Beginning with their fearless Women's Suffrage movement to gain the right to vote in 1848— the date of the first women’s rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York— American women have engaged and been represented in public service. Nevertheless the movement that led to the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment on August 20, 1920, giving women the right to vote and subsequently to hold elected and appointed office has not led to equitable opportunities in the public sphere.

Although women make up the majority of our American population; are the majority of registered voters; and graduate college at higher rates than men, women are only a fraction of our elected and appointed officials and civic or labor leaders. This course will teach offerings which underscore "Leadership, Women and Public Service in American Cities" charting the course and exploring the experience of women and girls in public leadership.

We will examine the context of equity for women in the structural realities and gender attitudes within the American political, human rights and civic systems. Our students will connect with women leaders and advocates for women leaders; we will teach women’s historic and contemporary participation in public leadership. Utilizing political and Intersectional theory we will focus on trends, implications and impact of ethnicity, race, class, gender & religion on women in politics and public service.

Through coursework, guest speakers and hands-on activities, students will learn how they can be a participant in and influence the public agenda through: public service, politics and impacting public policy; accomplished by utilizing empirical data, situation analysis and social movements. The coursework will review leadership skills-set, career paths and analyze barriers that have traditionally kept women from achieving their political and leadership potential.

Nine questions guide the readings and discussions:

- How do groups gain political power?
- What are the strategies and mechanisms for excluding women from power?
- What is the status of the women’s movement?
- What entitlements, benefits and privileges does sexism give men?
- What privileges does racism create for white people?
- What is the connection between race, class and gender in the mainstream and power dynamics of our society?
- What are the current race, class and gender intersectional dynamic and political struggles in American cities?
- What is the impact of immigration on the leadership landscape in American Cities and in women’s leadership?
- What are the challenges and opportunities to advance leadership equity for women in American Cities?
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Required Texts  
- Tetrault, Lisa., “The Myth of Seneca Falls: Memory and The Women’s Suffrage (Gender and American Culture)”, (June 2014), The University of North Carolina Press;  

Additional Course Reading ~ (NYU Classes)  
- Dill, Bonnie Thornton, Zambrana, Ruth Enid, & Collins, Patricia Hill. “Emerging Intersections: Race, Class, and Gender in Theory, Policy, and Practice” (2009);  
- Black, Alida., “First Ladies of the United States of America: Biographies in Brief”, White House Historical Association (2013);  
- Giddings, Paula. J., “IDA: A Sword Among Lions” [Campaign Against Lynching], HarperCollins Publishers 1st edition (March 11, 2008);  
- Wright, Lawrence., “Thirteen Days in September: Carter, Begin, and Sadat at Camp David”, Knopf; (September 2014);  
- Sokol, Jason., “All Eyes Are Upon Us: Race and Politics from Boston to Brooklyn [The CONFLICTED Soul of the NORTHEAST]”, 2014;  
- Sotomayor, Sonia., “My Beloved World” Justice Sotomayor's autobiography Knopf (January 15, 2013);  
- Traister, Rebecca., “Big Girls Don't Cry: The Election that Changed Everything for American Women” Tantor Media (September 22, 2010);  
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- Eidelson, Josh., “Labor Leader Ai-jen Poo: We Are All Domestic Workers Now”, The Nation, April 5, 2013;
- Burnham, Linda., Activist and writer for women’s rights and racial justice analysis of “Lean In One Percent Feminism” -- Posted by Portside on March 26, 2013;

Suggested Reading
In addition to required text and the assigned reading, you will be required to stay abreast of current vital public sector issues by reading The Nation Magazine, The New York Times & The Wall Street Journal; and, a course reader of required articles is available at the NYU Professional Bookstore, 530 LaGuardia Place. Copies of the reader will be on reserve at Bobst Library, with a 2-hour reserve time.

Course Requirements
Attendance and Punctuality are essential: if you must be absent, contact Craig Schott in advance.

