

**HIS 328:
Women in American History, Part I**

For many years, historians focused on statesmen and other great men as the sole agents of change in American history. This course shifts focus to American women and their efforts to shape their own history and the history of their nation. The goal of this course is not just to integrate the history of American women in the “master narrative,” but to demonstrate how an emphasis on gender transforms our understanding of American history.

Reading Assignments

The assigned readings are accessible through Blackboard. These readings will be linked to the syllabus as they become available. Assigned readings on Blackboard will always be organized under Course Documents. The assigned reading list may undergo minor changes; students should be sure to consult the most current version of the syllabus on Blackboard under Course Information.

Course Requirements

- Participation (20%): Students should be prepared to discuss the readings on the day that they are assigned. Attendance alone is not sufficient for full participation credit. Students must actively participate in discussions. In-class writing assignments are also included in the participation grade.
- Assignments and Presentations (30%): Students will be given several brief take-home analytical assignments. In addition, there are several online document collections assigned for students to explore. Students will choose one of these collections to present to the class.
- Exams (25% each): There will be two non-cumulative analytical exams in this class: one midterm and one final exam.

Attendance and Late Policy

Students are allowed three excused absences. After three absences, students will receive a zero for participation for that day. In addition, students will be dropped from the class for excessive absences. It is the student’s responsibility to find out what he or she missed during an absence. Assignments which are not completed, for whatever reason, will receive zeroes. Assignments submitted in class are due at the beginning of the class period. Students who submit assignments after the deadline will be penalized with a grade deduction based on the lateness of the assignment. No assignments will be accepted one week after the due date. Unless otherwise specified, assignments must be submitted in hard-copy form. Assignments submitted by email, which are, for whatever reason, unreadable, will not be counted as turned in and will be penalized a grade deduction until the student submits a hard copy or a readable electronic version. If a student submits an assignment by email or leaves an assignment in the professor’s mailbox, it is the student’s responsibility to confirm that the professor has received the assignment.

Plagiarism Policy

The University defines plagiarism as “intentionally or knowingly representing the words of another, as one’s own in any academic exercise.”¹ All sources (books, articles, documents, internet sites, etc.) used in any paper or assignment must be properly cited or will be considered plagiarism. If they have not already done so for another course, students are encouraged to complete UNCG’s online [Plagiarism Tutorial](#). Any instance of plagiarism will receive a zero and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate action, including possible suspension or expulsion from the University. For further information, see the University’s [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

¹ <http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/policy/academicintegrity/>

The Beginnings

01: Monday, August 15, 2005: Introduction

02: Wednesday, August 17, 2005: Women's History

Readings:

- Manuela Thurner, "Subject to Change: Issues and Paradigms of U. S. Feminist History"

03: Friday, August 19, 2005: Indian Women before Contact

Readings:

- Theda Purdue, "Constructing Gender"

Gendered Encounters

04: Monday, August 22, 2005: Colonization of the "New World"

Readings:

- William Wood, "Their Carriage It Is Very Civill," 1634
- George Alsop, "Why Servant Women Should Come to America," 1666

05: Wednesday, August 24, 2005: Southern Encounters

Readings:

- Kathleen Brown, "The Anglo-Algonquian Gender Frontier"
- Rayna Green, "The Pocahontas Perplex: The Image of Indian Women in American Culture"
- John Smith, "Of the Naturall Inhabitants of Virginia," 1608 and 1624

Viewing:

- "Pocahontas" (1995): time and place, TBA

06: Friday, August 26, 2005: Northern Encounters

Readings:

- Nancy Shoemaker, "Kateri Tekakwitha's Tortuous Path to Sainthood"
- Roger Williams, "The Women Bring in All the Increase," 1643

Colonial America, 1607-1750

07: Monday, August 29, 2005: White Women in the Chesapeake

Readings:

- Kathleen Brown, "'Changed ... into the Fashion of Man': The Politics of Sexual Difference in a Seventeenth-Century Anglo-American Settlement"
- "The Case of Charity Dallen," 1649
- "The Case of Elizabeth Greene," 1664
- "Wilt Thou Not Drinke to Me?," 1681

Assignment Due:

- A two- to three-page paper evaluating the representation of Pocahontas in the Disney movie based on lectures and readings is due at the beginning of class.

