Welcome to Women and Politics! This course is designed to give students the opportunity to analyze the role of women in current American politics – their electoral participation, office seeking, and political beliefs and policy issues that have special relevance to women. The course will trace the history of American women’s political involvement and the historical trajectory of gender-related policy from the mid-nineteenth century to today. Please be sure that you have satisfied the University’s prerequisites for enrollment.

Course Objectives: By the end of the semester, each student should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the past and present impediments to full participation and representation for women
- Identify female political leaders throughout US history and engage in critical analysis of their contributions
- Recognize the differences in male and female priorities and approaches to public policy
- Discuss public attitudes toward women in various roles as public policy makers
- Demonstrate a basic appreciation of the variety, quality and intensity of female participation in politics

I. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Required Text:

Women and Politics: Paths to Political Power and Political Influence
Edition No. 3
Dolan/Deckman/Swers
Longman Publishing
Course assignments will be drawn from the required text and supplemental materials. You are responsible for all materials assigned. Be prepared to share a critical analysis of the readings in class.

II. **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken each class. If you are ill or have a family emergency, and cannot attend class, please contact the assigned TA (cc to me) via e-mail as soon as possible. You will not be penalized for an excused absence, but you may be tested on material you missed, so be sure to keep up with the coursework.

III. **EXAMS GRADES**

There will be a take-home midterm that will cover material from the lectures and required text readings. **This exam will be worth 30% of your grade.** There will be 2 reaction papers (3 pages typed) that will cover material from supplemental videos and/or guest speakers. **This will account for 20% of your grade. Class participation and attendance will account for 10% of your grade.** There will be NO final exam. HOWEVER, you will have the option of doing either of the following assignments for your final project:

1. Form a group of no more (or less) than 4 students to develop “A Woman’s Campaign Strategy for Elected Office.” This assignment will require you to select a female candidate running for office in November 2016 (not presidential) and develop a full campaign strategy, including campaign materials, with an understanding of the topics covered in class reflected in your materials. A typed ten page report must be submitted with any support materials you develop. Additional information will be provided in class.

2. Select a reading from list below and prepare ten page typed report including summary, reflection and analysis of material. This will require additional research and citations/bibliography.


   **This assignment accounts for 40% of your grade and is due on the last day of class.**

IV. **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION STATEMENT**

Email and especially email sent via Blackboard (http://blackboard.stonybrook.edu) is one of the ways the faculty officially communicates with you for this course. It is your responsibility to
make sure that you read your email in your official University email account. For most students that is Google Apps for Education (http://www.stonybrook.edu/mycloud), but you may verify your official Electronic Post Office (EPO) address at http://it.stonybrook.edu/help/kb/checking-or-changing-your-mail-forwarding-address-in-the-e po.

If you choose to forward your official University email to another off-campus account, faculty is not responsible for any undeliverable messages to your alternative personal accounts. You can set up Google Mail forwarding using these DoIT-provided instructions found at http://it.stonybrook.edu/help/kb/setting-up-mail-forwarding-in-google-mail. If you need technical assistance, please contact Client Support at (631) 632-9800 or supportteam@stonybrook.edu.

BLACKBOARD SYSTEM: Blackboard will allow students to access course videos and readings. The Blackboard system is available from any computer with access to the Internet. The Blackboard address is http://blackboard.stonybrook.edu Logging into Blackboard requires a NET ID and a Password. You can check (or change) your Net ID by logging into the SOLAR system and entering the “Security and Personal Data” Folder. Initially the password is the SOLAR ID number. This should be changed for security purposes. For additional assistance in using Blackboard, see the student consultants in the Main Library SINC site (S1460 Library).

V. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty is required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/

VI. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, room128, (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations, if any, are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

VII. CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn.
VI. ASSIGNMENTS: Note that each reading assignment is to be completed prior to the designated class date.

January 26  Introduction and Syllabi Review; Makers.com: Women in Politics (in class viewing and discussion)

February 2  Read Chapter One/Two: Women’s Paths to Power; Women in Social Groups, Interest Groups and the Political Parties

February 9  Read Chapter Three: The Gender Gap in Elections and Public Opinion

February 16  Read Chapter 4: Gender and the Decision to Run for Office.
1st Reaction Paper Due C-Span Video Library: “Media Coverage of America’s First Ladies”

March 1  Read Chapter 5: Women on the Campaign Trail
Reaction Paper 2 assignment will be discussed in class.

March 8  Read Chapter 6: Women in Local Politics and Government
TAKE-HOME MIDTERM WILL BE DISCUSSED AND POSTED ON BLACKBOARD: Due via Safe-Assign by Friday, March 11 @ 5 pm

March 22  Read Chapter 7: Women in Congress and State Legislatures

March 29  Women in Congress and State Legislatures cont’d

April 5  Read Chapter 8: Women in the Executive Branch

April 12  Women in the Executive Branch cont’d

April 19  Guest Speakers***

April 26  Read Chapter 9: Women in the Judiciary; Reaction Paper 2 Due (guest speakers)

May 3  Women in the Judiciary cont’d. Final Project/Paper Due & Discussion.

***This schedule is subject to change based on availability of guest speakers.