Women and Political Vocation
GOVT 580.H01

Summer 2004
Tuesday and Thursday
5:30-8:40 PM
Ward 304

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Course Overview

This class is designed to explore the significance of gender in political vocations. The political jobs we will focus on include legislators, bureaucrats, party and campaign staff, political consultants, congressional staff and lobbyists and political journalists. In each vocation we will explore two major lines of inquiry. First, what is the history of women in each political job and what is their current level of activity in the profession. Through these questions we will examine the reasons why there are so few women in the different professions and steps that have been taken to increase the number of women working in politics. Second, we will discuss the significance of women working in politics with a focus on if and when they make a difference in their profession. This course is designed to have you start thinking more broadly about democracy and what a democratic government’s working apparatus must look like to guarantee representation and full participation of its citizenry. As a result, there are several readings that pay particular attention to the limited number of women of color working in political jobs in the United States government and the significance of their absence in policy output.

Required Reading

Course Packet


Requirements and Grading

Grades will be determined this way:

1. Class Participation 20%
2. Mid-Term 40%
3. Final 40%

Class Participation: You must come to class having read the requisite reading and be ready to discuss it with your colleagues. In many of the topics there are not solid answers to the questions that we are exploring and I expect everyone to participate in generating ideas about if and why it matters if women are working in political jobs.
Exams: There will be two exams in this course. The exams will include short answer questions as well as a choice of two or three longer essay questions. You will be prepped for these exams and the answers will be drawn directly from your reading and class discussion.

Session 1: June 29, 2004

**Introductions and Course Overview**

Session 2: July 1, 2004

**Gender and Political Vocation: Why should we study women in professional politics?**

Weber, Max. “Politics as a Vocation.”
http://www2.pfeiffer.edu/~lridener/DSS/Weber/polvoc.html

Chapter 2: Women in the Power Elite

Chapter 1: The “No Problem” Problem

Session 3: July 6, 2003

**Legislators – Why are there so few women? How do we increase the number of women serving in federal and state legislatures?**


Session 4: July 8, 2003
Legislators – What are the differences between men and women legislators?


Session 5: July 13, 2003

Bureaucrats – Representative Bureaucracy and the significance of women civil servants.


Chapter 1: Theoretical Underpinnings: Why Does the Social Background of Public Administrators Matter?


Session 6: July 15, 2003

Mid - Term

Campaigns and Elections

Session 7: July 20, 2003

Political Parties and Campaign Staffers


• I suggest you read as much as you can. It is an incredible story about being a woman of color working for a national political party.

Required: Chapters 12-16, pp. 203-295. Here she discusses the Gore Campaign – where she is the first African American and second woman to manage a Presidential Campaign.

Session 8: July 22, 2003

Political Consultants


Chapter 2 Political Consultants: Historical Origins and Methods
Chapter 7 Expert Assessment of Post Electoral Consulting


Public Policy
Session 9: July 27, 2003

Congressional Staffers


Chapter 4 Congressional Staff


Session 10: July 29, 2003

Lobbyists


Session 11: August 3, 2003

Political Journalists/Pundits


Chapter 5 The Political News Media


**Session 12: August 5, 2003**

**Final**