

**San José State University**  
**Department of Political Science**  
**POLS 109: Women and Politics, Spring 2017**

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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Monday/Wednesday 12:00 – 1:15
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Monday/Wednesday 1:30 – 2:45
<b>Classroom:</b>	DMH 161

**Course Description**

This course examines the social movement strategies and theories of gender and power employed by differently situated women. Students will learn to think critically about the relationship between sex and gender and the intersections of race, class, gender, law and nation. The course takes an historical and intersectional approach to women’s histories and feminist movements in order to explore how women have organized against militarism and colonialism, domestic and sexual violence, and racism and sexism in social policy. Through a focus on the status of women in society, this course seeks to introduce political science students to feminist jurisprudence, intersectionality, and the political economy of gendered civic participation.

**Course Workload Expectations: Succeeding in a Four-Unit Course**

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. Because this is a **four-unit course**, you can expect to spend a minimum of nine hours per week, in addition to time spent in class, on scheduled tutorials, assignments, or activities. This additional unit will allow for more in-depth investigation and engagement with course topics. Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to be successful in all of your courses. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

**Course Goals and Learning Outcomes**

*This course is designed for political science majors. Student success in this course is dependent on an active engagement with course materials. Students will learn methods for reading gender and race alongside law and legal thinking through course assignments designed to complicate what constitutes “women” and “politics.”*

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CL01: Discuss and critically evaluate the history and historiography of women's participation in politics (as measured by assignments one and five).

CL02: Analyze and synthesize theoretical approaches to the study of race, gender, and the law and major debates on the status of women in political life (as measured by assignments two and three).

CL03: Describe the successes and failures of equal rights and due process approaches to democratic inclusion (as measured by assignments one and three).

CL04: Distinguish and work with primary and secondary source materials (as measured by assignment four).

CL05: Write at the upper-division level about difference and equality, diversity and multiculturalism, and justice and difference (as measured by assignments four and five).

### Department Learning Outcomes

The Department of Political Science has the following goals in mind for this course:

**Breadth** Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.

**Application** Students should be able to apply a variety of techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.

**Disciplinary methods** Student should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, have competence in systematic data gathering using library sources, government documents, and data available through electronic sources, should be able to evaluate research studies, and should be able to critically analyze and interpret influential political texts.

**Communication Skills** Students should master basic competencies in oral and written communication skills and be able to apply these skills in the context of political science. This means communicating effectively about politics and/or public administration, public policy, and law.

**Citizenship** Students should acquire an understanding of the role of the citizen in local, state, national, and global contexts and appreciate the importance of lifelong participation in political processes.

### Required Texts/Readings

#### Textbooks

- Angela Y. Davis, *Women, Race, and Class*
- Carole R. McCann & Seung-Kyung Kim, *Feminist Theory Reader* (**4<sup>th</sup> edition**)
- Other readings posted on Canvas as indicated in course reading schedule

### Course Requirements, Assignments, Grading Policy

Assignments One and Two: Midterm Exams	40% of course grade (2 x 20%)
Assignment Three: Book/Film Review (requires the submission of a draft worth 10% and a final draft worth 20%)	30% of course grade
Assignment Four: Quote Analysis Assignments	10% of course grade (2 x 5%)
Assignment Five: Final Exam	20% of course grade

### Assignments One and Two: Midterm Exams

The first midterm exam is comprised of multiple choice and quote analysis questions. Students will also compose short essays in which they identify the author of a quote and analyze the content. On the second exam, students will be given a set of terms or concepts from the class. For each, students will need to identify or define the term, address any relevant readings, and describe the significance of the term in relation to the themes of the class. A review session will be held just before each exam.

### Assignment Three: Book Review

Students will write a review of *Women, Race, and Class* or one of the films from the course and develop a review of publishable quality. The essay should be a polished account of the text's major themes, one that is both descriptive and analytical. We will discuss guidelines for success in class with handouts and examples. Students are required to submit a draft to the instructor for feedback prior to submitting the final review.

### Assignment Four: Quote Analysis Assignments

Students will select (twice during the semester) a favorite quote from two readings and unpack and analyze the quotes in relation to the larger themes of the class. Students should write out an informal account of their contribution before coming to class.

### Assignment Five: Final Exam

The take-home final exam (3 short essays; 2-3 pages each), is cumulative & comprehensive.

### **Grading Policy**

**No late papers will be accepted.**

97-100	A+	93-96	A	90-92	A-
87-89	B+	83-86	B	80-82	B-
77-79	C+	73-76	C	70-72	C-
63-69	D	60-62	D-	<60	F

### **Classroom Protocol**

*Students should attend all class meetings and participate in class exercises, assignments and discussions. During class time, we work collectively to read and think critically about the field of women and politics. Your cell phone should not ring. You should not text under the desk. You do not need your computer. Please bring your course materials, a notebook, and a pen to class. If you must enter late, please be prepared to enter quietly and without disruption. Please be respectful of your colleagues during class discussions and exams.*

### **University Policies and Academic integrity**

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>.

