

Fall 2012 University of North Carolina at Greensboro
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HISTORY 551

FEMINIST POLITICS IN RECENT U.S. HISTORY

In the late 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, women from diverse backgrounds changed the course of U.S. history by engaging in feminist activism. This course will ask what it meant to participate in feminist politics by exploring women's activism surrounding issues ranging from reproductive justice, welfare rights, and domestic violence to lesbian rights, and racial equality. By critically analyzing primary and secondary sources, students will examine coalitions and discord among different groups of women and trace conservative opposition to feminist organizing.

Goals and Learning Outcomes (undergraduate and graduate students):

History Department:

- Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view. [Historical Analysis]
- Use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument, orally and in writing. [Historical Interpretation]

Course Specific:

- Analyze and identify important topics in the history of modern feminism
- Research a topic using web- and library-based resources and present information orally

Grading for undergraduate students (all percentages are approximate):

Participation (35%): Since this course will be conducted as a seminar and it only meets weekly, attendance and participation are mandatory. If you do not attend class each week, read thoroughly, or participate on an ongoing basis, you will not succeed in the course. You will be graded on the quality and frequency of your participation in small groups and in the larger discussion.

In-class quizzes/assignments (20%): Short closed-book assignments and quizzes will test your knowledge and understanding of the assigned reading for the week.

Final Project (20%): An oral presentation on the history and contemporary politics of a feminist issue that will require you to work in groups, conduct research, and engage in some kind of direct action.

Take-Home Final Exam (25%): Essay questions will require you to critically analyze primary and secondary sources, making a coherent historical argument about the course materials.

Grading and Requirements for graduate students:

Graduate students' grades will be calculated according to the same breakdown as for undergraduates' grades. Graduate students will be held to a higher standard on their participation and assignments. They also must complete some additional readings. Their final exam will be longer than the undergraduate final exam.

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.