

WOMEN AND POLITICS IN AFRICA

Semester: Fall 2024

SECTIONS: AFS 4330 - CPO 4000, WST 4930

Professor: Dr. Agnes Ngoma Leslie

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Office: 435 Grinter Hall

Classroom: **MAT 0002**

M-7th period (1:55-2:45); W- 7th and 8th periods (1:55-3:50)

Office hours: TUESDAYS 2 – 4 P.M.

Course Description

This course explores the roles of African women in politics from traditional societies to the present. We will explore the roles that women have played in the political sphere and how they interact with political structures and how they mobilize themselves to impact the society, state, and legal systems at local, national, regional and international levels. The course will also examine how different political and social environments impact the participation of women in the political sphere. Thus, we will study women's participation in the political arena, their challenges and struggles for their rights and their impact on their countries' laws and policies. We will also analyze the role of individual activism and women's movements in different African countries. We will also examine women's participation as voters, politicians, activists and policy makers, the challenges they face in running for political office and how they influence politics once in elected office. Lastly, we will analyze African women's participation in the African region and international sphere.

Class Philosophy

This class will be taught as a colloquium. Each student will make at least one presentation and lead a class discussion. All students will be expected to do the readings and participate in the discussions.

Grading

Students' grades will be based on attendance and participation in class discussions, quizzes, term paper, tests and class presentations based on the readings and videos as follows:

- 1) Attendance = 10 % (any absence will require a suitable explanation);
- 2) Class participation = 10 %
- 3) Leading one class discussion and synthesizing the readings = 20 % (4 pages, typewritten);
- 4) Two quizzes based on readings presentations and videos = 40 %; (20% each)
- 5) Term paper on one of the assigned topics = 20 %.

Grade Point Scale:

A = 93 or above, A- = 90-92, B+ = 87-89, B = 83-86, B- = 80-82, C+ = 77-79, C= 74-76,

C- = 70-73, D+ = 67-69, D = 63-66, D- = 60-62, E= 59 or below

With the exception of the final paper, all writing assignments will be returned to students with comments before the final week of class. The professor reserves the right to make changes in order to meet the course objectives.

Assigned Readings

1. **Readings:** The Reading are in the Files on Canvas or in the assigned Texbook. "*Women and Politics in Africa*"
2. **Textbook:** Goetz, Anne Marie and Hassim, Shireen, *No Shortcuts to Power: African Women in Politics and Policy Making*. 2003. New York: Zed Books.

Suggested books:

1. Tripp, Aili Mari et. al. *African Women's Movements: Changing Political Landscapes*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

2. Tripp, Aili Mari. 2015. *Women and Power in Postconflict Africa*. New York: Cambridge University.

Disabilities

“Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting our [Get Started page](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.”

Weekly Readings

WEEK 1 – Classes begin Thursday, August 22nd

WEEK 2 – August 26. COURSE INTRODUCTION. Comparative Status of Women in Politics in Africa.

August 28 – CURRENT STATUS OF WOMEN IN AFRICA:
<http://democracyinafrica.org/women-politics-africa-> today/

What is African Feminism/s? How is it different from Western Feminism

Women’s fight against patriarchy in various ways,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fmA9uwh7Tb0>

WEEK 3

SEPTEMBER 2nd - LABOR DAY - NO CLASS

September 4th – AFRICAN FEMINISMS, WOMANISM

Contemporary African feminists: Gwendolyn Mikell: Introduction (In Week 3)

“African Feminisms:” Amina Amama (Reading in Week 3)

Amina Amama – *Talking about Feminism in Africa: Online:*

African feminists on the Continent: Videos

"Africa Unpacified: From Freedom Fighters to Feminists"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bYLgmtG1p4>

(Watch this video from 16 minutes)

WEEK 4

WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN TRADITIONAL SOCIETIES

WOMEN LEADERS IN TRADITIONAL SOCIETIES

September 9 - 1) Ifi Amadiume – *Women's Achievements in African Political Systems: Transforming Culture for 500 Years* (Readings on Canvas)

September 11 - 2) Asante Queen Mothers: A Study in Female Authority (In File 4)

WEEK 5

EXAMPLES OF WOMEN LEADERS

SEPTEMBER 16 - *Women Leaders in African History – Nzinga of Angola: About 1581 – 1663* (Readings).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=siCT-3I_GDE

SEPTEMBER 18

3) Yaa Asantewa of Asante: About 1840/60-1921 (Readings)

WEEK 6

THE LOSS OF WOMEN'S POLITICAL POWER

September 25th - 1) "Swaziland - Labotsibeni/Gwamile Mdluli: The Power Behind the Swazi Throne 1875-1925." Ginindza,Thoko. (Readings).

2) Holly Hanson – *Queen Mothers and Good Government in Buganda: The Loss of Women's Political Power in Nineteenth-Century East Africa*. (Readings) [/www.youtube.com/watch?v=jIf7M3UypNw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jIf7M3UypNw)

WEEK 7: WOMEN IN NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLES

FIRST QUIZ - SEPTEMBER 30th

OCTOBER 2nd - 1) Rosemary Mpuku Nyaywa – *Mama 'Unip' Julia*

'Chikamoneka': The Fearless 'Mad Africa Girl' (Readings).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42Z3Ob07Tyg> Dismantle the Commonwealth: Queen Elizabeth's Death Prompts Reckoning with Colonial Past in Africa

WATCH JULIA CHIKAMONEKA BELOW:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ytc_wKNzows (JULIA CHIKAMONEKA - LEADING LADIES - ZAMBIAN PODCAST).