*Please review the information about university policies on plagiarism contained above, which may result in a failing grade. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development.*

## Political Science 109: Women and Politics, Spring 2017

*The schedule is subject to change with fair notice.*

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Monday, January 30	Course Opening
1	Wednesday, February 1	<p><u>The Study of Women &amp; Politics: An Introduction</u>            Film Screening: <i>MAKERS: Women in Politics</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kelly Dittmar, “The Gender Gap” (available at <a href="http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/resources/closerlook_gender-gap-07-15-14.pdf">http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/resources/closerlook_gender-gap-07-15-14.pdf</a>)</li> <li>• Susan J. Carroll, “Representing Women” (available at <a href="http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/resources/representingwomen.pdf">http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/resources/representingwomen.pdf</a>)</li> </ul>
2	Monday, February 6	<p><u>Women and Power in Historical Context</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linda Nicholson, “Feminism in ‘Waves’: Useful Metaphor or Not”? (Chapter 3 of <i>Feminist Theory Reader</i>—hereafter <i>FTR</i>)</li> <li>• Becky Thompson, “Multiracial Feminism: Recasting the Chronology of Second Wave Feminism” (CH 4 of <i>FTR</i>)</li> <li>• Michelle V. Rowley, “The Idea of Ancestry: Of Feminist Genealogies and Many Other Things” (CH 7 of <i>FTR</i>)</li> </ul>
2	Wednesday, February 8	<p><u>Coverture, Rights-Making, and Feminist Jurisprudence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angela P. Harris, “Race and Essentialism in Feminist Legal Theory” (in Wing, <i>Critical Race Feminism</i>, pp. 34-41)</li> <li>• Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw, “Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex” (in Wing, <i>Critical Race Feminism</i>, pp. 23-33)</li> <li>• Patricia J. Williams, “Alchemical Notes: Reconstructing Ideals from Deconstructed Rights” (in Weisberg, <i>Feminist Legal Theory: Foundations</i>, pp. 496-506)</li> </ul>
3	Monday, February 13	<p><u>Intersectionality and Inequality: Women and Difference</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Introduction to Section II: Theorizing Intersecting Identities (pages 163-179 of <i>FTR</i>)</li> <li>• Bonnie Thornton Dill and Ruth Enid Zambrana, “Critical Thinking about Inequality” (CH 17 of <i>FTR</i>)</li> <li>• Jennifer C. Nash, “Re-Thinking Intersectionality” (CH 18 of <i>FTR</i>)</li> <li>• Audre Lorde, “Age, Race, Class, &amp; Sex” (CANVAS)</li> </ul>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
3	Wednesday, February 15	<u>The Politics of Equality and the ERA</u> Film Screening: <i>MAKERS: Women Who Made America, Part II</i>
4	Monday, February 20	<u>Equality and Difference in Anti-Discrimination Law</u> Joan Scott, "Deconstructing Equality-versus-Difference" (CANVAS)
4	Wednesday, February 22	<u>Feminism and Security: "Women's Rights Are Human Rights"</u> Amrita Basu, "Globalization of the Local/Localization of the Global" (CH 5 of <i>FTR</i> )
5	Monday, February 27	<u>The Status of Women in International Law</u> Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women & CEDAW Ratification (PDFs)
5	Wednesday, March 1	<u>International and Global Frameworks of Women's Rights</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leti Volpp, "Feminism versus Multiculturalism" (CANVAS)</li> <li>• Sarah Deer, "Federal Indian Law and Violent Crime" (CANVAS)</li> <li>• Chandra Talpade Mohanty, "'Under Western Eyes' Revisited" (CH 36 of <i>FTR</i>)</li> </ul>
6	Monday, March 6	<b>Exam Review</b>
6	Wednesday, March 8	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
7	Monday, March 13	<u>Suffrage &amp; Gendered Violence in Political Cartoons</u> Angela Y. Davis, "Public Imprisonment and Private Violence: Reflections on the Hidden Punishment of Women" (CANVAS)
7	Wednesday, March 15	No class. Instructor at conference.
8	Monday, March 20	<u>The Politics of Violence Against Women</u> Lucinda Joy Peach, "Is Violence Male? The Law, Gender, and Violence" (CANVAS)
8	Wednesday, March 22	<u>Women and State Violence</u> Incite! Critical Resistance Statement on Gender Violence and the Prison Industrial Complex (CANVAS)
9	Monday, March 27	No class. Spring Recess.
9	Wednesday, March 29	No class. Spring Recess.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
10	Monday, April 3	<u>Guideposts:</u> <b>Exam Review</b> Book/Film Review Discussion (handouts distributed in class) Quote Analysis Discussion
10	Wednesday, April 5	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
11	Monday, April 10	<u>Historiography and Feminist Social Movements</u> Film Screening: <i>Mountains That Take Wing</i>
11	Wednesday, April 12	Film Screening and Discussion: <i>Mountains That Take Wing</i>
12	Monday, April 17	Lecture on Angela Y. Davis, <i>Women, Race, and Class</i>
12	Wednesday, April 19	Quote Analysis: Angela Y. Davis, <i>Women, Race, and Class</i>
13	Monday, April 24	Quote Analysis: Angela Y. Davis, <i>Women, Race, and Class</i>
13	Wednesday, April 26	<u>Women and Social Movements</u> Chela Sandoval, "U.S. Third World Feminism" (CANVAS)
14	Monday, May 1	<b>Book/Film Review Due</b> Film Screening: <i>Salt of the Earth</i>
14	Wednesday, May 3	Film Screening: <i>Salt of the Earth</i>
15	Monday, May 8	Quote Analysis (reading of your choice)
15	Wednesday, May 10	Quote Analysis (reading of your choice)
16	Monday, May 15	<b>Final Book Review Due</b> <b>Final Exam Essay Prompts Distributed</b> Course Closing

**Final Exam: Monday, May 22 12:15-2:30**