

Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30-4:45  
Bryan 216

Angela P. Robbins, instructor  
[aprobbin@uncg.edu](mailto:aprobbin@uncg.edu)

MHRA 3103

Office Hours T, Th 5-6 pm and by appointment

**Course Description:** This U. S. History course places women and their experiences at center. It will pay particular attention to gender roles and racial, class, and regional differences in women's experiences. 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. A primary goal of this course is to demonstrate how a focus on gender transforms the traditional American history narrative.

**Course Text and Readings:** There is one required text for the third unit, Kathryn Kish Sklar, *Women's Rights Emerges Within the Antislavery Movement, 1830-1870: A Brief History with Documents*, New York: St. Martin's Press, 2000 (ISBN: 0-312-10144-9).

All other required readings are accessible through Blackboard. 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. Minor changes may be made to weekly reading assignments; any changes will be posted to Blackboard as announcements and also as revisions under Course Documents. A syllabus is also available on Blackboard, and you are encouraged to review it on a regular basis.

**Course Requirements:**

**Participation (25%)** You are responsible for reading every assigned document before attending class. Print out and bring the documents with you so that you may reference them during class discussions. (Note that in many cases you will need to copy and paste to a Word document in order to successfully print the materials from websites.) We will spend approximately half of our class time each week in discussions and activities, including small group work and in-class writing assignments directly related to the reading material. You must 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.

**Essays (25% each)** Two unit essays, based on an approved list of sources, are due at the end of units 2 and 3. Each paper will be five (5) pages in length with proper formatting and citations, and should effectively reflect the course readings, lectures, and discussions for that unit. The first essay will be returned to you with my comments; you will then make the necessary revisions and turn in a final draft for a grade. Final drafts will not be graded unless the first drafts with my comments are attached. Late papers will be assessed a penalty of one letter grade for each day. No essays will be accepted via email.

**Response Papers (25%)** One-page response papers will be assigned on a regular basis. Response papers are due at the beginning of the class for which they are assigned; late response 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. In the event one or both of your allowed absences occur on a day that a response paper is due, you may email it to me by class time for full credit.

*A Note on Plagiarism:* Plagiarism is the act of representing the work of someone else as your own. 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 essay is due. Review and understand the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy in the student handbook (also available online at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>) as all written work is covered by its provisions.

**Attendance Policy:** Students may miss two (2) classes without penalty, but subsequent unexcused absences will negatively affect the final grade. In order for an absence to be excused, you must contact me in advance of your absence and expect to provide documentation of illness or emergency. Habitual tardiness or leaving class early will also result in a loss of points.

**Communication:** It is important that you email me in advance if you expect to miss a class beyond the two allowed absences or are unable to complete an assignment on time. The best means of communicating with me outside of class is via email at [aprobbin@uncg.edu](mailto:aprobbin@uncg.edu). 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.

Changes to the class schedule or assignments will be posted as announcements on Blackboard and will be sent to you via your UNCG email account, so check it regularly.

**Grading Scale:** A 10-point grading scale is used in this course and numerical scores are assigned the following plus/minus letter grades: A+ = 98-100, A= 94-97, A- = 90-93; B+ = 88-89, B = 84-87, B- = 80-83; C+ = 78-79, C = 74-77, C- = 70-73; D+ = 68-69, D = 64-67, D- = 60-63; any score below 60 = F.

**Electronic Devices:** This is an interactive class in which each student plays an essential role. You may not use a laptop computer in this class and must turn off all electronic devices before coming to class. You may be asked to leave class, resulting in an unexcused absence, if you violate this policy.

### **Schedule:**

Note: A detailed schedule of readings is posted under Course Documents on Blackboard

Week One/T, Jan 15 – Introductions; discuss syllabus and requirements

Th, Jan 17 – Why Women’s History?

**Unit One: Women as Members of their Families and Communities**

Week Two/T, Jan 22 – Native American Women  
Th, Jan 24 – continued  
Response Paper 1

Week Three/T, Jan 29 –The Salem Witch Trials  
Th, Jan 31 – continued  
Response Paper 2

Week Four/T, Feb 5 – Husbands and Wives  
Th, Feb 7 – Slaves and Servants  
Response Paper 3

Week Five/T, Feb 12 – Republican Motherhood  
Th, Feb 14 – Republican Citizenship  
Response Paper 4

**Unit Two: Women and their Work**

Week Six/T, Feb 19 – Martha Ballard's Diary  
Th, Feb 21 – continued  
Response Paper 5

Week Seven/T, Feb 26 – The Changing Market and Economy  
Th, Feb 28 – continued  
Response Paper 6

Week Eight/T, Mar 4 – Sexual Division of Labor  
Th, Mar 6 – continued  
*First Draft Unit Two Essay Due*

Week Nine/Spring Break

Week Ten/T, Mar 18 – Enslaved Women  
Th, Mar 20 No Class – Student Meetings Re: Unit Two Essay

**Unit Three: Working toward Reform and Women's Rights**

Week Eleven/T, Mar 25 – Abolitionist Women  
Th, Mar 27 – continued  
*Final Draft Unit Two Essay Due*

T, Apr 1 – Women Claim the Right to Act: The Petition Movement  
Th, Apr 3 – continued

T, Apr 8 – Redefining the Rights of Women: Angelina and Sarah Grimké  
Th, Apr 10 – continued  
Response Paper 7

T, Apr 15 – The Antislavery Movement Splits Over the Question of Women’s Rights  
Th, Apr 17 – continued

T, Apr 22 – Women and the Civil War  
Th, Apr 24 – An Independent Women’s Rights Movement is Born  
Response Paper 8

T, Apr 29 – The Women’s Rights Movement Splits Over the Question of Race  
Th, May 1 – Conclusion; course evaluations distributed

T, May 6 – no class – Friday schedule – Student Meetings Re: Unit Three Essay  
Th, May 8 *Unit Three Essay due* in my faculty mailbox in MHRA