08: Wednesday, August 31, 2005: White Women in New England

Readings:

- Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, "The Ways of Her Household"
- John Winter, "She Was Faine to Ly upon Goates Skins," 1639

09: Friday, September 2, 2005: Indian Women and Colonization

Readings:

- Michael L. Fickes, "'They Could Not Endure that Yoke': The Captivity of Pequot Women and Children after the War of 1637"
- Mary Rowlandson, "The Captivity of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson," 1681
- Mary Jemison, "Life Among the Senecas," 1824

10: Monday, September 5, 2005: Labor Day Holiday

11: Wednesday, September 7, 2005: Witches, Part 1

Readings:

- Carol F. Karlsen, "Handmaidens of the Devil"

Viewing:

- "The Crucible" (1996): time and place, TBA

12: Friday, September 9, 2005: Witches, Part 2

Explorations:

- "The Salem Witchcraft Trials" on the [internet](#)

Presentation Due:

- Presentation based on primary source documents from the Salem Witchcraft Trials Archive

13: Monday, September 12, 2005: Transgressors and Dissenters

Readings:

- William Bruce Wheeler and Susan D. Becker, eds., "The Threat of Anne Hutchinson"

Assignment Due:

- A two- to three-page paper evaluating "The Crucible" based on lectures and readings is due at the beginning of class

14: Wednesday, September 14, 2005: "Traditional" Marriage

Readings:

- Cornelia Hughes Dayton, "Taking the Trade: Abortion and Gender Relations in an Eighteenth-Century New England Village"
- *Rex v. John Hallowell et al*, "An Abortion Tragedy," 1742
- Benjamin Wadsworth, "Husbands and Wives," 1712
- Rev. Jacob Elliot, "A Wife Commands Her Husband," 1763
- Abigail Bailey, "An Abominable Wickedness," 1815
- Frederick Engels, "The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State," 1884

15: Friday, September 16, 2005: First Great Awakening

Readings:

- Barbara E. Lacey, "The World of Hannah Heaton: The Autobiography of an Eighteenth-Century Connecticut Farm Woman"

- Graham Russell Hodges, “The Pastor and the Prostitute: Sexual Power among African Americans and Germans in Colonial New York”

16: Monday, September 19, 2005: Gender and Science

Readings:

- Ava Chamberlain, “The Immaculate Ovum: Jonathan Edwards and the Construction of the Female Body”

17: Wednesday, September 21, 2005: Slave Women, North and South

Readings:

- Robert Olwell, “‘Loose, Idle and Disorderly’: Slave Women in the Eighteenth-Century Charleston Marketplace”
- Robert Beverley, “Of the Servants and Slaves of Virginia,” 1705

18: Friday, September 23, 2005: Interracial Sex and Racial Fluidity

Readings:

- Kirsten Fischer, “‘False, Feigned, and Scandalous Words’: Sexual Slander and Racial Ideology Among Whites in North Carolina”
- “Sex and Race Relations,” 1681

19: Monday, September 26, 2005: Escapes to Freedom

Explorations:

- “Virginia Runaways: Runaway Slave Advertisements from Eighteenth-Century Virginia Newspapers” on the [internet](#).

Presentation Due:

- Presentation on documents from “Virginia Runaways: Runaway Slave Advertisements from Eighteenth-Century Virginia Newspapers”

Revolution and Early National Period, 1763–1815

20: Wednesday, September 28, 2005: Founding Mothers and Founding Fathers

Readings:

- Barbara C. Smith, “Food Rioters and the American Revolution”
- Letter to the Editor of the *New York Weekly Journal*, “Politics Does Not Become the Ladies,” 1734
- “Female Patriots,” “Women Must Defend Liberty,” 1768
- Ladies of Boston, “Renouncing Tea,” 1770
- Ladies of Edenton, “For the Publick Good,” 1774
- Eliza Wilkinson, “A Carolina Patriot,” 1782
- Grace Galloway, “A Loyalist Wife,” 1778–1779

21: Friday, September 30, 2005: “Mary Silliman’s War”

22: Monday, October 3, 2005: Slave Women and the American Revolution

Readings:

- Phillis Wheatley, “On Being Brought From Africa To America,” 1768; “To the King’s Most Excellent Majesty,” 1768; and “To His Excellency General Washington,” 1775
- Thomas Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia*, 1782
- Samuel Stanhope Smith, “On the Causes of Variety of Complexion and Figure in the Human Species,” 1810
- William Lloyd Garrison, “On the Poems of Phillis Wheatley,” 1837
- Angelene Jamison, “Analysis of Selected Poetry of Phillis Wheatley”

Assignment Due:

- A two- to three-page paper evaluating the documentary “Mary Silliman’s War” (1994) based on lectures and readings is due at the beginning of class.

