

**POLS 53001
Women & Politics
10 December 2008**

Essay No. 2

DUE: AT CLASS FINAL, 9 A.M., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

Please answer **one** of the following two questions. Essays should be approximately 6 pages, typed. Formatting: one-inch margins, 12-point Time New Roman type, double-spaced, no cover page. Identify the question you are answering and number your pages. Your answer should incorporate information from in-class lectures, discussion, and student presentations, as well as from the assigned reading; no outside material is necessary. When you use information from the reading, please cite the author and page, if applicable. A good answer will not simply report back information provided in class and in the reading, but will show careful thought and an ability to apply and integrate the material to answer the particular question. To repeat: This assignment necessitates *thinking* and *analysis* on your part; it is not enough to simply regurgitate. Your goal is to show you have carefully done and understood the reading and concepts from the course since the midterm, and that you can apply that knowledge to a specific question. If you have any questions or need assistance, please arrange to meet with me *prior to the due date*. Papers will not be accepted after the deadline. Period.

Question #1.

Women play many roles in the American political system, including participating in general, voting, running for political office, and serving as an elected official. Research has uncovered evidence that women fulfill and experience these roles in some ways differently, and in some ways the same, as their male counterparts. What can we conclude at this time about the performance and impact of women as participants, voters, candidates, and elected officials, as compared to men? How can differences and similarities be explained? (A good answer will both describe the findings with regards to difference, and seek to explain them).

Question #2.

According to Ford, efforts to improve the lives of American women have been characterized by tension between solutions that emphasize the necessity of instituting equality between men and women (the *legal equality doctrine*) and those that recognize and seek to incorporate/address gender differences (the *fairness doctrine*). How has this tension characterized **four** of the following policy debates: (1) women's employment, (2) educational athletics, (3) single-sex education, (4) abortion, (5) rape, and/or (6) pornography. Be clear about which four you are discussing.