Please note: ONLY the syllabus material on the A2L course website should be considered up to date. This is a condensed version and will not be updated.

GENDER AND POLITICS
Winter 2021 (Term II)

Instructor: Dr. Karen Bird
Email: kbird@mcmaster.ca
Lectures: Asychronous lectures posted to A2L

Synchronous & Peer-Group Meeting Hours: Th 2:30-4:20pm, Fr 2:30-3:20pm

Office Hours: Fr 1:30-3:20pm

Contents

Note: COVID pandemic and hybrid online course format

This online course has a hybrid format. The bulk of the course will be delivered **asynchronously** with reading materials and pre-recorded lectures posted to A2L. Each asynchronous module has a short writing assignment. You must complete and submit 5 of 8 asynchronous assignments. This can be done on your own time, with each assignment due at the end date of the module. There are three weeks that involve **synchronous learning periods**. These modules also have reading materials, lectures and a short writing assignment, but in addition involve small group discussions, collaborative writing and peer-review. There are also some films and a guest talk that require synchronous participation. These synchronous elements take place on **Thursdays 2:30-4:20**. While you are not required to meet every week, please *reserve these times* so that you do not have conflicts that prevent you from completing this component of the course. Regardless of the module type, count on spending about 6-8 hours per week on this course.

I will hold **"drop-in" office hours on Fridays from 1:30-3:20** and am otherwise available by appointment.

Course Description

This course examines the roles that gender plays in people's lives in relation to politics, government, law and public policy. It draws principally from theories and scholarship in political science to consider how gender affects political phenomena, and the ways in which politics shapes gender.

Once upon a time, this course – and others like it at universities across Canada – was called "women in politics." It still focuses a lot on women and politics, and the main themes, approaches, and literature grow out of the longstanding field of women and politics. But since the late 1980s and 1990s, developments in feminist theory and practice have enabled scholars to recognize how nationality, race, class, sexuality, and ethnicity inform axes of gender differentiation. Even more recently, the scholarship has opened up to consider how gender classifications – and whether we (and others) understand ourselves as male or female or something else or neither – matter for how we think, act, and treat each other in politics, and for aspects of law and policy. One of the major take-aways from this shift is that it is important not to overgeneralize about men or women, transsexual people, gay people, heterosexual people, or anyone else as classified on bases of gender or sexuality. Each of these groups of people is heterogeneous in so many ways. We will be mindful of that heterogeneity throughout the course, and regularly look at research that highlights intersectionality.

Gender and politics scholarship cuts across all subfields in political science. In this course, we will alternate between a comparative perspective and a more situated examination gender and politics issues in Canada. The value of this combined comparative-Canadian approach is that it allows us to investigate and interrogate more closely the politics of gender in a case we already know, but to also consider how differences in certain factors – e.g., in cultures, political institutions, and stages of economic development – can alter

gendered outcomes and shape the lives of men and women (and others) differently across diverse political spaces. It helps us to answer questions like, for example, why Canada has been laggard in achieving parity in elected office, but a leader in recognition of LGBTQ+ rights, compared to other countries. Looked at from a reform-oriented perspective, a comparative-Canadian approach to the politics of gender helps us see the social and political contingencies of gender identities and gender oppression, and envision effective strategies of policy reform.

To organize our examination of these issues, the course is divided thematically into three parts. The first theme includes theoretical texts that introduce us to basic ideas about gender, sexuality, patriarchy and politics. The second considers gender and intersectionality in the formal sphere of electoral and legislative politics. The third part looks at the role of gender and sexuality in mass-level political action and social movements. Across these themes, we will draw on scholarly research, selected films, and recent news and public commentary to gain deeper insights.

Course Objectives
What will students get out of this course? I have designed it with the intent to help you:
- understand several of the major theories and research on the relationship of gender and sexuality to the state, citizenship, political attitudes and behavior, political leadership, and public policy and law;
- develop your ability to analyze issues of gender, sexuality and politics, drawing on findings of high quality research, and reputable web-based resources;
- enable you to discuss these issues that often touch people in personal and highly charged ways, in civil, analytical and evidence-based fashion;
- enhance your reading, writing and oral communication skills;
- practice good time management and self-organization skills, including the ability to balance and complete multiple tasks, as is expected in professional careers.

