



Women & Politics Institute

Certificate in Women, Policy, and Political Leadership



CORE WOMEN & POLITICS COURSES

Women and Politics

GOVT 482/682 analyzes women's political participation in the United States and examines the complex relationship between gender and political behavior. We focus on women's historic political roles, as well as the manner in which feminism and the women's movement altered these roles. We then turn to women's involvement in electoral politics as citizens, activists, candidates, and elected officials.

Women, Politics, and Public Policy

GOVT 483/683 analyzes issues that affect women, such as health care, welfare, educational equity, employment discrimination, and reproductive rights. Through the lens of the formal policy-making process, we examine agenda setting, legislation drafting, coalition building, and regulation enforcement.

Women and Political Leadership

GOVT 484/684 addresses why so few women hold public office, as well as what women's numeric under-representation implies for democratic governance and public policy outcomes. Analyzing the impact of women's political leadership, we focus on fundamental gender differences that affect the various steps of the political process.

Selected special-topic courses have included:

- The States & Women in Politics
- Women and Advocacy
- Politics of Reproductive Rights
- Women, Citizenship & the ERA
- Feminist Political Theory
- Gender and the Law
- Gender and Development

WPPL Certificate At A Glance

The Women & Politics Institute's Undergraduate, Graduate and Non-Degree Certificates in Women, Policy, and Political Leadership (WPPL) provides the knowledge and experience students need to become a leader in the field of politics, government, and the nonprofit sector.

Students earn the WPPL Certificate by completing 15 credit hours of course work, which includes semester-long courses, as well as intensive weekend courses.

Students in the WPPL programs gain research experience, build professional networks, develop their leadership skills, and advance their careers.

WPPL certificate complements many AU programs and has rolling admission.



WPI faculty and staff at a luncheon honoring 2018-2019 WPPL graduates.

Faculty

Under the leadership of Executive Director **Betsy Fischer Martin**, WPI faculty members are leading experts and practitioners in their fields, with research agendas focusing on women, politics, and public policy. Faculty research focuses on women and Congress, campaigns, executive office, the judiciary, feminist political theory, women's organizations, and regional studies of women in the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

WeLead Campaign Training Program

Now in its 17th year, our nonpartisan WeLead Program successfully positions young professional women to run for office or lead a political campaign. As part of our commitment to public service and gender equality in politics, we are proud to provide this valuable program to admitted participants at no cost.

Special Events

The Women & Politics Institute regularly hosts special events that complement our courses, academic work, and research. From networking events to book signings, panel discussions, and film screenings, these events take WPI students out of the classroom and into the most connected city in the world. Launched in summer 2020, our "Women on Wednesdays" series brings our WPI community together virtually with dynamic and thought-provoking women leaders, authors, scholars, journalists, and activists to discuss timely topics about empowering women in the political arena.

Partnerships

WPI partners with leading organizations and foundations to support the advancement of women in politics. In 2019, WPI along with the Barbara Lee Family Foundation launched Gender on the Ballot, a non-partisan project to examine and contextualize gender dynamics in elections.

Mission

The Women and Politics Institute provides practical and academic training to women that encourages them to become involved in the political process and facilitates research by faculty and students that enhances our understanding of the challenges and opportunities women face in the political arena.



QUESTIONS?

Contact

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