Grading is as follows:
- Class Participation: 10%
- Three Oral Presentation assignments: 15%
- Three Writing assignments: 30%
- 48-hour Take-Home Midterm Exam: 20%
- 48-hour Take-Home Final Exam: 25%

Course Expectations
Each student will participate in three oral panel presentations on a topic within a specific reading theme in the syllabus. Each week following the panel discussion, a paper on the same respective topic will be due – cumulative total of three writing assignments for the course. Students will be graded on both their three panel presentations (5% each) – course total 15%; and their three written papers (10% each) – course total 30%:

- Panel Presentation: Each panelist will give a 5 minute presentation that will be followed by discussion between panelists and/or with the professor. Panelists may utilize visual materials, illustrations, and primary research such as newspapers to aid their presentations;
- Paper: The paper will be 5 to 7 pages in length. Papers that receive high grades are expected to be historically accurate, clearly written, and reflective of critical thinking from an intersectional perspective.
Late Assignment Policy & Attendance and Participation
Extensions will be granted only in case of emergency. Late submissions without extensions will be penalized ½ letter grade per day (B+ to B, e.g.). Students with Disabilities should contact Craig Schott to make proper arrangements. Statement of Academic Integrity Members of the NYU Wagner community are all expected to adhere to high intellectual standards. http://www.nyu.edu/cas/map/integrity.pdf.

Readings Part I ~ Legacy of the Founding Mothers

January 29th  “Colonial Women and Public Leadership” An Introduction

This introduction gives an overview of the course, from the voice of Colonial Women -- whose frontier bravery is chronicled -- we progress towards the movement and recognize the role Abolitionist values, conscientiousness, moral authority -- and its women leaders white and black -- who were catalytic and the soldiers that propelled us towards the ratification of the 19th Amendment -- the Right for Women to Vote -- the course outline will be reviewed through the seminar themes, introduction of intersectional theory and a review of the syllabus and its relationship to seminar themes. These themes will be studied through biography anecdotal readings, case-study discussions and guest lecturers.

Part I & II Screening ~ One Woman, One Vote ~ DVD

I. American Women’s Voice: 18th 19th Century ~ Their Emotional Truth, Courage and Legacy

February 5th  “The Rise of Female Independence in America”

Revealing anecdotes of the wives, daughters and their relationships to their “Colonial-Sisters – the women of the actual and proverbial “Founding Fathers” are unloked, recognized -- as we discover their vital roles in the evolution of our democracy. Though Abigail Adams denounced the wretched scourge of slavery in writing and urged her husband John and his southern brethren – The Die was Cast – Morality, Slavery, the Cult of True Womanhood and Resistance …” I most sincerely doubt if any other race of WOMEN could have brought its fineness up through so devilish a fire” – W.E.B. Du Bois

Screening ~ PBS “Midwife’s Tale” ~ DVD

Readings


February 12th  “Suffrage: Analysis From Whence We Come”
From the courage, strength and intellectual prowess of the Colonial women the “Founding Mother’s -- from the elite class in the early 18th century -- we cross the bridge from the abolitionist’s women leaders focusing on the oft forgotten African American women – who “Invented Themselves,” “…she had nothing to fall back on; not maleness, not whiteness, not ladyhood, not anything. And, out of the profound desolation of her reality she may well have invented herself.” Toni Morrison.

Screening ~ PBS American Experience: “The Abolitionists” ~ DVD Episode I

Readings

February 19th  “Legend or Fable to Invent a Platform”
The story of how the women's rights movement began at the Seneca Falls convention of 1848 is a cherished American myth. The standard account credits founders such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Lucretia Mott with defining and then leading the campaign for women's suffrage. In the provocative new history, by Lisa Tetrault, which challenges the myth -- we will review and discuss the ideas Tetrault demonstrates -- that Stanton, Anthony, and their peers gradually created and popularized this origins story during the second half of the nineteenth century in response to internal movement dynamics as well as the racial politics of memory after the Civil War.

