

Political Science 2255G | Women in Political Life

Brescia University College, Western University

Winter Term – January to April 2019

Wednesdays, 6:30 to 9:30pm

Room 202, St. James Building

Dr. Kate Graham

Email: kgraha@uwo.ca

Office Hours: By appointment (please book through email)

Course Description

In 1918, (some) women in Canada gained the right to vote. Why is it then – more than a century later – that women remain underrepresented in all levels of Canadian politics? What are the realities of modern political life for women? Why is the exclusion of women a problem, not just for women but also for all Canadians? This course explores these and other questions by examining various dimensions of women's participation in Canadian politics at all levels. It examines topics including barriers faced by women during campaigns and while governing; public perceptions and media; and proposed policy options for increasing women's participation in politics. Importantly, this course employs a case study method. Students will be asked to select a single woman in politics to follow throughout the course, providing a collection of real world cases that will be collectively investigated to understand the modern realities and experiences of women in political life.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify the major barriers for women assuming positions of leadership at an elected level and possible actions to increase participation;
- Assess the past actions of women to increase their future representation in government and how this relates to progress in modern day society;
- Apply leadership concepts to women and politics; and
- Explore the role of gendered media treatment and examine how both women and men can collaborate toward greater equality in how the media affect women in politics.

Evaluation

Item	Weight	Deadline
<p>Short Biography</p> <p>Each student will select one woman in politics to follow closely throughout the course as a case study. Students must select the individual they wish to follow, and submit a brief biography, by Week 2.</p>	<p>10%</p>	<p>Due on Wednesday, January 16 (Week 2)</p>
<p>Weekly Journal Posts</p> <p>Students will follow the weekly activities (including debates, public events, social media, media reporting, etc.) of their selected woman in politics, and submit a brief (max. 250 words) summary and reflection each week on OWL.</p>	<p>25%</p>	<p>Weekly – due every Friday at 4pm from Weeks 3 through Week 11 on OWL</p>
<p>Class Presentation</p> <p>Each student will make a brief presentation to the class on their selected woman in politics, exploring a number of critical questions about the modern day experiences of women in political life.</p>	<p>25%</p>	<p>To be scheduled on Weeks 7, 8 and 9</p>
<p>Participation</p> <p>Students are expected to participate in class discussions, and will be evaluated based on their in-class contributions.</p>	<p>10%</p>	<p>Weekly</p> <p>Marks will be provided after the mid-point of the course (Week 6) and at the end (Week 12)</p>
<p>Final Paper</p> <p>Students will submit a 10-page essay on the topic of their choice. See details below.</p>	<p>30%</p>	<p>Due on Wednesday, April 3 (Week 12)</p>

Short Biography (10%) – *Due on Wednesday, January 12, 2019*

Each student will select one woman in politics to follow closely throughout the course. We interpret the words “in politics” broadly – this can include someone running for office, a current elected official such as a Mayor, Premier, Member of Parliament, Member of Provincial Parliament, Indigenous leader, an international leader, or otherwise. Considerations for selecting an individual to follow will be discussed in class on Week 1. Students must select the woman in politics they wish to follow, and submit a brief biography on the individual, by Week 2. This biography should not exceed two double-spaced pages, and should identify the following:

- A summary of the individual’s personal, professional and political background;
- A description of their current role; and
- A few sentences on why this woman was selected.

Weekly Journal Posts (25%) – *Due on Fridays at 4pm from Week 3 through Week 11*

Students will follow the weekly activities (including debates, public events, speeches, social media, media stories, etc.) of their selected woman in politics. The purpose of this assignment is to provide students with an opportunity to observe the modern realities for women in political life; and, as a class, to explore the diversity of these experiences. It is strongly recommended that students set up a Google alert on their selected woman’s name, and follow their social media accounts. From Week 3 to Week 11, students will submit a brief (max. 250 words) summary and reflection on OWL of their observations over the course of the past week. These observations can address one or more of these questions, or can be focused on a topic or idea of the students’ choosing:

- What policy initiatives, activities or events is the woman engaged in?
- How was the woman portrayed in the media this week?
- What is the woman communicating about on social media this week, and how are others reacting online?
- What themes from the readings this week resonate (or, do not resonate) with your observations of your selected woman in politics?

The weekly journal posts demonstrate that students are closely following their selected woman in politics. Students can be creative with the weekly posts: one week, the journal reflection could focus on a single tweet from the past week, or a photograph selected by the media. Another week, the journal reflection may be at a higher level to connect observations to the weekly readings. Be creative!

Class Presentation (25%) – *To be scheduled on Weeks 7, 8 and 9*

Each student will make a brief presentation to the class on their selected woman in politics. The schedule for these presentations will be established in class on Week 5, and the presentations will take place in class on Weeks 7, 8 and 9. The presentation is an opportunity for the student to introduce the rest of the class to their chosen case study, and engage in critical questions about the modern experiences of women in politics. Presentations should be approximately 10 minutes long and address the following topics, as well as any other topics deemed relevant by the student:

- A general introduction to the woman (informed by the Short Biography);
- A summary of the woman's activities, initiatives and communications over the past six weeks (informed by the weekly Journal Posts);
- Has this woman had to overcome barriers to reach her current role?
- To what extent have you observed gender to be a factor in how the woman is portrayed in the media, or treated online or by others?
- What can be learned about the modern day experience of women in politics, based on your observations of this particular woman as a case study?

Participation (10%) – *Weekly*

Students are expected to attend and participate in all class discussions, and will be evaluated based on their in-class contributions. Please notify Dr. Graham by email (kgraha@uwo.ca), in advance where possible, of any absences from class.