Required Materials and Texts
Jacquetta Newman, Linda A. White and Tammy Findlay. 2020. *Women, Politics & Public Policy: The Political Struggles of Canadian Women*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press. You are advised to rent as an e-book here, or you may purchase as a hard copy via online distributors.

All other required readings will be made available on A2L.

Course Evaluation – Overview & Policies
There are two types of learning modules, each with a specific set of assignments, plus a final take-home exam.

Asynchronous: 5 of 7 short writing assignments, each worth 10%. Due by the end of the selected module, which is always a Friday at 11:59pm.

Synchronous: 3 learning modules, each involving scaffolded parts: a) reading and pre-recorded lecture materials; b) short written assignment; c) collaborative group work and discussion; and d) peer evaluation. **Each module is worth 10%.** These are scheduled for Module/Week 2 (Jan 16-22), 5 (Feb 6-12), and 8-9 (2-week module running Mar 6-19).

Final exam, worth 20%: distributed on April 14th (posted to A2L by noon), completed exams due on April 19th by 11:59pm

All writing assignments are to be submitted via the "Assessments/Assignments" submission folder in A2L, by the deadline, in Word (.doc, .docx) or .pdf format. Please use 12-point font, single-spaced, and include your word count.

Papers that are submitted late will not be graded. Due dates are indicated within each module in A2L, and on the syllabus as well.

For detailed format and grading rubric, see the Appendix to this syllabus.

Course Evaluation – Assignment Details

1. Asynchronous: 5 short writing assignments (2 pages), each worth 10%
- The course contains a series of asynchronous modules distributed across the 12 weeks of the semester. Students must complete and submit 5 short papers (each 2 pages, 800-1000 word max.) across these modules. **For asynchronous modules, the writing assignment is due by Friday at 11:59 p.m.**
- Each module has a start date of Saturday 9 a.m., and an end date of Friday at 11:59 p.m. Modules will open a day before the "start date" (Friday at 9 a.m.) as a convenience for those who might complete their prior week's work early. Reminders on the due dates are posted within each module, and are indicated in the syllabus (*below, in blue*) as well.
- These writing assignments will be graded by the instructor and/or TA.
- In weeks that you do not complete the writing assignment, you will still want to do the content assignment (readings, film, short lectures) in order to keep up and understand the material.
- If you wish to complete more than 5 writing assignments, you may. At the end of the term, the lowest grades will be dropped and the highest grades counted.

2. Synchronous: 3 writing assignments & peer learning modules, each 10%
- The course also contains a synchronous component, comprised of 3 learning modules. For this component, you will be randomly assigned to a peer-learning group (approximately 5 students per group). Your group will be the same for the entire semester.
- **There will be an initial class meeting at 2:30 on Thursday, Jan 14** during which you will meet the Instructor and the other members of your peer-learning group. Please come to that meeting having read the syllabus in its entirety.
- After this initial meeting, you will engage with your peer-learning group in the **synchronous learning modules, on Thursdays of Weeks 2, 5 and 8-9.** (In

addition, note there are two films which will be shown synchronously on Thursdays during Weeks 6 and 12, as indicated below).

- Synchronous modules have a start date of Saturday 9 a.m., and an end date of Friday at 11:59 p.m. (they will open a day before the "start date", Friday at 9 a.m., as a convenience). There are scaffolded tasks to complete within that window:
  a) Reading and pre-recorded lecture materials
  b) Short writing assignments and collaborative work
    - **Module/Weeks 2 & 5:** individual papers (2 pages, 800-1000 words max.), to be submitted via the "Assessments/Assignments" submission folder by **Wednesday at 11:59 p.m.**
    - **Module/Weeks 8-9:** group paper on a selected female leader (5 pages, 2500 words max.). Your group will meet with Dr. Bird during virtual classroom time Wk 8; paper due Wk 9 by **Friday at 11:59 p.m.**
  c) **Peer-learning meetings** to be held during virtual class time Thursday;
  d) **PeerMark evaluation** (Wks 2 & 5) or **self-assessment** (Wks 8-9) due by the module end date of **Friday at 11:59 p.m.** In the PeerMark evaluation, you are grading your peer's paper; a rubric is attached to this syllabus.
- Each synchronous module requires full participation to work, hence students who do not complete all four parts (a-d) will earn a zero score for that module.
- If you are not able to complete the Week 2 or 5 module, you have the option of substituting an asynchronous module. Substitution is allowed only once. The group paper (Wks 8-9) cannot be substituted other than in exceptional circumstances. You must contact me directly by *Jan. 20* to request an exception.
- The 3 synchronous modules are as follows:

