RNGS

Reading:

- ERNGS QCA Primer
- ERNGS QCA Tables

JRagin, Charles C. 2000. *Fuzzy-Set Social Science* Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters three-Five.

Check out Internet sites for QCA:

<http://www.compass.org/>

<http://www.u.arizona.edu/~cragin/fsqca.htm>

November 1st

State Feminism in A Global Perspective

Rai. Shirin. 2003. Mainstreaming Gender, Democratizing the State? Manchester University Press.

FACILITATOR(S):

November 8th

Feminist Policy in Western Post Industrial Democracies

Mazur, Amy G. 2002. Theorizing Feminist Policy. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

FACILITATOR(S):

November 15th

Modernization, Attitudes About Gender Equality and Women's Status: A Cross-National Perspective

Inglehart, Ronald and Pippa Norris. (2003). Rising Tide: Gender Equality and Cultural Change Around the World. New York and Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

FACILITATOR(S):

Week of 11/21 Thanksgiving Break

November 29th

Gender and the State in Latin America

Htun, Mala. 2003. Sex and the State: Abortion, Divorce and the Family Under Latin American Dictatorships and Democracies. Cambridge University Press.

FACILITATOR(S):

December 6th

Presentations on In-Progress Research Designs