DRAFT SYLLABUS
PA 5601 : Global Survey of Gender and Public Policy
Fall 2016
Class Meetings: Humphrey Center 35, Tuesdays 04:00PM - 06:45PM

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• What are the implications of providing paid sick days to poor, working women in the US – for themselves, their kids and the broader US economy?
• Does providing “daddy leave” to German fathers lead to more engaged fathers that also help out with the housework?
• Is providing a cash subsidy to poor moms in Bolivia if their daughters attend school empowering or patronizing?
• Why might the turn toward antiretroviral therapies for HIV-AIDS in Africa have negative implications for the economies of care in African families?
• What are the proven tactics for achieving policies that address gender inequalities?
• How can public policies address gender inequalities that vary as they intersect with race, class, disability and other factors?

These are just some of the questions that we will tackle in this course. Students will learn the tools of gender public policy analysis through examination of a range of policies from around the world. In the first section of the course, students will become familiar with the key concepts necessary for gender policy analysis including how gender operates as a social structure and its intersectional relationship to other social structures such as race, class and disability. The second section of the course focuses on specific policy areas where gender policy analysis has been applied. Exploration of specific policy areas allows students to become familiar with the some of the major findings in the field of gender and public policy as well as offers an opportunity to examine, learn from and critique how gender policy analyses have been carried out in a variety of contexts and topic areas. Given the global scope of the course and the fact that students come to the course with both local and global policy interests, we will consider policy issues and case studies from the US alongside and in comparison to issues and case studies from other countries. Specific policy areas covered this semester include equality policies, poverty policies, work/family reconciliation, health policy, climate change and international security. In section three, students will learn how gender is embedded in the politics of the policy making process, including in the specific behavior of political actors, the organization of institutions, and in the political discourses employed. This section of the course will allow students to assess what strategies have been more or less effective in promoting more gender-equitable public policies and the challenges of achieving policies attentive to intersectional inequalities.
This is the core, required course for the Gender and Public Policy concentration for Master of Public Policy students. For information more on this concentration see: https://www.hhh.umn.edu/masters-degrees/master-public-policy. You are also invited to talk to Professor Ewig about pursuing this concentration.

Learning Outcomes:

This course contributes to the general learning outcomes developed for Humphrey School students in the following specific ways (general HHH outcomes in plain text and specific course contributions in italics):

1. to lead and manage in governance across sectors, institutions, and diverse populations and cultures; by developing a better understanding of how diverse populations are differently affected by similar public policies
2. to participate in problem-solving, policy-making, and institutional and societal change in dynamic, uncertain environments; by better understanding the complexity of problems from an intersectional perspective and learning what efforts are most effective for promoting policy change that addresses gender inequalities
3. to analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve complex problems, and make decisions informed by quantitative, qualitative, economic, and other methods; by both learning concepts key to intersectional gender policy analysis and critically assessing the methods used in existing gender policy analyses
4. to articulate the essential role of public institutions in democratic societies and the importance of democratic values in delivery of public services; by examining the role of inclusion in policy making processes
5. to understand conceptions of the common good, acknowledge normative and ethical viewpoints, and promote social justice; by developing a clearer understanding of the gendered conceptual underpinnings of many public policies
6. to communicate and interact productively with individuals in diverse and changing cultures and communities; by gaining knowledge of policies developed in diverse local and global communities and their implications
7. to understand global interdependencies and their implications for governance, policy-making, and implementation; by comparing similar policy problems across diverse global contexts and considering their transnational dimensions

Class Assignments and Evaluation:

