

Syllabus for UWXGS231

Sex, Power, and Public Policy

NOTE: This syllabus document contains the basic information of this course. The most current syllabus is available in the full course.

Course Description

This is a course on public policy, with a special focus on policy that addresses issues of sex and gender, including voting and political rights, social and economic equality, reproduction and healthcare, marriage and family, and sex and sexuality. We also examine general areas of public policy (such as education, work, and the economy) with an eye to the specific implications these policies have on sex and gender.

Prerequisite(s)

None

Course Outcomes

Upon completing this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the policy-making process, including the role history, policy communities, and the demand for equality and rights plays in this process.
- Explain the role the U.S. Constitution (in particular the 14th Amendment) and the Supreme Court play in establishing and guaranteeing equal protection under the law and the impact this has on public policy concerning sex and gender.
- Describe and think critically about the intersection of gender, race, class, and political participation and the impact this has on public policy.
- Describe and critically analyze the major trends in public policy that address sex, reproduction, healthcare, marriage, family, as well as the intersection of gender and work, education, and criminal justice policy.
- Explain how public policy dealing with sex and gender impacts the everyday lives of citizens and ways citizens can impact policy decision makers.

Course Requirements/Components

Lecture Quizzes (60 Points)

Each week you will watch a video lecture and take a timed five-question multiple-choice quiz. You have ten minutes to complete the quiz. These are low-stake quizzes designed to encourage you to watch the video lectures.

Reading Quizzes (130 Points)

Each week you will take a timed ten-question multiple-choice quizzes. You have twenty minutes to take the quiz. These quizzes are designed to measure your understanding of the readings for the week. The questions are derived from assigned readings, including assigned textbook chapters and articles, as well as written weekly commentary.

Discussions (220 Points)

You will engage in seven online discussions this semester. Online discussions are a great way to engage with others on a variety of fascinating topics. For general guidelines for discussions, see Guideline for Online Discussions.

Writing Assignments – Policy Papers (230 Points)

One of the learning outcomes for this course is to “Explain how public policy dealing with sex and gender impacts the everyday lives of citizens and ways citizens can impact policy decision makers.”

The Policy Paper writing assignments is designed to give you the opportunity to examine current policies that deal with issues of sex and gender and make recommendation for improvements. You will write two policy papers this semester. You will also submit a Preliminary Policy Paper worksheet prior to working on the paper.

Exams (360 Points)

There are two exams this semester, a midterm and a final exam. The exams are essay format, open-book, open notes. You will have several days to complete the exam once you receive the questions.

Grading

The following grading scale will be used to evaluate all course requirements and to determine your final grade:

Grade	Percentage Range	Points
A	93% - 100%	930-1000
A-	90% - 92%	900-929
B+	87% - 89%	870-899
B	83% - 86%	830-869
B-	80% - 82%	800-829
C+	77% - 79%	770-799
C	73% - 76%	730-769
C-	70% - 73%	700-729
D+	67% - 69%	670-699
D	60% - 66%	600-669
F	0 - 59%	0-

Assignment	Points
Lecture Quizzes (12 @ 5pts each)	60
Reading Quizzes (13 @ 10pts each)	130
Discussions (7 @ 30pts each + 1 @ 10pts)	220
Writing Assignments – Policy Papers (2 @ 15pts each + 2 @ 100pts each)	230
Exams	360
Total Points	1000