

History 3086
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HISTORY 3086
U.S. Women's History

This course will explore changing images and realities of American womanhood from the mid-nineteenth century to the present.

Requirements

1. Attendance. Attendance at all class meetings is both expected and required. Repeated absences will significantly affect your grade.
2. Reading, film viewings, and participation. This class will combine lectures and discussion. Students are expected to have read material closely (or to have viewed required film) and to come to class prepared to share questions, reflections, and informed opinions with others.
3. Writing. There will be in-class writing assignments (quizzes) on the reading throughout the course. A 5-6 page paper on an assigned topic will be due on **Thursday, January 29**. A 9-10 page research paper will be due **on Tuesday, April 28**. (See syllabus for additional due dates related to the research paper).
4. Exams. In-class "midterm" on **Thursday, March 5**, and a final exam, TBA.

Grading

Participation 10%
In-class writing assignments 10%
First paper 10%
Final paper and presentation 30%
Midterm 20%
Final exam 20%

While attendance does not figure as a percentage of your grade, repeated absences WILL cause your grade to go down. A student who accumulates more than 3 absences will have his/her grade dropped by one-half letter (eg. B to B-). After the first 4 absences, the grade will be lowered ½ letter for every 2 additional absences. (At 6 absences, a B becomes a C+; and 8 absences, a B becomes a C, etc.) With the exception of an emergency serious enough that you are working with the Office of the Vice President of

Student Affairs, THERE ARE NO EXCUSED ABSENCES. So, hoard your “free” (3) absences very, very carefully.

Dropping the Course:

Students who drop this course before the first exam will receive a “W.” After the first exam, you will receive a W or a WF, depending on how you are doing **at the point of withdrawal**. (After the first exam, a student will receive a W **only** if his/her grade is 70 or higher. A WF will be awarded a student who withdraws with a grade of 69 or lower). I also reserve the right to withdraw students who miss more than 3 classes in the first several weeks of the course.

Classroom etiquette:

Newspapers are to be put away, and cell phones and pagers are to be turned off before the class is scheduled to begin. Students violating this rule will be asked to leave immediately. Computers and tape recorders or other listening devices **are expressly forbidden**. Any student caught using a computer or listening device in violation of this rule will be withdrawn from the course *without warning*.

Assigned Reading

The following **required** books are available at the University bookstore:

Linda Kerber and Jane Sherron De Hart, eds., *Women’s America: Refocusing the Past* (6th edition)

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, *Iola Leroy*

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *Herland*

Melba Patillo Beals, *Warriors Don’t Cry*

Mary Crow Dog, *Lakota Woman*

This course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

All academic work must meet the standards set forth in “A Culture of Honesty.” Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

Reading and class schedule:

Thursday, January 8: Introduction

Tuesday, January 13: Women in Nineteenth-Century America

Document: "Working Conditions in Early Factories, 1845" 165-167

Essay: "The Female World of Love and Ritual" 168-183

Documents: Claiming Rights I and II 193-200 and 214-217

Essay: "Sojourner Truth's Defense of the Rights of Women" 218-219

All in *Women's America*

Thursday, January 15: Women in Civil War America

Essay: "Enemies in Our Households" *Women's America*, 220-230

Tuesday, January 20: Postwar Struggles

Documents: "Counterfeit Freedom," *Women's America*, 233-5

Essay: "Reconstruction and the Meaning of Freedom" *Women's America*, 235-46

Thursday January 22: Reconstructing Womanhood

Documents: "After the Civil War" *Women's America*, 247-252

Document: "The Women's Centennial Agenda" *Women's America*, 265-268

Tuesday, January 27: Reconstructing Manhood

Essay: LeeAnn Whites, "Stand By Your Man" (Electronic reserve)

Thursday, January 29: Farming women: from hardship to activism

No reading: **first paper due at the beginning of class.**

Tuesday, February 3: Gender and Jim Crow

Essay: Patricia Schechter, "Ida B. Wells and *Southern Horrors*" *Women's America*, 268-274

Begin *Iola Leroy*

Top three choices for research subject due at the beginning of class

Thursday, February 5: Woman's Era?