Final Paper (30%) – *Topic due on Wednesday, April 3, 2018*

Students will submit a 10-page essay on a topic of their choice, related to the modern experiences of women in political life. Essays should include at minimum of five academic references, which can include texts engaged during the course. Students can choose to address one of the questions below, or identify their own question. Selected essay topics will be identified (see instructions on OWL) by Week 6.

- Identify a specific political leadership role. Are women underrepresented in this role? What barriers may prevent women from reaching this position?
- Identify a specific barrier that may prevent women from entering politics or political life. What can be done to remove or mitigate this barrier?
- Identify a specific policy issue. Why is it important for women's voices to be heard on this issue? Is that happening? Why or why not?

Readings

Students are required to acquire one text (available through the Library, the Western Bookstore, or online via Indigo or Amazon):

Sylvia Bashevkin, *Women, Power & Politics: The Hidden Story of Canada's Unfinished Democracy* (Don Mills Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2009).

All remaining readings will be available online through OWL.

Weekly Outline

Date	Topic & Overview	Readings & Deadlines
Week 1 Wed., January 9 6:30 – 9:30pm	Welcome & Introductions Course Overview Class Exercise Great Canadian Women Quiz	None! 😊
Week 2 Wed., January 16 6:30 – 9:30pm	Women in Politics Overview History of Women in Politics Current Landscape – Representation of Women in Politics in 2018 Class Exercise	Bashevkin, <i>Women, Power & Politics</i> , Ch. 1 & 2. Short Biography Due (10%)
Week 3 Wed., January 23 6:30 – 9:30pm	Campaigning While Female Barriers to Entry Realities for Women Guest Speaker: City of London Ward 13 Councillor Arielle Kayabaga	Bashevkin, <i>Women, Power & Politics</i> , Ch. 3. Traister, “Campaigning While Female,” <i>Big Girls Don’t Cry</i> (New York: Free Press, 2010). Weekly Journal Post Due on Friday at 4pm on OWL

<p>Week 4 Wed., January 30 6:30 – 9:30pm</p>	<p>Does Gender Matter? Barriers in Governing Public Opinion Political Behaviour</p>	<p>Inter-Parliamentary Union, “Women and men in parliament: Competing concerns or complementary agendas?” Equality in Politics: A survey of women and men in parliaments (2008): 29-40; 71.</p> <p>Dolanand Swers, “Chapter 3, The gender gap in elections and public opinion,” <i>Women and Politics</i> (2011): 55-80.</p> <p>Weekly Journal Post Due on Friday at 4pm on OWL</p>
<p>Week 5 Wed., February 6 6:30 – 9:30pm</p>	<p>Women & Media Perceptions and Biases Video & Class Exercise</p> <p>Create schedule for student presentations</p>	<p>Bashevkin, <i>Women, Power & Politics</i>, Ch. 4.</p> <p>Tremblay and Trimble, <i>Women and Electoral Politics in Canada</i>, Ch. 12 & 13.</p> <p>Weekly Journal Post Due on Friday at 4pm on OWL</p>
<p>Week 6 Wed., February 13 6:30 – 9:30pm</p>	<p>Women & ‘Small P’ Politics Civic Activism Class Exercise</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Anne Marie Sanchez, Chair, Women & Politics London</p>	<p>Charlton and Barker, “Should women focus on small-p politics?” <i>Contemporary Political Issues</i>, Issue 10 (2008): 251-274.</p> <p>Traister, “My Sisters Are Here,” <i>Good and Mad</i> (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2018): 228-238.</p> <p>Weekly Journal Post Due on Friday at 4pm on OWL</p> <p>Essay Topic Due</p>

No Class – Reading Week (February 19-22)		
Week 7 Wed., February 27 6:30 – 9:30pm	The Modern Experiences of Women in Politics: Part I Student Presentations Debrief Discussion	No Readings – but students will be given list of women covered during this class to Google in advance; instructions on OWL Weekly Journal Post Due
Week 8 Wed., March 6 6:30 – 9:30pm	The Modern Experiences of Women in Politics: Part II Student Presentations Debrief Discussion	No Readings – but students will be given list of women covered during this class to Google in advance; instructions on OWL Weekly Journal Post Due
Week 9 Wed., March 13 6:30 – 9:30pm	The Modern Experiences of Women in Politics: Part III Student Presentations Debrief Discussion	No Readings – but students will be given list of women covered during this class to Google in advance; instructions on OWL Weekly Journal Post Due
Week 10 Wed., March 20 6:30 – 9:30pm	Moving Towards Solutions 6 Proposals (Bashevkin) Discussion & Debate	Bashevkin, <i>Women, Power & Politics</i> , Ch. 6. Weekly Journal Post Due
Week 11 Wed., March 27 6:30 – 9:30pm	Add Women, Change Politics Guest Speakers Panel: TBD	No Readings – preparation for panel discussion – see OWL *Last* Weekly Journal Post Due
Week 12 Wed., April 3 6:30 – 9:30pm	Women in Political Life Key Themes from Course Class Discussion Debrief & Feedback	No Readings Final Paper Due

2018-19 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation must be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation.

Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc.

Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty

Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded from: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

The student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is not adequate to support a request for academic accommodation.

The full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official sessional dates in the Academic Calendar, see the Sessional Dates tab at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/index.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment.

Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory (http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_68)

4. SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, she may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal. For information on academic appeals you can consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices.

6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from the Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

7. SUPPORT

Support Services

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>

The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Mental Health and Wellness

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about mental health and wellness at Brescia at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness at Western, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html, for information about how to obtain help for yourself or others.

Sexual Violence

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.