

POLITICS OF GENDER
HISTORY 4080/6080
Spring, 2003

Professor Kathleen Clark
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Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30-3:20 and by appointment
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This course explores the politics of gender in U.S. history from the period of the American Revolution to the present through four case studies: 1) The American Revolution; 2) Slavery and Abolition 3) The Turn of the Twentieth Century 4) Post-War America.

Requirements:

1. Attendance. Attendance at all class meetings is both expected and required. Repeated absences will significantly affect your grade.
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.
3. Reading. The goal is to read material closely and carefully, and to have completed all reading before class.
4. Writing.
 - A) Twice over the course of the semester, each student will be asked to turn in a two-page “thought piece” in response to the assigned reading and/or film for that week. These are informal assignments, designed to encourage you to reflect thoughtfully on materials before class, and they will be graded on a check plus, check, check minus scale. Thought pieces may be e-mailed or turned in directly to my office; they are due in class on **Thursday** in the week they are assigned.
 - B) Students are required to research and write one formal paper (10-12 pages) during the semester. Outside research of primary and secondary materials will be required.

I will provide additional instructions and help in developing and topic and proposal in the coming weeks.

The following due-dates apply for the research paper:

General topic: Due in class, **January 23**

Proposal + Bibliography: Due in class, **February 6**

Outline: Due in class, **March 13**

5 pages: Due in class, **April 1**

Presentations: **April 22 and 24**

Final paper: Due **Friday, April 25 5:00 PM**

*****Full rough drafts are not required but will be accepted on or before April 10.**

5. Exams. Midterm and final exams will require students to review, synthesize, and analyze material from readings, lectures, and discussions, and will consist of a combination of short-answer and essay questions. **In-class midterm: February 25. Final: TBA.**

Evaluation:

10% Attendance and Participation

10% Thought Pieces

40% Paper and Presentation

40% Midterm and Final

Assigned Readings:

Susanna Rowson, *Charlotte Temple*

Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass and Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

Rosalyn Baxandall and Linda Gordon, eds., *Dear Sisters: Dispatches from the Women's Liberation Movement*

Mary Odem, *Delinquent Daughters*

Joanne Meyerowitz, ed., *Not June Cleaver*

Elaine Brown, *A Taste of Power*

Packet at Bel-Jean Copy Center on Broad Street

Assigned Films:

A Midwife's Tale

Mildred Pierce

Imitation of Life

Thursday, January 9: Introduction

Get ahead: WATCH *A Midwife's Tale* (Available at the 7th floor media room, main library)

Part I: A Revolution for Women?

Tuesday, January 14: Goodwife or Witch?

Reading:

Laurel Ulrich, "The Ways of Her Household" packet

Trial of Anne Hutchinson packet

Anne Bradstreet, "Poems," packet

*Showing of *A Midwife's Tale* Wednesday, January 15, 7:00 PM

Film Viewing Room, 7th floor, Main library

Thursday, January 16: A Woman's Life

Discussion of *A Midwife's Tale*

Get ahead: Begin *Charlotte Temple*

Tuesday, January 21: Daughters of Liberty?

Reading: "Documents: Supporting the Revolution"

Continue: *Charlotte Temple*

Thursday, January 23: The Meaning of Virtue in the Age of Revolution

Reading: Finish *Charlotte Temple*; "The Criterion of Virtue" packet

***Research topic due, beginning of class**

Tuesday, January 28: From Republican Motherhood to the Rights of Woman

Reading: Linda Kerber, "The Republican Mother and the Woman Citizen," packet

"Orations Delivered to the Young Ladies Academy of Philadelphia" packet

"The Humble Address of Ten Thousand Maids;" "On the Supposed Superiority of Masculine Understanding;" "On Matrimonial Obedience" all in packet

Thursday, January 30: Library Research Visit

Get ahead: Begin Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*

Part II: Slavery and Abolition

Tuesday, February 4: Representing Slavery, Constructing Black Manhood

Reading: Finish Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*

Thursday, February 6: Representing Slavery, Constructing Black Womanhood I

Reading: Begin Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

***Research proposal + bibliography due, beginning of class**

Tuesday, February 11: Representing Slavery, Constructing Black Womanhood II

Reading: Finish Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

Thursday, February 13: The Ground of Gender: Slavery Attacked and Defended

Reading: Louisa J. Hall, "Birth" packet; Frances Ellen Watkins [Harper] "The Slave Mother," packet; Louisa McCord, "Uncle Tom's Cabin" packet; Angelina Grimke, "Appeal to the Christian Women of the South" packet