1) Electronic comments on readings (25%). You are required to post on Moodle a commentary on the readings 8 out of 12 possible class meetings that entail readings (this does not include week one). Commentaries should be no more than 600 words (two double-spaced pages). Commentaries should 1) understand descriptively the major points of each reading – that is, briefly recap the main theses or concepts presented; 2) critically engage with the readings (e.g. does the author present a convincing argument? Is the evidence sound? Is the methodology appropriate? Is there a blind spot in the author’s reasoning?); 3) relate the argument of at least
one reading to the other readings for the day or from previous class meetings (e.g. how does it build on or respond to the other readings?) OR relate to another policy instance— for example the same policy in another time or place or a similar pattern for a different policy; 4) **raise 3 effective questions** for discussion. These may include one *clarification* question (e.g. what is the definition of transgender?) and two or three *substantive* questions that can serve as the basis for discussion (e.g. is it empowering or patronizing to require poor mothers to educate their daughters in exchange for cash?). Commentaries should be posted by **11PM the Monday before class on Moodle**. You are encouraged to read your peers’ postings prior to coming to class on Tuesday.

2) **In-class participation (25%)**. This course will be run seminar-style. Discussion will be our primary mode of learning in our weekly meetings. For this to work well, students are expected to carefully read each of the assigned readings before class and come prepared to contribute to discussion. Your electronic comments will help you to prepare, but active participation goes beyond what you have prepared prior to class – including being ready to change your mind, considering alternative viewpoints, and helping to create a respectful environment where everyone feels they have something to contribute, no matter their background or ideological persuasion.

3) **Gender policy analysis in practice (20%)**. Find an example of a local organization (either based in or with a presence in Minnesota) that explicitly addresses gender and public policy (government, international or U.S. nonprofit, private sector). A list of some possible organizations can be found here: [http://www.mnwomen.org/current-members/](http://www.mnwomen.org/current-members/). This assignment requires you to attend at least one event related to the organization that you select: for example, a city council meeting, a speaker or conference, an advocacy event. Provide an overview of the organization and its work related to gender and public policy (1 page), a link to its website, your interpretation of the gender policy analysis strategy/approach used by the organization and your evaluation of this strategy (1-2 pages). Post your paper to the Moodle site by 5:00pm the day before the assignment due date as well as the website of the organization. A detailed assignment description will be provided.

4) **Gender policy research paper (30%)**. Conduct research on a specific policy issue and analyze its gender dimensions. Papers of 10-15 pages will be due and you will present your paper to the class during the last week of the semester. Papers will be in the form of a “policy brief” — outlining the policy problem with a focus on gender, offering a critical gender analysis of policy approaches, and making a case for a particular policy prescription. We will devote part of some class sessions to discussion of paper components and midterm presentation of paper proposals, as well as final class presentations and discussion. A detailed assignment description will be provided.

**Technology in Class**: Unless you have an emergency situation, please turn off cell phones during class. Laptops and similar devices are allowed. But please note that a growing body of research suggests that computer-assisted note-taking (and especially open browsers) can increase distractions, encourage rote transcription, and inhibit learning.
Attendance: It should go without saying that you are expected to attend every class. Attendance is especially important in classes like this, that meet only once a week, and which are small in size. We cover a lot of information each week and much of what we learn comes from face-to-face interactions. That said, I do understand that emergencies happen.

Course Readings: The course reading load will range from between 100 and 150 pages a week, generally four to five book chapters or journal articles per week. The course materials blend feminist theory with empirical case studies of policy implementation and formulation.


All other readings are on library electronic reserve, with direct links on the course Moodle site. You can access our Moodle site through your MyU portal (http://www.myu.umn.edu) or directly at: https://ay16.moodle.umn.edu/course/view.php?id=4317

Grading: This course uses the Humphrey School grade definitions, which are as follows:
- A = superior work
- B = satisfactory graduate-level work
- C = below Graduate School standards, but worthy of graduate credit
- D = unsatisfactory work; no graduate credit
- F = fail/no credit given
- S = satisfactory (grade of S must be level of C- or above)
- N = non-satisfactory/no credit given

Individual assignments will be graded on the following grading scale: A: 100-94 | A- 93-90 | B+ 89-87 | B 86-84 | B- 83-80 | C+ 79-77 | C 76-74 | C- 73-70 | D+ 69-67 | D 66-64 | D- 63-60 | F Below 60

Late Policy: Unless prior arrangements have been made with me, late work will be penalized by a three point deduction immediately, followed by an additional 3 points for every additional 48 hours late after the due date.

