

HIS 328 – U.S. Women’s History to 1865
TR 9:30 – 10:45
Bryan 202

Dr. Angela Robbins
MHRA 2114 TR 11-12 and by appointment
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Class meets August 23 through December 1; midterm essay due Th, October 6; final essay due Th, December 1

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course places women at the center of a study of the history of the United States from the settlement of the New World to the Civil War. We will focus on women as members of their families and communities, understand how race and class shaped women’s experiences, and examine the formation and impact of gender roles. We will spend considerable time examining and discussing primary and secondary sources and exploring how documents written by and about women help us understand their role in shaping our nation’s history. Through this process, students will develop an appreciation of how a focus on gender transforms the traditional U.S. history narrative.

Through active participation in this class, students will develop skills in historical inquiry. Course materials will allow students to critically evaluate the construction of gender and its impact on institutions and social relations. Students will use evidence from primary and secondary source documents to create arguments for classroom discussions and writing assignments.

TEXTBOOK *Women’s America: Refocusing the Past*, Volume I. Kerber, De Hart, Dayton, ISBN 9780195388336 (2010 edition) Available in the university bookstore and online through several retailers.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation (25%) You are responsible for reading weekly assignments before attending class. Bring your textbook with you and print out the documents from Assignments on Blackboard so that you may reference the documents during class discussions. We will spend approximately half of our class time each week in lecture and the other half in discussions and activities, including small group work, in-class writing assignments, and quizzes. Be prepared each class meeting to share what you have learned and respond to questions. Students who do not actively and regularly participate in class discussions cannot expect to receive an A for the participation portion of the grade.

Response Papers (25%) One-page response papers are assigned regularly. Details on formatting and content will be provided before the first paper is due. Response papers are due at the beginning of the class for which they are assigned; late papers will not be accepted unless arranged with me in advance and due to documented illness or emergency. Students may miss one response paper without penalty, and extra credit will be awarded to students who complete all papers. In the event one of your allowed absences occurs on a day that a response paper is due, you may email it to me by class time for full credit.

Essays (25% each) Two unit essays are due at midterm and the end of the course. Each paper will be 5-10 pages in length with proper formatting and citations, and should effectively reflect the course readings, lectures, and discussions for that unit. Details on formatting and content will be provided before the first paper is due. Late papers will be assessed a penalty of one letter grade for each day. Essays will not be accepted via email except in cases of documented emergency.

Familiarize yourself with Blackboard right away and be prepared to use it routinely to find documents and other materials, check your grades, and read announcements pertaining to the course.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Students should plan to spend 10 to 14 hours per week in and out of class per course. Your textbook reading and documents combined will average about 50 pages most weeks. Read the chapter all the way through once, taking notes as you read, and then look over the chapter and your notes at least once more. You will benefit from reading most of the primary documents assigned for this course at least twice.

We will divide our class time each week between lecture and discussion. I will use PowerPoint to guide you through the lectures and provide focus. The PowerPoint slides are designed to highlight key terms, people, events, and ideas rather than a complete set of notes, so you should expect to take notes beyond the information provided on the slides. If you miss a class, make arrangements to get notes from a classmate.

If you need to turn an assignment in late, contact me via email prior to the class meeting when the assignment is due. In cases of emergency, your work will not be penalized, although you will need to provide verification of your emergency, and the assignment is due when you return to class. Late response papers will be penalized 15% and are due no later than the class meeting following the original due date, after which they will not be accepted and your grade will be recorded as a zero. Midterm and final essays will be assessed a late penalty of one letter grade per day.

A Note on Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the act of representing the work of someone else as your own. It is an extremely serious offense that can result in expulsion from school. You may effectively avoid this offense by paraphrasing rather than copying from sources and using proper citations in your written work, which we will discuss before your first paper is due. Review and understand the UNCG [Academic Integrity Policy](#) in the student handbook as its provisions cover all your written work.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

You are allowed three (3) absences without penalty, and you do not have to contact me or explain these absences, but you should use them judiciously, as you will incur penalties for additional absences. You will lose ten (10) points off your participation grade for each unexcused absence up to five (5), after which you will receive a zero for the participation portion of your grade. In the event that you have an emergency that causes you to miss class, contact me in advance of your absence if at all possible and expect to provide documentation of illness or emergency. Habitual tardiness or leaving class early will also result in a loss of points.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

This is an interactive class in which each student plays an essential role, and so you must turn off, not merely silence, all electronic devices before class begins. You may be asked to leave class, resulting in an unexcused absence, if you violate this policy.

Note: Please do not bring food to class.

COMMUNICATION

The best means of communicating with me outside of class if you have any questions about course materials or assignments is via email at aprobbin@uncg.edu. (Please enter HIS328 in the subject line.) It is important that you email me in advance if you expect to miss a class or are unable to complete an assignment on time. I will verify receipt of emails within 48 hours. If you have not received a confirmation from me within 48 hours, you should assume that I did not receive your email, and it is your responsibility to follow up.

Announcements and changes to the class schedule or assignments will be sent to you via your UNCG email account, so check it regularly.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Detailed reading assignments are posted under the Assignments tab in Blackboard (BB). Note that any changes to the schedule will be posted under Announcements and Assignments on Blackboard.

Week 1 8/23 and 8/25 Introduction and syllabus; *Gender and the New Women's History*, textbook pp. 1-21

UNIT ONE Gender, Race, and Class in Early America

Week 2 8/30 and 9/1 *Native American Women*, pp. 25-46 and BB sources;

Week 3 9/6 and 9/8 *Husbands and Wives*, pp. 47-70 and BB sources; Response Paper 1

Week 4 9/13 and 9/15 *Salem Witch Trials*, pp. 71-89 and BB sources; RP 2

Week 5 9/20 and 9/22 *Servants and Slaves*, pp. 90-102 and BB sources;

Week 6 9/27 and 9/29 *Midwifery and Women's Health*, pp. 116-133 and BB sources; RP 3

Week 7 10/4 and 10/6 *Revolutionary Women*, pp. 134-153 and BB sources; MIDTERM ESSAY DUE

Week 8 10/11 FALL BREAK

UNIT TWO Industrializing America

Week 8 10/13 *Domesticity*, pp. 159-185 and BB sources

Week 9 10/18 and 10/20 *Lowell Mills*, pp. 186-187 and BB sources; RP 4

Week 10 10/25 and 10/27 *Antebellum Slavery and Antislavery*, pp. 224-232 and BB sources

Week 11 11/1 and 11/3 *Women's Rights Movement*, pp. 233-245, 257-271; RP 5

Week 12 11/8 and 11/10 *The Home Front*, pp. 283-308

Week 13 11/15 and 11/17 *A Crisis in Gender*, pp. 309-333, RP 6

Week 14 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY NO CLASSES

Week 15 11/29 and 12/1 FINAL CLASS MEETING/FINAL ESSAY DUE