

Year : 2018/19

8057 - Master of Research in Political Science 32480 - Politics and Gender

Syllabus Information

Academic Course:	2018/19
Academic Center:	805 - Official Postgraduate Programme in Politics and Society
Study:	8057 - Master of Research in Political Science
Subject:	32480 - Politics and Gender
Credits:	5.0
Course:	1
Teaching languages:	Theory: Group 1: English
Teachers:	Tania Verge Mestre
Teaching Period:	Quarterly

Presentation

This course is designed to provide an overview of the ways in which politics and policy are patterned through gender. In particular, the course will use gender as an analytical category to discuss political theories and to understand and examine empirically institutions, actors and policy processes. In doing so, we will survey the leading contemporary research that aims at mainstreaming gender into the core of the political science discipline and that exposes the flaws of gender-blind theories and applied research.

The course is organized in three different sections that share a common underlying question: how does our approach to the study of politics and policy change when we mainstream gender? Firstly, the course will revisit theories of justice, democracy, nationalism, power and the state from a gender perspective. Secondly, the course will assess the gender regimes of political and economic institutions. Thirdly, the course will focus on the consequences of a gender-blind policymaking and on the tools that allow engendering it.

Associated skills

- To learn about the contributions of gender studies to the core of the political science discipline (including theory and empirical research)
- To develop the ability to analyze critically gender inequality and its intersection with other axes of inequality
- To be able to identify the gender biases of the structure and functioning of political institutions.

Learning outcomes

The aims of the course are the following:

- To use gender as both a social category (how socially constructed identities, values and conventions result in particular behaviors and actions that shape outcomes) and a process (the differential effects of apparently gender-neutral structures and policies upon women and men and how the former can be re-gendered) in political analyses and policy design
- To produce a gender-sensitive research.

Prerequisites

Written and spoken English is required.

Contents

Course outline

Week 1. Introduction

- The gender politics of political science.
- Researching 'sex' and 'gender': Gender as an analytical category.
- Intersectionality.
- Mainstreaming gender into the research phases.

Week 2. Engendering political theory

- Are theories of justice gender-biased?
- Are theories of democracy gender-biased?
- Are theories of nationalism gender-biased?
- Producing gender-sensitive theories.

Week 3. Gendered perspectives on the state

- The "sexual contract": the public/private divide.
- Patriarchy and the state.
- Citizenship and welfare.
- Recognition and redistribution.

Week 4. Gender and power

- Gender power relations.
- Gender regimes and inequality regimes.
- Re-gendering institutions.
- Change agents and opportunity structures.

Week 5. The gender regimes of institutions (I): political parties, parliaments and governments

- Gendered norms and apparently gender-neutrals norms.
- Patterns of exclusion and segregation.
- Institutional sexism: personnel, organizational arrangements and policy.
- Inequality regimes: gender, class and race.

Week 6. The gender regimes of institutions (II): economic governance

- Gender equality and (waged and unwaged) work.
- The gendered effects of economic inequalities.
- The politics of gender and economic crises.
- The costs of gender-blind austerity measures.

Week 7. Gender mainstreaming in policymaking

- The evolution of equality approaches.
- Factoring gender (and intersectionality) in public policy.
- Gender mainstreaming tools.
- Resistance to gender change.

Week 8. Gender politics in the global arena

- The global diffusion of gender equality policy: The politics of gender in international organizations.
- Women's rights as human rights? The protection of women's rights by international courts.
- The gender of militarism and war.
- Gender, peace, and democratization.

Week 9. Mainstreaming gender into research (i)

- Individual tutorial sessions

Week 10. Mainstreaming gender into research (ii)

- Class presentations of students' research proposals

Evaluation

The course format will be a combination of lectures, seminar discussions and research proposals revolving around how a gendered approach shapes the kinds of questions we ask and the elements we pay attention to. Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions, carry out short presentations reflecting on course topics, and draft a research proposal over the course of the semester.

The course grade will be based on the following assignments:

Class participation (20%): Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned materials and prepared to discuss them. While reading an article, students should consider the following questions:

- What are the implications of taking gender seriously in political science?
- How can a gendered approach contribute to our understanding of politics and key political issues - democracy; the state & policy-making; participation & representation; governance?
- How does a feminist perspective change the way we think about and analyze politics and policy?
- What can we learn as regards the engendering of the different research phases?

Student presentations (30%): Each week, there will be a group of students assigned to present the selected readings. Readings will be assigned on the first day of class.

Research proposal (50%): Students shall write a research proposal on a topic of their choice (10 pages including bibliography), ideally the one they have chosen for their master's thesis. The proposal should reflect critically on how to mainstream gender into the different phases of the research (theoretical framework, research design, and methods and analysis).