The founding mythology that coalesced in their speeches and writings -- most notably Stanton and Anthony's History of Woman Suffrage--provided younger activists with the vital resource of a usable past for the ongoing struggle, and it helped consolidate Stanton and Anthony's leadership against challenges from the grassroots and rival suffragists. As Tetrault shows, while this mythology has narrowed our understanding of the early efforts to champion women's rights, the myth of Seneca Falls itself became an influential factor in the suffrage movement. And along the way, its authors amassed the first archive of feminism and literally invented the modern discipline of women's history.

Screening ~ “Iron Jawed Angels” ~ DVD

Readings
- Tetrault, Lisa., “The Myth of Seneca Falls: Memory and The Women's Suffrage (Gender and American Culture)”, Tetrault, Lisa., Chapter 2. Movements without Memories, pp. 46-74; Chapter 3. Women’s Rights from 1873 – 1880, pp. 75-111; Chapter 4. Inventing Women’s History 1880-1886, pp. 112-144;

**February 26th First Oral/Panel Presentation** (Paper Due March 4th)
Theme: [Topics within] “Deferred History: The Tactics of the Women’s Suffrage Strategy”

February 26th  “Deferred History: The Tactics of the Women’s Suffrage Strategy”
No sugar coating. The rigors of sustainability in political movements – learning about unforeseen obstacles and denial of moral inconsistency ... the leaders (as led and seen through the eyes of the elite) often reshaped the past for immediate recognition and political gain.

Screening ~ PBS/Ken Burns “Prohibition: A Nation of Drunkards” ~ DVD Episode I

Readings
- Giddings, Paula. J., "IDA: A Sword Among Lions (Campaign Against Lynchings); Chapter FIVE. "A Race in My Arms,” pp.122-155;

This class will focus on how the complex-- and sometimes contentious--relationship between civil rights and white feminist constituencies [which have affected political outcomes and American culture for centuries] developed.

How did these events and relationships impact the conditions, status and lifestyles of American women, their families, communities and the mainstream? In the 40's, 50's & 60's individuals, style, everything from media, to hair-styles, to wearing pants and having your weight regulated by the airlines -- even toys (Yes Barbie was born) -- from the 1920's activists like Alice Paul, there were the Esther Petterson's, Frances Perkins', Margaret Chase Smith’s, Margaret Price’s, Betty Friedan, Helen Gurley Brown, Gloria Steinem, Louise Meyer -- a glimpse of the women who have spoken out taken chances, shown courage and made a difference.

As we evaluate the status of women in general, we compare the journey of women of color in particular Ida B. Wells, Mary Church Terrell, Marian Anderson, Pauli Murray, Rosa Parks, Fannie Lou Hamer, and Constance Baker Motley -- to name a few.

Levittown and this nations post World War II government programs/privileges for white males in the main will be examined in the context of the impact on women. How “Rosie the Riveter”, was forced back in the kitchen after having experienced during the war -- earning her own income. What were the historical precedents pursued, ERA, Title VII and Title IX, creation of the DOL Women’s Bureau, the Commission’s on the Status of Women, with NYS leading the way giving their commission cabinet level status. The vital issue of Child Care almost became law --- legislation derailed Equal Pay debates, as with most issues economic defined by equity-in-pay echoes our current discourses regarding the gender quity.
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Featured Guest Speaker: Irving A. Williamson
Irving A. Williams was appointed Chairman of the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) on October, 2012; he has been a Commissioner since February, 2007. Prior to his ITC appointment, he was President of Williamson International Trade Strategies, Inc., a New York City-based consulting firm for seven years, where he worked on over 20 U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and other donor-funded trade capacity building projects.

