

Professor Kathleen Clark  
T/TH  
11:00-12:15  
LeConte 230

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And by appointment

HISTORY 4000  
Women in the American South  
Fall 2006

This course will explore changing images and realities of southern womanhood from the antebellum period until the present day. Subjects will include women and slavery, the impact of the Civil War on gender relations, the changing meaning of race and class in southern women's lives, and the role of both black and white women in southern politics, from the era of Reconstruction to the modern Civil Rights and feminist movements.

**Requirements:**

1. Attendance. Attendance at all class meetings is both expected and required. Repeated absences will significantly affect your grade. I reserve the right to withdraw any student who accumulates three or more unexcused absences.
2. Participation. The format of this class is designed to generate thoughtful debate and discussion. Students are expected to have read material closely and to come to class prepared to share their questions, ideas, and opinions with others. Participation should reflect careful consideration of issues discussed in reading and class.
3. Reading. The goal is to read material closely and carefully, in order to become familiar with different facets of historical inquiry.
4. Writing.
  - A) In-class writings on the reading will be conducted at various times throughout the semester.
  - B) Two film analyses (4-5 pp) will be assigned during the semester. The first analysis, of *Gone With the Wind*, will be due on **Wednesday, September 6**. The second analysis, of *The Long Walk Home*, will be due in class on **Tuesday, November 28**. Specific topic will be provided.
  - C) Each student will be required to choose a subject (a southern woman) to interview for an oral history paper (10 pp) and in-class presentation, due at the

end of the semester. Detailed instructions and support will be made available to guide students through this process over the course of the semester.

The following due dates apply to the oral history paper:

**1 page proposal: Due at the beginning of class, September 14**  
**Interview questions + annotated bibliography: Due at the beginning of class, October 10**  
**Outline + 3 pages: Due at the beginning of class, November 7**  
**Final paper: Due by 2:00 pm, December 8**

In addition, students are *strongly urged* to see me during office hours to discuss potential interview subjects and *required* to get written permission from interview subject *before* submitting proposal.

\*\*Extensions on papers will be granted only for familial emergencies or situations of similar gravity; in general, please don't ask.

5. Exams. Midterm and final exams will require students to review and rethink readings, lectures, and discussions, and will consist of a combination of short-answer and/or essay questions. **In-class midterm October 3. Final exam TBA.**

### **Evaluation:**

10% Attendance and Participation  
10% In-class writings  
20% Film Reviews  
20% Oral History Paper + Presentation  
40% Midterm and Final

### **Assigned Readings** (available at the University Bookstore):

Shirley Abbott, *Womenfolks: Growing Up Down South*  
Melba Patillo Beals, *Warriors Don't Cry*  
Robert Morgan, *Gap Creek*  
Lillian Smith, *Killers of the Dream*  
Susan Tucker, *Telling Memories Among Southern Women: Domestic Workers and Their Employers in the Segregated South*  
Margaret Walker, *Jubilee*  
Ida B. Wells, *Southern Horrors*

A packet of additional required readings will be available at Bel-Jean on Broad St by Thursday, August 31.

## **Assigned Movies:**

*Gone With the Wind*  
*The Long Walk Home*

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

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

## **Class Schedule:**

### **Week I: Introduction**

Thursday, August 17: Introduction  
GET AHEAD: Begin reading *Jubilee*

### **Week II: Looking for Southern Women**

Tuesday, August 22: (Re-)defining Southern Womanhood  
Reading: Chapters 1-3 in *Womenfolks*  
Continue *Jubilee*

Thursday, August 24: In-class viewing, *Gone With the Wind* (Part I)  
\*Part I will be watched during class time. We will be meeting in the film screening room, seventh floor, main library. Part II will be on reserve in the library media center (7<sup>th</sup> floor, main library) for individual viewing  
Reading: Continue *Jubilee*

### **Week III: Representing Southern Womanhood**

Tuesday, August 29: Lecture and Discussion, *Gone With the Wind*  
Reading: “Black Responses to *Gone With the Wind*,” handout; chapters 4-5 in *Womenfolks*.  
Continue *Jubilee*

Thursday, August 31: Lecture and Discussion, *Jubilee*  
Reading: Finish *Jubilee*

#### **Week IV: Women in the Antebellum South**

Tuesday, September 5: Plantation Households

Reading: Marli Weiner, “The Work Lives of Plantation Slave Women” and “The Work Lives of Plantation Mistresses” both in packet.