1) **Module/Week 2** (opens Sat., Jan 16; closes Fri., Jan 22)
   o Do the readings, prepare and submit your 2-page writing assignment by Wed., Jan. 20th at 11:59 p.m.
   o Meet in your peer-learning group during virtual class time (Thursday 2:30). Each group will go to a breakout room to discuss the module theme, drawing from the questions you and your peers have posed in your papers. Expect to meet and discuss for at least 40 minutes.
   o Read and complete a peer evaluation. Papers will be distributed using the "PeerMark" function on A2L. Peer evaluations must be submitted by Friday at 11:59 p.m.

2) **Module/Week 5** (opens Sat., Feb 6; closes Fri., Feb 12)
   o This module involves a **guest speaker, scheduled Thursday, Feb. 11th at 2:30 p.m.**, but the format is otherwise the same. In advance of our guest's talk, review the assigned readings, and prepare and submit your 2-page writing assignment by Wed., Feb. 10th at 11:59 p.m.
   o ***Attend the guest talk on Thursday at 2:30 p.m.*** Then meet in your peer-learning group, immediately following the guest talk, or on Friday (2:30-3:20).

> Discuss in your breakout room, drawing from the questions you and your peers have posed in your papers. Plan on this running at least 40 minutes.
> - o Read and complete a peer evaluation by Friday at 11:59 p.m.

3) **Module/Week 8-9** (opens Sat., Mar 6; closes Fri., Mar 19)
   - o In this 2-week module, you will work collectively on a group paper.
   - o You must meet in your peer-learning group on Wk 8 Thursday (2:30-4:20); the meeting will include a check-in with Dr. Bird to discuss your selected leader.
   - o Work on your paper: circulate drafts of your individual parts and meet as needed to review and discuss revisions.
   - o Submit final paper and self-assessment (different than PeerMark) by Friday at 11:59 p.m.

3. Final take home exam, worth 20%

There will be a final take-home exam for this course, worth 20% of your grade. The exam will include short-answer questions and one essay question. The exam will be **distributed on April 14th** (posted to A2L by 9 a.m.) **and completed exams are due on April 19th by 11:59pm** (submitted to A2L). The exam will draw on all course materials (lectures, videos, readings), and you may consult these materials when writing your answers.

Course at a glance

Week	Theme
1	Introduction and course overview
2	What is sex/gender? What is politics? What is patriarchy?
3	Debates in feminist theory
4	Gender, politics and the state
5	Voters, parties, candidates and elections – Considering Canada
	Reading Week
6	Political intersectionality in campaign and legislative behaviour
7	The rules of the game – Electoral systems & gender quotas
8	Women's political leadership – Getting to & exercising power
9	Cont'd from Week 8
10	Engendering development
11	Women's movements and feminist organizing
12	Gender, peace and human security

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments
This course uses ATL for submission and return of some assignments. Others are to be submitted as hard copies in class. Please do not e-mail your assignments to me.

Grades
Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

Late Assignments
The expectation for this course is that all components will be completed. Requests for extensions should be submitted through the MSAF process. In the event of an approved extension for either the Female Leader Essay OR the Final Research Paper, that assignment will be due one week from the original due date. Otherwise, late papers may be subject to a one letter grade per day deduction. For example, an A- paper received one day late may be reduced to a B+.

Certain assignments that are part of collaborative exercises will not be graded if they are submitted late. This includes the one-page summary of your expert group (Week 9), and the draft version of your final paper (Week 12). Also, weekly field logs will not be accepted after the due date. You have a choice of due dates on this assignment, so plan accordingly. No assignments will be accepted after Dec. 13.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness
Regular attendance is expected of all students. Much of your participation grade will be based on attendance and discussion, especially during the Thursday sessions. No 'make-up' assignments will be provided, however there will be opportunities to participate via A2L and your submissions and engagement there will be noted.

Courses with an On-Line Element

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Online Proctoring

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

Copyright and Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office *normally within 10 working days* of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#), located at https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures- guidelines/

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will

be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities policy.

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.