PBS ~ Screening ~ 1964: American Experience
Readings


Take Home 48 hour Mid-term Exam Distributed March 4th due March 7th
Part II. Social Movement Leaders: Community Organizing & Political Activism

March 11th *Mobilizing Women: Ideas, Activists, Leadership, & Civil Rights Movement*

Developing effective synergies between community organizing and leadership development are vital to attaining gender equity, and social justice. Today’s advocacy must also include multimedia, social media and social networks that are essential in the mobilization of the growing demographic, of young voters. Community organizing, mobilizing resources and designing adaptable strategies will be reviewed that met the need and addressed diversity, cultural and class issues. We will review and compare citizen movements, political campaigns/elections and methods utilized to address social justice.

Screening ~ PBS/AOL “Makers: Women Who Make America” ~ DVD Part I

Readings

March 14th-20th  Spring Recess No classes scheduled

March 25th  Women: Elected, Appointed, Contested (Part I)

Cities like New York have an unparalleled history of women in leadership, with direct roots to social justice and resulting progressive public policy that has defined our democratic ideal. This course delves into the fascinating world of women’s history in New York City and State. We will investigate the role of women as shapers and players in New York political history. The central focus will be on 19th, 20th & 21st century history, including the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site (Val-Kill) the retreat “think-tank” for women leadership in the early 20th Century; our examination will include benchmark political movements organized by Women.

We will review profiles of New York Women of leadership elected & appointed to include [a glimpse] Betty Friedan, Gloria Steinem, Congresswomen Bella Abzug, Shirley Chisholm, U.S. Vice Presidential Candidate, Geraldine Ferraro, 2008 U.S. Presidential Candidate, current U.S. Secretary of State, former NYS, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton and former Secretary of State Madeline Albright; former Manhattan Borough President [ran unopposed and appearing on the ballot in all three party lines; Hon. NYS Supreme Court Judge Constance Baker Motley who argued ten U.S. Supreme Court cases - winning nine.

Featured Guest Speaker: Paula J. Giddings, Author, “When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race & Sex in America” & Recipient Los Angeles Times Book Prize in History for, “Ida, A Sword Among Lions: Ida B. Wells and the Campaign Against Lynching”. She is also the Elizabeth A. Woodson 1922 Professor in African-American Studies at Smith College.

Screening ~ “Chisholm 72’- Unbought & Unbossed” DVD


April 1st  Women: Elected, Appointed, Contested (Part II)

New York State has a distinguished progressive history of precedent setting women leaders exemplified by Frances Perkins, who achieved historic gains as U.S. Secretary of Labor under President Franklin D. Roosevelt. After graduating from Mount Holyoke College, she was a teacher before becoming involved in social reform. She was the first woman to serve on the New York State Industrial Commission, as well as the first to hold a U.S. cabinet post with her appointment by Roosevelt in 1933. Impact: Perkins championed many of the policies that became part of the New Deal, and established the Social Security and Fair Labor Standards Acts. After resigning her position in 1945, she wrote a best-
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selling book and became a professor at Cornell University -- Currently, NYS has produced three women Supreme Court Justices, Ginzburg, Kagan and Sotomayor; and, the first Woman and Second African American candidate for US Attorney General Loretta Lynch.

Screening ~ PBS/AOL “Makers Volume 2: “Women in Politics” ~ DVD Part VI

**Readings**


**April 8th Second Oral/Panel Presentation (Paper due April 15th) [Topics within] Theme:  
“Election '08 & America's First African American Preside”

April 8th  "Election '08 & '12 America's, First Female[serious] Candidates & First Latina on the Supreme Court"

This course will examine the historic 2008 election of President Barack Obama ran and was elected the First African American President & when the First Women serious Candidates, Senator Hillary Clinton [for President] and Governor Sarah Palin, Candidate [first] for Republican Vice President and the urban policy implications. Topics to be studied through readings, discussions, and guest lectures, will include: political strategies of the campaign, including the challenge to the southern strategy; race, class, gender, generation, and the changing electorate; the immigrant rights agenda; the city and identity politics--gender, race, and the challenge of intersectional theory; post racialists, myth or reality?

