Themes: This course offers a seminar-based evaluation of women as foreign policy decision-makers in Western industrialized systems with established liberal democratic norms, notably with reference to (a) linkages between women elites and feminist activism at the global level and (b) the use of force by female leaders in international politics. The course is designed to stimulate the preparation of high-quality student research papers about decision-makers in the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan or countries of Western Europe. Given a highly structured emphasis on seminar participation and cross-fertilization across student projects, no other research or writing assignments will be admitted as substitutes for the course requirements outlined below.

Course requirements: One two-hour seminar per week. Regular attendance and participation in the classroom as well as frequent one-on-one meetings with the course instructor are essential in order to fulfill the course requirements. No make-up seminars will be organized for students who miss class. Online communications alternatives will not be provided for seminar presentations or for seminar participation. Students are expected to present two seminars during the fall term and to submit one short version and one full version essay assignment.

Seminar presentation schedule will be organized at the beginning of the term. Presentations of 12-14 minutes in length should focus on critical questions and integrative points linking the readings, not on descriptive summaries of texts. Students are welcome to consult with Professor Bashevkin before their first presentations in order to ensure high quality content and an effective speaking style. Responsibility for presentations rests with students; the instructor must be notified at least three hours before the start of class if for any reason you will not be making your presentation on the given materials at a specified class. Given enrolment pressures for seminar courses, there is no guarantee that missed presentations will be rescheduled. All students will be required
to make at least one seminar presentation on or before Oct. 30, in order for the instructor to grade at least one significant piece of work before the drop deadline.

**Class participation:** Grade is based on quality of in-class engagement, not class attendance. Students are urged to prepare written comments on weekly readings as a basis for discussion, including when they are not scheduled to make a formal presentation. Comments offered in class should reflect close study of and immersion in course readings, including comparisons among varied authors’ perspectives.

**Grading scheme:** No tests or exams. Emphasis is placed on insightful reading that is communicated clearly via weekly seminar participation as well as strong research, writing and seminar presentation skills. Final mark is calculated as follows:

- **Class participation** 15% (based on quality of in-class engagement)
- **Presentations** 30% (two each @ 15%)
- **Short version course essay** 20%, due 13 November
- **Full version course essay** 35%, due 4 December

**Late penalty for written work:** A late penalty of 3 percentage points per day including Saturdays and Sundays will be assessed for both the first draft and final paper assignments. Only in rare circumstances will a full or partial waiver of the late penalty be considered, and waivers will only be considered on the basis of documentation submitted to Accessibility Services or your college registrar.

**Submitting work outside of class time:** Papers not submitted in person to the instructor at the beginning of class on the due date must be submitted in person to the Department of Political Science staff in Sidney Smith room 3018 during regular business hours, usually between 9 AM and 5 PM on weekdays only. There is a drop-off box for students who arrive after 5 PM, and papers will be date stamped the next business day. The instructor assumes no responsibility for papers otherwise submitted. No fax, e-mail or portal-based submissions of written work will be accepted. All papers must indicate the course code, POL450F, and Professor Bashevkin’s name on the top sheet.

**Re-marking practices** are consistent with standard policies of the Department of Political Science.

**Essay assignment:** Instructions follow this outline. Students are strongly urged to consult with the course instructor well in advance of the short version essay deadline in order to select an appropriate topic and research strategy for the assignment. Note strictly enforced late penalty. Essays are organized in sequential order: Students must in
all cases submit assignment #1 (short version of course paper) as a prerequisite for the completion of assignment #2 (full version of course paper). Grading regulations are clearly delineated in the Faculty of Arts and Science calendar. Students are strongly urged to reserve an early appointment with their college writing centre to ensure essay assignments demonstrate high quality writing skills.

**Back up your work:** Students are strongly advised to keep rough and draft work, and to make hard copies of their essays before handing them in to the instructor. These should be retained until the marked assignments have been returned and the grades posted on ACORN.

**Plagiarism** is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information on plagiarism, please see the website of Writing at the University of Toronto: [www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources)

**Texts:** Course readings will be available on the portal site for POL 450F/2316F.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

11 September – Introduction to course syllabus, organization of seminar presentations

18 September – Conceptual beginnings


25 September – Applying an empirical lens


2 October – Women as foreign policy decision-makers


9 October -- **no class meeting**

16 October – Leaders in the United States


**23 October – Iraq/Afghanistan case study**


**30 October – Representation theory and its application**
**all students must offer a seminar presentation on this date or before**


6 November **November pause, no class meeting**

13 November – Gendering international institutions **short version papers due**


Sandi E. Cooper, ”Peace as a Human Right: The Invasion of Women into the World of High International Politics,” *Journal of Women’s History* 14: 2 (Summer 2002), 9-25.


20 November – Feminist interventions in international politics


27 November – Drawing conclusions & overviews of student research papers


4 December – no class meeting   **full version course papers due**
Essay Assignment Information

Note that norms of high quality prose writing are expected in both the short version and full version essay assignments. Consultation with Professor Bashevkin on the choice of empirical cases and conceptual frameworks is crucial to successful completion of both essay assignments.

1. Short version of course paper, due 13 November
Suggested length is 1000 to 1500 words in total (4 to 6 typed, double-spaced pages)

In light of course readings, develop the core of an original piece of empirical research that evaluates one or possibly two women decision-makers in the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan or a country located in Western Europe. Evaluate either (a) approaches to international conflict and the use of force by one or possibly two female leaders in Western industrialized systems; or (b) linkages between women elites in Western industrialized systems and feminist activism at the global level. If you select theme (a), be sure to embed your study in the context of debates over gender and international leadership that are addressed in course readings. If you select theme (b), focus on one or possibly two track records with respect to a well-defined substantive policy area such as reproductive politics in the global South, the use of rape as a weapon of war, efforts to include women in peace negotiations and settlements, feminist demands for the reform of international institutions, or foreign aid directed toward women and girls in the global South – again relying on course readings as a starting point. What conceptual framework best explains your results? What consequences do your findings hold for the study of women elites?

2. Full version of course paper, due 4 December
Suggested length is 2500-3000 words in total (10 to 12 typed, double-spaced pages)

In light of comments received on your short version paper, clarify the main lines of your argument, refine your empirical data and discussion, and draw some key conclusions that are relevant to women elites. Be sure to use course readings to help guide your own writing, argumentation and research toward a level of publishable quality.