Essay: "Ophelia Paquet" *Women's America* 275-80

Documents: Claiming an Education, *Women's America*, 281-286

Essay, "Forging Interracial Links," *Women's America*, 286-296

Continue *Iola Leroy*

Tuesday, February 10: Discussion, *Iola Leroy*

Conclude *Iola Leroy*

Thursday, February 12: Working Women

Essay: "Rape and the Inner Lives of Black Women," *Women's America*, 299-302

Essay: "Unbound Feet," *Women's America*, 302-310

Essay: "From the Russian Pale to Labor Organizing," *Women's America*, 310-327

Out of class viewing: Iron Jawed Angels

Tuesday, February 17: Struggles over Suffrage

Essay: "Florence Kelley and Women's Activism," 327- 339

Document: Protecting Women Wage Workers, 340-45

Document: "Mackenzie v. Hare," 365-7

Document: "Equal Suffrage Amendment" 367-8

(All in *Women's America*)

*Watch *Iron Jawed Angels* before class

Thursday, February 19: Feminism(s)

Document—Margaret Sanger, "I resolved that women should have knowledge of contraception" *Women's America*, 370-378

Begin *Herland*

Tuesday, February 24: Discussion of *Herland*

Finish *Herland*

Thursday, February 26: *The Lynchburg Story*

No reading—Annotated bibliography due at the beginning of class

Tuesday, March 3: A New Woman?

Document: Adkins v. Children's Hospital, 369-70

Essay: "The Emerging Ideal of Slenderness," 390-398

Essay: "The 'Industrial Revolution' in the Home, 399-410

(All in *Women's America*)

Thursday, March 5 **In-class Midterm**

Tuesday, March 17: Women, the Great Depression, and the New Deal

Essay: "Disorderly Women" 410-422

Essay: "Harder Times" 429-432

Document: "Struggling to Unionize" 433-35

(All in *Women's America*)

Thursday, March 19: World War II

In-class viewing: *The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter*

Essay: "Eleanor Roosevelt and Human Rights" 447-454

Essay: "Life Interrupted" 454-458

Essay: "Japanese American Women" 459-65

(All in *Women's America*)

Tuesday, March 26: Politics of Gender in Post-War America
Essay, “Miriam Van Waters and the Burning of Letters” *Women’s America*, 500-7
Essay, “‘Manishness,’ Lesbianism, and *Homophobia*” *Women’s America*, 508-17
Begin *Warriors Don’t Cry*
Outline and thesis statement due at the beginning of class

Out-of-class viewing of *Mildred Pierce*

Thursday, March 28: *Mildred Pierce*
(Watch film prior to class)
Joanne Meyerowitz, “Beyond the Feminine Mystique” (electronic reserve)
Continue *Warriors Don’t Cry*

Tuesday, March 31: Women and the Civil Rights Movement
Essay: “A Woman’s War” *Women’s America*, 532-6
Charlayne Hunter-Gault, “UGA: The Beginning” (electronic reserve) ; Robert Cohen,
“Two, Four, Six, Eight, We Don’t Want to Integrate” (electronic reserve)
Continue *Warriors Don’t Cry*

Thursday, April 2: Case Study—Little Rock, Arkansas
Finish *Warriors Don’t Cry*

Tuesday, April 7: Second-wave feminism (1)
Essay: “Betty Friedan and the Origins of Feminism” *Women’s America* 481-95
Essay: “A Human Right to Welfare” *Women’s America* 552-560
Documents: “Dimensions of Citizenship II” *Women’s America*, 537-52
Text—Begin *Lakota Woman*

Thursday, April 9--Second-wave Feminism (II)
Essay: “Prescribing the Pill” *Women’s America*, 560-8
Essay: “Why the Shirelles Mattered” *Women’s America*, 569-72
Documents: “Making the Personal Political” *Women’s America*, 573-93
Continue *Lakota Woman*

Tuesday, April 14:—*Lakota Woman*
Finish *Lakota Woman*

Thursday, April 16: Backlash and beyond
Document— Phyllis Schlafly, “The thoughts of one who loves life as a woman” 593-97
Documents: “Dimensions of Citizenship III and IV” 624-645
Essay, “Women and Global Citizenship” 697-704
(All in *Women’s America*)

Tuesday, April 21: Student Presentations

Thursday, April 23: Student Presentations

Tuesday, April 28: Student Presentations

FINAL PAPER DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS

FINAL EXAM T.B.A.