OCTOBER 2nd - 1) *Asserting Women's Liberation within National Liberation: The Case of the South African Women's Movement.* (Readings).

2. Lillian Ngoyi - <https://womenshistorynetwork.org/black-history-month-lillian-masediba-ngoyi-1911-1980/>

Video – “*You have Struck A Rock,*” *Women in the Struggle Against Apartheid.*

<https://vimeo.com/ondemand/youhavestruckarock>

WEEK 8 - WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS AND ACTIVISM

OCTOBER 7 1) Mari Tripp et al. – *Historic Influences on Contemporary Women's Movements* (In file)

OCTOBER 9

1) *Women Building Peace: The Liberian Women's Movement* (Readings):

Liberia-PDF.pdf. (Readings in file) **Film below.**

Women's Peace Movement in Liberia – *Pray the Devil Back to Hell:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nj31ZquKjEo>

2) Wangari Maathai - Greenbelt Movement in Kenya – Maathai (Readings)

The Green Belt Movement: The Story of Wangari Maathai, Mia McDonald.

<https://www.yesmagazine.org/issue/media/2005/03/26/the-green-belt-movement-the-story-of-wangari-maathai>

WEEK 9 - WOMEN IN POST CONFLICT AFRICA

OCTOBER 14 - 1) Aili Mari Tripp: Introduction: Women and Power in Post conflict Africa

October 16 - 1) Women and Leadership in Post conflict Countries, Chapter 8.

2) Women's Rights in Postconflict Constitutions Chapter 7,

WEEK 10 – WOMEN AND ISLAM

October 21 WOMEN IN THE ARAB SPRING UPRISING

<https://carnegie-mec.org/2021/04/07/women-and-arab-uprisings-revolution-within-pub-84219>

<https://www.e-ir.info/2013/09/04/the-arab-spring-and-womens-rights-in-tunisia/>

"The Arab Spring and Women's Rights in Tunisia" (In File 7)

October 23 – Gender Parity - Senegal

1)Gender Parity:

1. <https://www.cmi.no/publications/file/6230-gender-parity-in-senegal-a-continuing-struggle.pdf> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters/2012/aug/16/senegal-headway-gender-equality> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.
3. <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2016/03/senegalese-women-message-world-160317105753105.html> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13510340701398352#preview>

Changing Politics from Below? Women Parliamentarians in Morocco

James N. Sater (In File).

WEEK 11 - WOMEN AND ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

OCTOBER 28 - 1) Sheila Meintjes and Mary Simons - *Why Electoral Systems Matter to Women*. (Readings).

October 30 – 1) *Women’s Rights in Botswana – Onnalena Doo Selolwane* (Readings).

2) “Quotas as a ‘Fast Track’ to Equal Representation for Women” Dahlerup, Drude and Lenita Freidenvall. 2005. *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, 7:1.

Week 12 - WOMEN IN THE POLITICAL SYSTEM

OCTOBER 28 - 1) Women’s Political Effectiveness: A Conceptual Framework, (Goetz. P. 29).

OCTOBER 30 1) Inonge Mbikusita Lewanika: “*Facing the Challenges of Politics*”. (Readings)

- Julie Ballington & Richard E. Matland - “Political Parties and Special Measures: Enhancing Women’s Participation in Electoral Processes”

[www.un.org.womenwatch/osagi/meetings/2004/EGMelectoral/EPS-](http://www.un.org.womenwatch/osagi/meetings/2004/EGMelectoral/EPS-BallingtonMatland.pdf)

[BallingtonMatland.pdf](http://www.un.org.womenwatch/osagi/meetings/2004/EGMelectoral/EPS-BallingtonMatland.pdf) (In readings: Week 9)

GUIDELINES ON WRITING THE TERM PAPER

WEEK 13 – DO NUMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

NOVEMBER 4 - 1) Case Study: Rwanda. Rwanda: Women Hold Up Half the Parliament (In Readings. File Week 11)

NOVEMBER 6– 1) “The Effect of Increased Women’s Representation in Parliament: The Case Of Rwanda. Devlin, Claire and Robert Elgie: <http://pa.oxfordjournals.org/content/61/2/237.full>

2) Gender, numbers and substance: Women parliamentarians and the ‘politics of presence’ in KwaZulu-Natal - Suzanne Francis;

muse.jhu.edu/

WEEK 14 – WOMEN’S EFFECTIVENESS

NOVEMBER 11 – NO CLASS. VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 13 - Abstracts – one page due.

1) Hassim, Shireen. “Representation, Participation and Democratic Effectiveness: Feminist Challenges to Representative Democracy in South Africa”, (Goetz p. 81=109)

2) ‘Parliament is another terrain of struggle ’: Women, men and Politics in South Africa, Gisela Geisler

NOVEMBER 18 - SECOND QUIZ

NOVEMBER 20 – AFRICAN WOMEN IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPHERES – EXAMPLES OF AFRICAN WOMEN

THANKSGIVING BREAK - NOVEMBER 25-30th

WEEK 15 – AFRICAN WOMEN IMPACT – DECEMBER 2nd and December 4th

Student presentations

WEEK 16

DECEMBER 11 – TERM PAPERS DUE AT 3:50. No class.

Please let me know ahead of time of any conflicts with your religious observation.