**\*\*Analysis of *Gone With the Wind* (4-5 pp) due by 5:00 PM Wednesday, September 6**

Thursday, September 7: Off the Plantation

D. Harland Hagler, “The Ideal Woman in the Antebellum South: Lady or Farmwife?” in packet; chapters 6-7 in *Womenfolks* .

#### **Week V: Civil Wars**

Tuesday, September 12: Divided Houses I

Reading: Drew Faust, “Enemies in Our Household” packet.

Thursday, September 14: Divided Houses II

Reading: “For the Freedom of Our Colored People” packet.

**\*1 page proposal, Oral History paper, due at the beginning of class**

#### **Week VI: Reconstruction**

Tuesday, September 19 : Gendered Reconstructions

Reading: LeeAnn Whites, “Stand By Your Man” and Rhoda Ann Childs, “I was more dead than alive” both in packet.

Thursday, September 21: Library Visit

No assigned reading.

#### **Week VII: New Women for a New South?**

Tuesday, September 26: Remarkable Achievements and Tentative Alliances

Reading: Elsa Barkley Brown, “Womanist Consciousness: Maggie Lena Walker and the Independent Order of Saint Luke” in Packet

Thursday, 28: Backlash

Reading: Ida B. Wells, Southern Horrors

### **Week VIII: Midterm**

Tuesday, October 3: Midterm Exam

Thursday, October 5: Generating interview questions  
No assigned reading

### **Week IX: Changes at the Turn of the Century**

Tuesday, October 10: Fighting for (and against) the vote  
Reading: LeeAnn Whites, "Rebecca Latimer Felton and the Problem of 'Protection' in the New South" packet  
**Draft of interview questions + annotated bibliography due at the beginning of class**

Thursday, October 12: Organize!  
Reading: Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, "O. Delight Smith" packet  
**Get ahead: Begin reading *Gap Creek***

### **Week X: Women's Work**

Tuesday, October 17: Farming Women  
Reading: Finish *Gap Creek*

Thursday, October 19: Domestic Relations  
Reading: Excerpts from *Telling Memories Among Southern Women*

### **Week XI: Strange Fruit**

Tuesday, October 24: Challenging Jim Crow I: The Great Migration  
Reading: Excerpts from *Telling Memories Among Southern Women*  
Begin: *Killers of the Dream*

Thursday, October 26: FALL BREAK

### **Week XII: Civil Rights**

Tuesday, October 31: Challenging Jim Crow II: Black and White in the South, 1900-1940  
Reading: Glenda Gilmore, "Diplomatic Women"  
Continue: *Killers of the Dream*

Thursday, November 2: Battling Ghosts  
Finish *Killers of the Dream*

### **Week XIII: Women's Movements**

Tuesday, November 7: Launching the Civil Rights Movement

**\*Outline + 3 pages: Due at the beginning of class**

Reading: Begin *Warriors Don't Cry*

Thursday, November 9: The Story of Little Rock

Reading: Finish *Warriors Don't Cry*

### **Week XIV: A World of Difference**

Tuesday, November 14: White Women and Civil Rights

“Two, Four, Six, Eight, We Don't Want to Integrate;” and “Southern White Women in a Southern Black Movement”

Thursday, November 16: Women's Rights: For and Against

Pauli Murray, “I had entered law school preoccupied with the racial struggle . . .” packet; Chapter 8, “Why Southern Women Leave Home,” in *Womenfolks*

### **Week XV: Conclusions**

Tuesday, November 21: Discussion, *The Long Walk Home*

No assigned reading

Watch *The Long Walk Home* before class. Screening time and place TBA. *The Long Walk Home* is also available at many local video stores and will be on reserve at the library Media Center.

Thursday, November 23: HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

### **Week XVI: Student Presentations**

Tuesday, November 28: Student Presentations

\*\*Analysis of *The Long Walk Home* (4-5 pp) due at the beginning of class

Thursday, November 30: Student Presentations

### **Week XVI: Wrap-Up**

Tuesday, December 5: Finish Student Presentations and review for final exam

**Friday, December 8: Final papers due by 2:00 pm**