Student Honesty and Academic Integrity: Students are responsible for upholding and maintaining academic and professional honesty and integrity (Student Conduct Code, available at http://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf.) If you are unsure how to avoid plagiarism, cheating or academic misconduct, please see me and we can talk about ways to avoid these and succeed in this course.
**Universal Access:** As an instructor, it is important to me that all students are able to participate fully in this course. Please let me know if you need any special accommodations in the curriculum, instruction, or evaluation procedures in order for you to participate fully. The Disability Resource Center (https://diversity.umn.edu/disability/) might be a source of support to you. If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g., mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical), please contact the DRC at 612-626-1333 to arrange a confidential discussion regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations. You can also learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus at: http://www.mentalhealth.umn.edu.

**Course Schedule:**

1. **Key Concepts**

   *In this section of the course we will discuss key concepts that are foundational to the analysis of the relationship between gender and public policy. We will consider and discuss sometimes-competing definitions and conceptualizations - including of gender itself- and unpack how some concepts regularly employed in the policy world rely on gendered assumptions.*

**Week 1: (Sept 6) Organizational Meeting & Initial Discussion of Gender and Public Policy**


Food for thought for preliminary discussion of gender and public policy:


**Week 2: (Sept 13) Gender and Intersectionality**


**Week 3: (Sept 20) Equality, Dependency, Care**


**II. Case Studies of Gender and Public Policy**

In this section we will take the concepts we have worked through in previous weeks and use them to analyze how gender (and its intersections with race, class, disability and other forms of inequality) plays out in specific policy areas. As you prepare for class, here are some general questions to consider, but surely others will emerge as well. What is gendered and intersectional in these policies? Why might it matter? How do the policies either reinforce or transform traditional gender relations? How might the same policy have different implications for differently situated individuals, dependent on race, class, ability or national context? How might the cases inform how to improve policies moving forward? Be attentive to the range of methods employed by the researchers in this section – is the method appropriate? What does the method capture? What does it miss?

**Week 4: (Sept 27) Equality and Recognition**


**Week 5: (Oct 4) Poverty Policies**

Collins and Mayer 2010. *Both Hands Tied*. Chapters 1, 3 and 5.


**Week 6: (Oct 11) Work-Family Reconciliation Policies**


Collins and Mayer, *Both Hands Tied*, Chapter 4.


**Week 7: (Oct 18) No Class this Week. Week for Project Research** (Finish practice paper and launch research paper).

**Week 8: (Oct. 25) Health Policies**

*Gender Policy Analysis in Practice Paper due today in Class*


Watch before class and discuss: Professor Nancy Kendall’s TED Talk on Aids in Malawi: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUHJh8BUm2w

**Week 9: (Nov. 1) Climate Change**


**Week 10: (Nov. 8) Peacekeeping & Peacebuilding**


III. Gender and the Politics of the Policy Process

In this section of the course we explore what kinds of variables have been effective in pushing forward more gender-equitable policy reforms. What lessons can we draw from the existing research? How might these variables be different dependent on local and global contexts? Is it possible to promote policies that address intersectional inequalities?

Week 11: (Nov. 15) International Laws, National Constitutions, Policy Machineries


Week 12: (Nov. 22) Political Insiders: Congressional Members


**Week 13: (Nov. 29) Political Outsiders: Social Movements**


Debating a 5th World Conference on Women: defiance or defeatism? Anne Marie Goetz and Joanne Sandler 15 February 2015 [https://www.opendemocracy.net/5050/anne-marie-goetz-joanne-sandler/debating-5th-world-conference-on-women-defiance-or-defeatism](https://www.opendemocracy.net/5050/anne-marie-goetz-joanne-sandler/debating-5th-world-conference-on-women-defiance-or-defeatism)

**Week 14: (December 6) Frames and Discourses**


**Week 15: (December 13) In-Class Powerpoint Presentations of Final Papers**