

Women and the Legislative Process

WS 396

Fall 2007

Tues and Thurs 1:00-2:20, 403 Summerfield

Dr. Barbara W. Ballard

Office Location: Dole Institute of Politics

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Women and the Legislative Process examines current and historical roles and impacts of women involved in legislatures. We will explore what difference women make when they are public officials. We will meet with local women legislators, lobbyists and political advocates. In the process you will learn how to analyze issues, assess power, lobby, and organize at the grassroots. The course is designed to prepare you for an optional legislative internship in the spring.

Course Requirements

<u>Course Requirements</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Points</u>
Participation	Fall Semester	30
Women in Legislature Essay Due	October 9	10
Campaigns Essay Due	November 1	10
Nine and Counting Paper Due	November 20	10
Final	December 14	40
Legislative Project Due	December 6	30
Legislative Project Presentations	December 14	10

(Class Presentations 1-3 PM, Dole Institute)

Required Readings

The Impact of Women in Public Office. Susan J. Carroll, Editor. 2001.

Nine and Counting: The Women of the Senate. Catherine Whitney. 2000.

Communicating Politics: Engaging the Public in Democratic Life. Eds. Mitchell McKinney, Lynda Kaid, Dianne Bystrom, and Diana Carlin. 2005.

The Status of Women in Kansas 2002 will be provided for you in class.

You will be directed to several articles available to you through the KU library website.

To access the journal articles marked JSTOR, go to the KU Libraries Website www.ku.edu/libraries, select “data bases” then enter JSTOR (you will be prompted to log in). On the JSTOR website enter the first few words of the article’s title under “keywords.”

To access the journal articles marked W&P, go to the KU libraries website, choose e-journals and enter “Women and Politics.” Choose the appropriate volume.

Assignment Descriptions

Women in Legislature Essay, Due Oct. 9 at beginning of class

2-3 page paper (typed, double spaced) drawing on at least two of the chapters from this section. Why is it important for women to be involved in the legislative process? More specific instructions will be given in class.

Campaigns Essay, Due Nov. 1 at beginning of class

2-3 page paper (typed, double spaced) drawing on at least two of the articles from this section. What can be done to increase women’s representation in legislatures? More specific instructions will be given in class.

Nine and Counting, Paper Due Nov. 20 at beginning of class.

2-3 page personal response paper (typed, double spaced). Which senator(s) did you find most compelling? Why?

Legislation Project, Due Dec. 6 at beginning of class

You will draft a piece of legislation, and write a 3-5 page paper (typed, double spaced) in support of your legislation. Examples of bills will be provided in class, along with more specific instructions.

Final

Legislation Presentation, Dec. 14 1-3pm at the Dole Institute for Politics

Each class member will prepare a three minute oral presentation of legislation project.

Disability Accommodations

If you have a disability which prevents you from fully demonstrating your abilities, please contact me as soon as possible so that we can discuss accommodations.

Extra Credit

Throughout the semester, I may provide opportunities to earn extra credit points. I urge you to take advantage of these opportunities.

Academic Misconduct Policy

In the case of academic misconduct, which includes but is not limited to cheating, fabrication and falsification, plagiarism, or facilitating misconduct, it is my policy to give a failing grade for the assignment in question. Additionally, the student's overall course grade will be lowered by one letter grade. If a student engages in academic misconduct a second time, she/he will receive an F for the course.

Special Visit with Governor Kathleen Sebelius

I will try to arrange a time for us to meet with Governor Sebelius and the women in the Governor's cabinet in October or November. We, as a class, will discuss a possible date and time.

