“In evaluating women who could be taken seriously as a potential president, we looked to the traditional feeder systems: statehouses, the Senate and the House. Four of the last five presidents are former governors, which suggests that voters value executive experience higher than a legislative record....Political analysts believe the first women president will be a “Sister Mister” having the body of a woman with the character traits of a man. More likely she will come from the moderate-to-conservative segment of the ideological spectrum.” Taken from Madam President by Eleanor Clift and Tom Brazaitis (2003), pages. x-xi.

In many ways the 2016 presidential election defies the expectations of political analysts. While the Democratic candidate does have executive experience as the US Secretary of State, she is also a former First Lady, US Senator, corporate lawyer and activist on issues primarily pertaining to women and children. The Republican candidate is a businessman with no personal experience in politics beyond campaign donations to both Republicans and Democrats. Both have high negatives as well as committed supporters.

Political races outside of the presidential are more typical. Thirteen women are running for the US Senate, hundreds for the US House of Representatives and two for governor of their state as representatives of the two major political parties. Several other races will be determined after the August 30 and September primaries. Each party considers the campaigns for the US Senate to be particularly important; Republicans hope to retain control of the Senate, while Democrats hope to gain control.

This semester we will focus primarily on the presidential election and the Senate and gubernatorial races in which women are running. These races have more visibility and can be analyzed more effectively than most down ballot races.

By the end of this class, you will be able to:
1. Identify issues that confront women running for public office;
2. Understand voting trends among women and the impact of these trends on elections; and
3. Evaluate what women have brought to the political sphere.

There is a normative bias in the course. It rests on an assumption that diversity in public office creates a more representative and effective government. Diversity includes not only gender, but race and ethnicity, stance in the political spectrum, age, sexual orientation and personal background.
**Philosophy:**
Learning is an active and interactive process. For this reason, the amount of time devoted to lectures will be as minimal as possible. UF undergraduates are among the best in the nation. You are all capable of doing this work very well. With that in mind, the class will focus heavily on in-depth discussion and analysis of the readings. Good preparation is a necessity for doing well in this course. We will talk in considerable detail about this in class, but do feel free to come by my office early and often to discuss any class assignments, readings or other issues.

**Requirements:**

1. Paper analyzing a woman’s campaign for the US Senate or Governor (30%)

2. An issue brief for either Secretary Clinton or a female Senate or gubernatorial candidate (30%)

3. Final analysis (take-home final exam) (30%)

4. Class participation (10%)

You will also have the option of taking a mid-term exam due October 5. If you choose this option the paper, issue brief and final exam will count for 25% of your grade and the mid-term will count for 15%. There will be no change in class participation.

Extra credit opportunities will be available, but some will only be announced in class.

Information on this course is on the university’s e-learning course management system (Canvas). The syllabus is located there as well as lecture notes and other information. Please check this regularly. I will also send some announcements out through the listserv e-mail. Note: I do not put grades on e-learning. For this reason, you will need to keep a record of your grades or retain your returned papers.

I expect assignments to be turned in on the due date. One letter grade per day (not class days) will be taken off for late papers unless you have obtained prior approval for a different date due to special circumstances or have a documented illness or family emergency. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have some type of special circumstance, but you must do so before the due date unless it is an emergency.

If 90% of life is just showing up, class participation is important. This grade depends not only on physical presence (this will be checked at the beginning of most classes), but also your active participation in class and your "class manners." This means being on time, refraining from side discussions and other distracting behavior and respecting each other’s viewpoints. We will be discussing controversial issues about which many people have strong opinions and beliefs so mutual respect is critical. **Phones and computers should not be out unless needed for a particular class.**

The easiest way to reach me is to come by during office hours or through e-mail. If my office hours are not convenient, I am always happy to set a time to meet, so please do not hesitate to ask me for a scheduled appointment. If you have any special needs, please let me know so that we can work together to make this class a success.
Required reading:

Center for the American Woman and Politics
Fact Sheets and Articles
http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/home

Political Parity
https://www.politicalparity.org/

Real Clear Politics
http://www.realclearpolitics.com/
Polling data by state and for the presidential election

FiveThirtyEight
http://fivethirtyeight.com/
Additional data on the elections

Other material as assigned

Course schedule: (given the volatility of this election season this is definitely subject to change as we go through the semester)

Part 1: Introduction
[The goal of this section is to provide a brief history of women in US politics and examine which women hold public offices today.]

