

**HIS 329 – U.S. Women’s History since 1865**  
MWF 11 – 11:50  
MHRA 2211

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MHRA 2114 MW 12 – 1 and by appointment  
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Class meets Jan 9 through April 24; midterm essay due F, Mar 2; final essay due T, Apr 24

### **Course Description and Objectives**

This course places women at the center of a study of the history of the United States from the period after the Civil War until the feminist movement of the 1970s. We will focus on the roles of women as members of their families and communities and as citizens, understand how race and class have 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 skills in historical inquiry and an appreciation of how a focus on gender transforms the traditional U.S. history narrative.

Through active participation in this class, students will

- identify key events and people in U.S. women’s history
- use course materials to critically evaluate the construction of gender and its impact on institutions and social relations
- 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 II. Kerber, De Hart, Dayton, ISBN 9780195388343 (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. History majors and Women’s and Gender Studies majors will have the option of writing a research paper instead of the two essays, with an approved topic and preliminary bibliography due at midterm.

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 20% 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 unless you would like them to be excused due to illness or emergency. You should use these three absences judiciously, as you will incur penalties for additional absences. You will lose five (5) points off your final course average for each additional *unexcused* absence. 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: Drinks are fine, but 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](mailto:aprobbin@uncg.edu). (Please enter HIS329 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 usually verify receipt of emails within 24 hours Monday through Friday. 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), where you will find other secondary and primary source reading to supplement the textbook reading listed below as well as specific dates for all assignments. Note that any changes to the schedule will be posted under Announcements and Assignments on Blackboard.

### **UNIT ONE: Identity, 1865 - 1945**

Week 1 1/11 – 1/13 Introduction and syllabus; *Gender and the New Women's History*, textbook pp. I-1 – I-21; *U.S. vs. Susan B. Anthony*, Blackboard (BB); Edwards, “Pioneers at the Polls,” textbook pp. 342 – 348

Week 2 1/16 – 1/20 *Race and Ethnicity*

MLK Holiday, no class on 1/16; Schechter, pp. 349 – 355; Documents, pp. 356 – 362; Pascoe, pp. 363 – 367; Gilmore, pp. 368 – 376; Yung, pp. 378 – 386 and BB sources

Week 3 1/23 – 1/27 *Work*

Orleck, pp. 386 – 400; Sklar, 402 – 413; Documents, 415 – 419 and BB sources

Week 4 1/30 – 2/3 *Citizenship*

DuBois, pp. 420 – 426; Documents, 427 – 440; Cott, 441 – 449 and BB sources

Week 5 2/6 – 2/10 *Image*

Brumberg, 451 – 458; Photo Essay, pp. 460 – 476; Ruiz, pp. 477 – 483 and BB sources

Week 6 2/13 – 2/17 *Activists and Change*

Cowan, pp. 484 – 491; Hall, 493 – 503; Reagan, pp. 506 – 510 and BB sources

Week 7 2/20 – 2/24 *Women, the Great Depression, and the New Deal*

Jones, pp. 512 – 515; Document, pp. 516 – 518; Kessler-Harris, pp. 519 – 528 and BB sources

Week 8 2/27 – 3/2 *Women and World War II*

Cook, pp. 530 – 536; Matsumoto, pp. 537 – 542; Bailey and Farber, pp. 544 – 552; Milkman, pp. 553 – 564 and BB sources

UNIT ONE ESSAY DUE

Week 9 3/5 – 3/9 SPRING BREAK

### **UNIT TWO Struggles Against Injustice, 1945 – 2010**

Week 10 3/12 – 3/16 *Feminisms*

Horowitz, pp. 577 – 586, Freedman, pp. 591 – 597, Cahn, pp. 598 – 606 and BB sources

Week 11 3/19 – 3/23 *Cold War Womanhood*

Antler, pp. 607 – 615, Swerdlow, pp. 617 – 629 and BB sources

Week 12 3/26 – 3/30 *Civil Rights*

Payne, pp. 631 – 634, Documents, pp. 635 – 651 and BB sources

Week 13 4/2 – 4/6 *The Sexual Revolution*

Bailey, pp. 652 – 659, Douglas, pp. 660 – 663 and BB sources

SPRING HOLIDAY F 4/6, No class meeting

Week 14 4/9 – 4/13 *The Personal is Political*

Levenstein, pp. 664 – 671, De Har, pp. 672 – 688, Documents, pp. 691 – 717 and BB sources

Week 15 4/16 – 4/20 *Legislation*  
Selections from Documents, pp. 719 – 753 and BB sources

Week 16 4/23 – 4/24  
*Global Feminism*, pp. 764 - 780

University follows Friday schedule on T 4/24, FINAL CLASS MEETING/UNIT TWO ESSAY DUE