23: Wednesday, October 5, 2005: Republican Motherhood

Readings:

- Abigail Adams and John Adams, “Remember the Ladies,” 1776
- John Winthrop, “Out of Her Way and Calling,” 1645
- Benjamin Rush, “Thoughts Upon Female Education,” 1787
- Judith Sargent Murray, “Excellency in Our Sex,” 1790
- A. Jocelin, “A Father’s Advice to His Daughter,” 1788
- “Friend to the Ladies,” “Women Were Not Destined to Vote,” 1802

24: Friday, October 7, 2005: Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings

Readings:

- Annette Gordon-Reed, “Engaging Jefferson: Blacks and the Founding Father”
- “Jefferson-Hemings Documents,” 1858-1873.

Viewing:

- “Jefferson in Paris” (1995): time and place, TBA

25: Monday, October 10, 2005: Fall Break

26: Wednesday, October 12, 2005: “Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness” ... for Some

Readings:

- Brenda E. Stevenson, “Distress and Discord in Virginia Slave Families, 1830-1860”

27: Friday, October 14, 2005: A Revolution for Women?

Readings:

- Joan Hoff-Wilson, “The Negative Impact of the American Revolution on White Women”
- Mary Beth Norton, “The Positive Impact of the American Revolution on White Women”
- Jacqueline Jones, “The Mixed Legacy of the American Revolution for Black Women”

Assignment Due:

- A two- to three-page paper evaluating the representation of women in “Jefferson in Paris” based on lectures and readings is due at the beginning of class.

Antebellum America, 1815-1861

28: Monday, October 17, 2005: The Market Revolution

Readings:

- William Bruce Wheeler and Susan D. Becker, eds., “Away from Home: The Working Girls of Lowell”

Midterm Due:

- A six- to seven-page paper covering classes 1 through 27 is due at the beginning of class.

29: Wednesday, October 19, 2005: The Ideology of Separate Spheres

Readings:

- Catharine E. Beecher, “Peculiar Responsibilities of American Women” and “On the Preservation of a Good Temper in a Housekeeper,” Chapters 1 and 13 in *A Treatise on Domestic Economy for the Use of Young Ladies at Home and at School*, 1841 on the [internet](#)

30: Friday, October 21, 2005: Bonds of Womanhood

Readings:

- Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, "The Female World of Love and Ritual: Relations between Women in Nineteenth-Century America"

31: Monday, October 24, 2005: The Ladies' Magazine

Readings:

- *Ladies' Magazine*, edited by Sarah J. Hale, 1828-1836 online or in special collections.

Assignment Due:

- A two- to three-page paper comparing differences between an issue of the Ladies Magazine from the 1820s or 1830s and an issue of any current popular women's magazine is due at the beginning of class

32: Wednesday, October 26, 2005: Transplanting Separate Spheres West

Readings:

- Devon A. Mihesuah, "Too Dark to be Angels: The Class System Among the Cherokees at the Female Seminary"
- Susan Lee Johnson, "'Domestic' Life in the Diggings: The Southern Mines in the California Gold Rush"

33: Friday, October 28, 2005: Middle-Class Moral Reformers

Readings:

- Scott C. Martin, "'A Star that Gathers Lustre from the Gloom of Night': Wives, Marriage, and Gender in Early-Nineteenth-Century American Temperance Reform"

34: Monday, October 31, 2005: White Working-Class Women

Readings:

- Christine Stansell, "Women, Children, and the Uses of the Streets: Class and Gender Conflict in New York City, 1850-1860"
- Christine Stansell, "Women on the Town: Sexual Exchange and Prostitution"
- William Sanger, "New York Prostitutes," 1858

35: Wednesday, November 2, 2005: Women and Utopian Societies

Readings:

- Julie Dunfey, "'Living the Principle' of Plural Marriage: Mormon Women, Utopia, and Female Sexuality in the Nineteenth-Century"

36: Friday, November 4, 2005: Free Black Women in the North

Readings:

- James Oliver Horton, "Freedom's Yoke: Gender Conventions Among Antebellum Free Blacks"
- Harriet E. Wilson, Preface, Chapter, 1, 2, and 3 in *Our Nig: Sketches from the Life of a Free Black*, 1859 on the [internet](#)

37: Monday, November 7, 2005: Free Black Women in the South

Readings:

- Suzanne Lebscock, "Free Black Women and the Question of Matriarchy: Petersburg, Virginia, 1784-1820"

38: Wednesday, November 9, 2005: Slave Women

Readings:

- “The Trials of Girlhood” (chapter 5), “The Jealous Mistress” (chapter 6), “The Lover” (chapter 7), and “A Perilous Passage in the Slave Girl’s Life” (chapter 10) in Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, 1861 on the [internet](#)
- Brenda E. Stevenson, “Gender Convention, Ideals, and Identity Among Antebellum Virginia Slave Women”

39: Friday, November 11, 2005: Plantation Mistresses

Readings:

- Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, “Southern Women, Southern Households”
- Angelina Grimké Weld, “The Cruel Mistress,” 1839
- Ella Gertrude Clanton Thomas, “A Plantation Mistress Discusses Interracial Sexual Relationships,” 1858
- Mary Boykin Chesnut, “Mrs. Chesnut’s Complaint,” 1861

40: Monday, November 14, 2005: Neither Lady Nor Slave

Readings:

- Stephanie McCurry, “The Two Faces of Republicanism: Gender and Proslavery Politics in Antebellum South Carolina”
- Martha Hodes, “Adultery: Dorothea Bourne and Edmond”

41: Wednesday, November 16, 2005: Abolitionist Movement

Readings:

- Harriet Beecher Stowe, “Showing the Feelings of Living Property on Changing Owners” (chapter 5), “Cassy” (chapter 33), “The Quadroon’s Story” (chapter 34), and “The Martyr” (chapter 40) in *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, 1852 on [internet](#)
- Mary Eastman, chapter 26 and “Concluding Remarks” in *Aunt Phillis’s Cabin; or, Southern Life As It Is*, 1852 on [internet](#)
- Louisa S. C. McCord, “A Reply to Harriet Beecher Stowe,” 1853

Explorations:

- “Anti-Tom Media Campaign” on the [internet](#).

42: Friday, November 18, 2005: Women’s Rights Movement

Readings:

- John Hollitz, ed., “The Emergence of an Ideology: Antislavery and the Bounds of Womanhood”
- Seneca Falls Convention, “Declaration of Sentiments,” 1848 on the [internet](#)
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton, “Seneca Falls Address,” 1848 on the [internet](#)
- Harry B. Blackwell and Lucy Stone, “Lucy Stone’s Marriage Protest,” 1855
- Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, “The Angel Over the Right Shoulder,” 1852 on the [internet](#)

Civil War and Reconstruction, 1861-1877

43: Monday, November 21, 2005: Civil War

Readings:

- LeeAnn Whites, “The Civil War as a Crisis in Gender”
- Drew Faust, “Altars of Sacrifice: Confederate Women and the Narratives of War”

44: Wednesday, November 23, 2005: Thanksgiving Break

45: Friday, November 25, 2005: Thanksgiving Break

46: Monday, November 28, 2005: Valley of the Shadow

Explorations:

- “Valley of the Shadow: Two American Communities in the Civil War,” parts 1 and 2 on the [internet](#)

Presentation:

- Presentation based on documents from the Valley of the Shadow online archive

47: Wednesday, November 30, 2005: Emancipation

Readings:

- Leslie Schwalm, “‘And So to Establish Family Relations’: Race, Gender, and Family and the Postbellum Crisis of Free Labor”
- “Husbands and Wives,” 1863-1867
- Spotswood Rice to His Children and Kittey Diggs, 1864 on the [internet](#)
- “A Freedwoman Before the Southern Claims Commission,” 1873

48: Friday, December 2, 2005: Reconstruction

Readings:

- Martha Hodes, “The Sexualization of Reconstruction Politics: White Women and Black Men in the South after the Civil War,” *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, vol. 3, no. 3 (1993), pp. 402-417.
- Documents, TBA.

Reflections

49: Monday, December 5, 2005: Women’s History Redux

50: Wednesday, December 7, 2005: Final Exam

Final Exam Due:

- A six- to seven-page final exam covering classes 28 through 49 is due at 3:00 p.m. in my mailbox in the History Department.