August 22: First class

August 24: Declaration of Sentiments
http://ecssba.rutgers.edu/docs/seneca.html

August 26: Early political activity
Suffrage time line
http://womenshistory.about.com/od/suffrageoverview/a/suffrage_timeline.htm
True Womanhood
http://pinzler.com/ushistory/cultwo.html

August 29: Discussion about assignments and women in elected office history
http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/resources/can_histsum.pdf

August 31: Women in elected office today
Carroll and Fox: introduction and pages 190 - 194
CAWP “Women in Elective Office 2016”
http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/current-numbers
Part 2: Women and the presidency
[The goal of this section is to review the women who have run for president or vice president and the challenges they faced.]

September 2: Female candidates for president or vice president history
Carroll and Fox: chapter 2

September 5: Labor Day no class

September 7 – 9: What happened in 2012?
Carroll and Fox: chapter 1 and review chapter 2

September 12 - 14: Modern presidential political campaigns – how different is 2016?
Reading TBA

Part 3: Women as voters
[The goal of this section is to review and understand differences in voting between men and women, different generations and racial/ethnic groups.]

September 16 - 19: Impact of female voters
Carroll and Fox: chapter 4
CAWP Gender Gap “Voting Choices in Presidential Elections”
http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/ [listed under the heading “facts”]

September 21 - 23: Are there generational differences among female voters?
Carroll and Fox: chapter 3
CAWP Voter Turnout “Young Women and Politics”
http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/ [listed under the heading “facts”]

September 26: What about race and ethnicity?
CAWP Voter Turnout “Gender Differences in Voter Turnout”
http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/ [listed under the heading “facts”]

Part 4: What affects women’s decision to run for office?
[One of the reasons there are fewer women in office is that fewer women choose to run. The goal in the section is to examine past and present barriers to election.]

September 28 – 30: Geography, history and culture
Carroll and Fox: chapter 10 and pages 195 - 210
CAWP “See How Your State Fairs”
http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/state-by-state

October 3 – 7: Role of political parties
Carroll and Fox: chapter 8
Political Parity: “Clearing the Primary Hurdles: Republican Women and the GOP Gender Gap”
http://www.politicalparity.org/research/primary-hurdles/
October 10: Gender stereotypes
Project Implicit – Gender and Career relationship
https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/

October 12 - 17: Fundraising
Carroll and Fox: review pages 226-236
Political Parity: Money and Women Candidates
https://www.politicalparity.org/research-inventory/ [scroll down to article]
Women’s Campaign Fund
www.wcfonline.org

***October 12: Policy brief due***

October 14: Homecoming no class

October 19 – 24: Impact of the media
Carroll and Fox: chapter 9
Name it. Change it.
http://www.nameitchangeit.org/pages/about

October 26 – 28: Challenges for African-American women
Carroll and Fox: chapter 6
CAWP Women of Color “Facts on Women of Color in Office”
http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fact-sheets-women-color
(click on tab for black women in elective office)

October 31 – November 2: Challenges for Latinas
Carrol and Fox: chapter 5
CAWP Women of Color “Facts on Women of Color in Office”
http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fact-sheets-women-color
(click on tab for Latinas)

November 4: Knowledge gaps for Asian, Native American, Multiracial and LGBTQ women
CAWP Women of Color “Facts on Women of Color in Office”
http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fact-sheets-women-color
(click on Asian, Native American and Multiracial tabs)
Victory Fund
https://www.victoryfund.org/mission

November 7: Update on the presidential and Senate campaigns and class vote
Real Clear Politics
FiveThirtyEight

November 9: Outcome of the election discussion

November 11: Veteran’s Day no class
Part 5: Appointed officials and the impact of women in elected and appointed office
[Women who are appointed to executive offices or the court also play a key role in policy making]

November 14 – 18:
CAWP “Women in Presidential Cabinets”
http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/ [listed under the heading “facts” Federal Executive]
U.S. Supreme Court
http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/facts/levels_of_office/us_supreme_court

***November 18: Campaign paper due***

November 21: day off because you have earned it!

November 28 – December 2: Impact of women in office
Political Parity “The Impact of Women in Elected Office”
https://www.politicalparity.org/research-inventory/
(click on tab to read the full report)
Political Parity “Why Women”
https://www.politicalparity.org/why-women/

December 5: Most important issues facing women in politics class discussion

December 7: Last day of class

Final: Take home due December 12 at 12:30