

Fall 2006 University of North Carolina - Greensboro
Dr. Lisa Levenstein E-mail: levenstein@uncg.edu
Office: 2145 HHRA Office Hours: M 1-2, F 11-12, and by appt

HISTORY 328: WOMEN IN AMERICAN HISTORY TO 1865

This course surveys the dramatic changes in women's experiences in the United States from the colonial period to 1865. Questions that we will address include: To what degree have women's experiences differed according to race and class? How have women participated in shaping their own history? What was the relationship between women's lived experiences and ideologies of gender, class, and race? How does attention to women and gender change our understanding of conquest, slavery, capitalism, westward expansion, and the Civil War?

Required Texts:

(available at UNCG bookstore and Addams bookstore on Tate St.)

Kathryn Kish Sklar and Thomas Dublin, eds., *Women and Power in American History: Volume One to 1880*. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson Education, Inc., 2002.
Nancy F. Cott, et. al., eds., *Root of Bitterness: Documents of the Social History of American Women*. Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1996.
Octavia Butler, *Kindred*. Doubleday, 1979; rep, Boston: Beacon Press, 2004.

Additional readings available on electronic reserve through blackboard (listed in syllabus as e-reserve).

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is mandatory because this class will be highly interactive and depends on your participation. Our time together will include discussion, in-class writing, and hands-on work with historical sources. Make sure to sign the attendance list every day because more than two absences will hurt your grade.

If you are absent, I expect you to contact me to inform me of the situation and arrange to obtain any handouts or assignments that you missed. All of the assignments distributed during your absence must be completed on-time.

Course Requirements (all percentages are approximate):

Attendance and Participation (20%): I expect you attend all classes and to speak on a regular basis. You will be graded on the quality and frequency of your participation in large and small groups.

Reading Assignments (20%): You will have many short assignments based on your readings, which must be turned in at the beginning of each class. These assignments do not need to be typed. If you are absent, you may still turn in your assignment either via email or to my mailbox. Class attendance should always take priority over reading assignments: If you do not have your assignment completed it is much better to attend

class without it than to skip class to complete it. If you miss a class and I distribute a reading assignment, you are responsible for completing it for the next class. All reading assignments will be posted on blackboard. You may miss two reading assignments without penalty. After two missed assignments you will receive a zero for each missed assignment, no matter what the excuse. Assignments will be graded according to the following scale: check plus, check, check minus, incomplete, and zero.

Essays (3 x 20% each): You will write three essays, which will require you to synthesize and interpret major themes of the course. Your essays must incorporate a wide range of sources to demonstrate that you have kept up with the lectures, readings, films, and discussions.

EXTRA CREDIT: History sheds new light on current events and vice versa. Choose a newspaper article published during the semester that speaks to themes that we have discussed in the course and write a paragraph explaining why you believe that it is relevant. Hand in both the paragraph and the article. You may submit up to **THREE** extra credit assignments. The last day I will accept assignments is November 27.

Technology: E-mail, Blackboard, Power Point, Laptops, and Cellphones

E-mail is the best way to reach me. I always confirm receipt of messages and try to respond quickly. If you do not receive a response within 48 hours, you should assume that I did not receive your message and try again. If you do not receive confirmation of your message, it means that I did not receive it and you will not be credited for any information that you communicated.

I will use e-mail to contact you, so you must check your UNCG email account regularly. All messages will be sent to UNCG accounts.

The course will have a blackboard website, which will have a copy of the syllabus, assignments, and links to additional readings.

I will often use power point in the classroom. The slides are intended to help guide your note taking. They will *not* provide a complete set of notes. It is imperative that you take notes to supplement the power point in order to succeed in the course.

This is an interactive class that requires your engaged attention. You may not use laptops in the classroom. Cellphones and any other electronic equipment must also be turned off at all times

Grades:

I use the following grading scale: 99 and above A+, 93 and above A, 90-92 A-, 88-89 B+, 83-87 B, 80-82, B-, 78-79 C+, 73-77 C, 70-72 C-, 68-69 D+, 63-67 D, 60-62 D-, 59 and below F.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of others without giving them credit. If something you write implies that you are the originator of words or ideas, they must be your own. When you utilize written sources like books, articles, primary documents, or web pages, you must identify the sources to your reader. If you use someone else's exact words they must be enclosed in quotation marks and followed by a citation. If you put someone else's ideas into your own words, you must give that person credit. Anyone who commits plagiarism will be penalized. I report all case of plagiarism to the Dean of Students.