Tuesday, February 18: Bonds of Womanhood? From Abolition to Women's Rights

Reading: Writings of Sarah Grimke, packet; Keziah Kendall, "What I have suffered," packet; Sojourner Truth's Defense of the Rights of Women, packet; The Declaration of Sentiments (Seneca Falls) packet

Thursday, February 20: Race, Gender, and the Politics of Suffrage

Sojourner Truth, "Colored Men Will Be The Masters Over the Women" packet

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, "Suffrage for all" packet

Susan B. Anthony, "Letter to the Colored Men's State Convention" packet

"A Colored Woman's Voice" packet

Paulina Davis, F. Douglass, Susan Anthony, and Frances Harper "Debate" packet

Reconstruction Amendments, 1868, 1870 packet.

Part III: Sex, Class, and Politics at the Turn of the 20th Century

Tuesday, February 25: In-class **MIDTERM**.

Thursday, February 27: Working for Wages

"Ten Weeks in a Kitchen" "A Servant's Reply" "It's 'Mammy, Do This'"

"Speak-Out on Domestic Service" "Letters to the Bintel Brief" "The Story of a Sweatshop Girl" "Everything She Didn't Want She Would Give Me" all in packet

Tuesday, March 4: The Politics of Labor

Reading: "The Triangle Fire" both in packet.

Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, "Disorderly Women" packet

Thursday, March 6: Eight Hours For What We Will

Reading: Mary Odem, *Delinquent Daughters*, 1-3; "Chock-Full with Colorful Merchandise" in packet.

Tuesday, March 11: Sex and the City

Reading: Mary Odem, *Delinquent Daughters* 4-6

Thursday, March 13: Feminism(s)

Reading: Elsa Barkley Brown, "Womanist Consciousness: Maggie Lena Walker and the Independent Order of Saint Luke" packet

Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, "O. Delight Smith's Progressive Era" packet

Muller v. Oregon, 1908 packet

Suffrage Amendment, 1920 packet

Research paper outline due

Midterm break

GET AHEAD: WATCH *Mildred Pierce*

Part IV: Postwar America

Tuesday, March 25: Where's June?

Reading: Donna Penn, "The Sexualized Woman" and Wini Breines, "The 'Other' Fifties: Beats and Bad Girls" both in *Not June Cleaver*

**Viewing of *Mildred Pierce* Wednesday, March 26, 7:00 PM, Film Viewing Room, 7th floor, Main Library

Thursday, March 27: What's Wrong with Mildred Pierce?

Discussion of *Mildred Pierce*

Reading: Susan M. Hartmann, "Women's Employment and the Domestic Ideal" and Joanne Meyerowitz, "Beyond the Feminine Mystique" both in *Not June Cleaver*

GET AHEAD: WATCH *Imitation of Life*

Tuesday, April 1: The Politics of Race and Gender in Cold War America

Reading: Ruth Feldstein, "Race, Gender, and Constructions of Motherhood in the Death of Emmett Till" in *Not June Cleaver*

***5 pages of research paper due at the beginning of class**

**Viewing of *Imitation of Life*, Wednesday, April 2, 7:00 PM, Film Viewing Room, 7th floor, Main Library

Thursday, April 3: Motherhood in Black and White

Discussion of *Imitation of Life*

Reading: Ruth Kunzel, "Constructing Out-of-Wedlock Pregnancy" in *Not June Cleaver*

Tuesday, April 8: Rebirth of Feminism

Reading: Betty Friedan, "The Problem that Had No Name" packet.

Get Ahead: Begin *A Taste of Power*

Thursday, April 10: Coming of Age

Excerpts from *Dear Sisters*

Continue: *A Taste of Power*

***Last day to turn in rough draft (not required)**

Tuesday, April 15: From Black Power to Black Feminism

Reading: Finish *A Taste of Power*

Thursday, April 17: Backlash

Catherine E. Rymph, "Neither Neutral nor Neutralized: Phyllis Schlafly's Battle against Sexism"

Reading: Susan Faludi, "Blame it On Feminism"

Tuesday, April 22: Student presentations

Thursday, April 24: Student presentations

Friday, April 25, 5:00 PM: Research paper due

Tuesday, April 29: Conclusions and Review for Final

Reading:

Final T.B.A.