Screening ~ “Miss Representation” DVD

**Readings**

Sotomayor, Sonia., “My Beloved World” Justice Sotomayor’s autobiography; Sotomayor, Sonia., “My Beloved World” Justice Sotomayor’s autobiography; Chapter One. pp. 11-15(C); Chapter Two. pp. 16-26(C); Chapter Seven. pp. 51-64(C); Chapter Nine. pp. 76-81(C); Chapter Seventeen. pp. 143-160(C); Chapter Eighteen. pp. 161-168(C);


April 15th  “The First Ladies & Their Legacies”

Screening – Showtime Movie “Geraldine Ferraro: Paving the Way”

Readings

Carol, Betty., “First Ladies: From Martha Washington to Michelle Obama” Oxford University Press; 4 edition (July 15, 2010);

Black, Allida., "First Ladies of the United States of America: Biographies in Brief", White House Historical Association (2013);

Wright, Lawrence., “Thirteen Days in September: Carter, Begin, and Sadat at Camp David”, Knoff; (September 2014);
America, The Today Show, Nightline, Dateline NBC, CNN, 60 Minutes, Fox News Channel and MSNBC. He was recently named one of New York Magazine's "most influential people".

**Readings**

- Eidelson, Josh, "Labor Leader Ai-jen Poo: We Are All Domestic Workers Now", The Nation., April 5, 2013;
- Burnham, Linda., Activist and writer for women’s rights and racial justice analysis of "Lean In One Percent Feminism" -- Posted by Portside on March 26, 2013;

**April 29th “Women and Web-Based Activism”**

We will examine key characteristics of web-based activism and their impacts on organizing and participation. Does the global reach and speed of broadband on the Internet affect the essential character or dynamics of online political activity? The Web offers two key affordances relevant to activism: 1) sharply reduced costs for creating, organizing, and participating in protest; and 2) the decreased need for activists to be physically present together in order to act together. A rally can be organized and demonstrators recruited entirely online, without the cost of printing and mailing; an activist can create an online petition in minutes and gather e-signatures from coast to coast using only a laptop. We will discuss and revisit long-standing theoretical assumptions about managing social movements.

**Readings**


**May 6th “Leadership Women: Wealth, Markets & Social Change”**

We will explore Women in leadership, organizing in American Cities: their Labor movements and advocating an increase in the minimum wage is a humanitarian-pragmatic movement. As Micro-Finance-Banking, credit unions, Investment Clubs and fund development; while mobilization and organizing, for self help, in our neighborhood is a priority for community development towards social change.

In addition we use as a case study Elizabeth Warren’s role when she Chaired, the Congressional Oversight Panel created to investigate the U.S. banking bailout (formally known as the Trouble Assets Relief Program (TARP). And, as the Senior US Senator from Massachusetts, she continues her advocacy for the consumer.

We will introduce women currently providing expertise in financial tools, benefits, executive benefits, tax, insurance and investment consulting. We will review services designed for and about women with an
intergenerational scope. We will underscore the needs of not-for-profits designed to support women entrepreneurs in poor and growing neighborhoods to have relevant financial literacy training, guided investment opportunities from public-private sector community financial institutions.

We will outline the need for Women as resources and support systems – networks in their communities and neighborhoods by identifying and developing their skills base, new health life style strategies, intergenerational financial literacy, and outlining meritocracy based capabilities. These vital assets will assist in building a solid foundation for realization of dreams and fulfillment of promise for the future. Women leaders driven by competitiveness training, effectiveness multimedia IT communications skills, and tactical socio-political strategies, women who have created a significant footprint with beneficial impact on issues impacting women’s health and their families’ lives.

*Featured Guest Speaker: Irving A. Williamson*

Irving A. Williams has been Chairman of the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) since October, 2012; he has been a Commissioner since February, 2007. Prior to his ITC appointment, he was President of Williamson International Trade Strategies, Inc., a New York City-based consulting firm for seven years, where he worked on over 20 U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and other donor-funded trade capacity building projects.

**Readings**


"48 Hours Cumulative Take Home Final Exam" (Due May 9th 12 Noon)