

HIS 329-01 US Women's History Since 1865

Spring 2017

MWF 9-9:50am

MHRA 2207

Instructor: Kelsey Walker

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Course Description:

This course will examine women and the role of women in American society since the Civil War by focusing on the history of women's activism. Using a combination of primary and secondary sources, students will examine the history of women's participation in movements for social and political change. Readings and lectures will look at how ordinary women's activism has shaped American history.

Required Readings:

- **Articles and Primary Sources:** A series of articles and primary sources, which are available in PDF format on Canvas or on the internet (as marked), are listed on this syllabus. You are responsible for downloading, printing, reading and bringing these readings to class on the day they are due. You may also bring a laptop or tablet to access the readings in class. Students who do not bring their copies of the reading or are unprepared to discuss them in class will receive a zero for participation for the day.
- **Handouts and Study Questions:** Along with the assigned readings, you will be given a handout or set of questions to complete and bring with you on the day they are due. These questions will be collected at random throughout the semester. No late submissions will be accepted.

Course Requirements and Grading:

1. **Attendance:** Students are required to attend class. A maximum of 4 absences are allowed (no documentation required). Once a student reaches four absences, he or she will lose 5 points from the final grade for each additional absence. If you miss class, you are still

responsible for all discussion, lecture and reading materials. It is up to you to find out about any class announcements, activities, or changes to the syllabus.

2. Participation and Discussion (15%): Participation in this class is a requirement. To receive full credit for participation, students must come prepared to class having done the reading, thoughtfully completed any study questions, and actively contribute to in-class discussions and activities.

3. Written Responses to the Readings (15%): For each reading, you will be assigned study questions (posted on Canvas). You must complete these questions and bring them with you to each class. At several points throughout the semester, I will collect these written responses at random.

4. 3 Short Essays (45%): Throughout the semester, you will be assigned three short (2-3 pages) essays based on analyzing primary source evidence.

5. Research Proposal (25%): As a final project for the course, you will create a research proposal based on your own primary source research. You will develop a research question, a thesis statement that answers that question, and an abstract outline of your project. The proposal will also include an annotated bibliography.

Course Policies:

Late Assignments: All assignments must be submitted in hard copy. Unless otherwise specified on the syllabus, papers are due in class at the beginning of the class period. Students who submit assignments after the deadline will be penalized with a grade deduction based on the lateness of the assignment. No assignments will be accepted one week after the due date. If a student leaves a paper in the professor's mailbox, it is the student's responsibility to check that the professor has received the paper. Responses to the Guided Reading Questions will not be accepted after the due date.

Plagiarism: The University defines plagiarism as "intentionally or knowingly representing the words of another, as one's own in any academic exercise." (See the University's Academic Integrity Policies for further information.) All sources (books, articles, documents, internet sites, etc.) used in any paper or assignment must be properly cited or will be considered plagiarism. Any instance of plagiarism will receive a zero and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate action, including suspension or expulsion from the University.

Course Schedule:

Week 1- Welcome!

Monday 1/8: Introduction to Course

Wednesday 1/10: What is History?

- (1) Jules R. Benjamin, "How Historians Work"

Friday 1/12: Interpreting History

- (2) Mary Beth Norton, "History Under Construction in Florida"

Week 2- The Anti-Lynching Movement and the Gilded Age

M 1/15: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day- NO CLASS

W 1/17: Reconstruction and Vigilante Violence

- (3) Gilmore, *Gender and Jim Crow* (excerpt)

F 1/19: The Anti-Lynching Movement

- (4) Primary Source Set: Ida B. Wells, "Lynch Laws in Georgia," and "The Anti-Lynching Crusaders."

Week 3- The Suffrage Movement and the "Progressive" Era

M 1/22: Origins of the Suffrage Movement

- (5) Lisa Tetrault, "Prologue: Getting Acquainted with History," in *The Myth of Seneca Falls*, 2014 and Primary Source: "Declaration of Sentiments," 1848.

W 1/24: Race and the Suffrage Movement

- (6) "The Root: How Racism Tainted Women's Suffrage," NPR.

F 1/26: Women's Reform Movements of the Early 20th Century

****Short Essay 1 Due**

Week 4- Women's Activism in the 1920s

M 1/29: The New Woman

- (7) Lynn Duménil, "The New Woman and the Politics of the 1920s."

W 1/31: The National Women's Party

- (8) Cott, Nancy F. "Feminist Politics in the 1920s: The National Woman's Party."

F 2/2: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

- (9) Primary Source Doc. Set- WILPF: How Did Women Peace Activists Respond to "Red Scare" Attacks during the 1920s?

Week 5- The Great Depression and Working Class Activism of the 1930s

M 2/5: Women and the Great Depression

- (10) Linda Gordon, "Dorothea Lange: the Photographer as Agricultural Sociologist."

W 2/7: Women and Labor Activism

- (11) Dorothy Sue Cobble, "When Feminism had Class."

F 2/9: Working-Class Women's Organizing

- (12) Eileen Boris and Annalise Orleck, "Feminism and the Labor Movement: a Century of Collaboration and Conflict."

Week 6- Rosie the Riveter to June Cleaver

M 2/12: Women and World War II- Rosie the Riveter

- Film: *The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter*

W 2/14: Women and the Postwar- June Cleaver

- (13) Joanne Meyerowitz, "Beyond the Feminine Mystique: A Reassessment of Postwar Mass Culture, 1946- 1958."

F 2/16: Defying the Stereotype- Women's Activism in the Postwar Era

Week 7- The Civil Rights Movement

M 2/19: Civil Rights as Women's Rights

- (14) Danielle L. McGuire, "'It Was like All of Us Had Been Raped': Sexual Violence, Community Mobilization, and the African American Freedom Struggle."

W 2/21: African American Women in the Civil Rights Movement

- Film: *Standing on My Sisters Shoulders*, 2002. (60 minutes)

F 2/23: Black Feminist Organizing

- (15) Duchess Harris, "From the Kennedy Commission to the Combahee Collective: Black Feminist Organizing 1960-1980."

Week 8- "Second Wave" Feminism

M 2/26: Library Presentation- Developing a Research Question

****Practice Research Question Due**

W 2/28: Radical Feminism of the 1960s

- (16) Primary Sources: Carol Hanisch, "The Personal is Political" (1969) AND *The Furies, Lesbian Feminist Monthly*, Volume 1, Jan. 1972. AND Alice Wolfson, "Clenched Fist, Open Heart" (The Feminist Memoir Project)
- Film: *She's Beautiful When She's Angry*, 2014. (93 minutes)

F 3/2: Film Continued

****Research Question Due**

SPRING BREAK-

M 3/5: NO CLASS

W 3/7: NO CLASS

F 3/9: NO CLASS

Week 9- Writing Workshop

M 3/12: Writing Workshop

W 3/14: Library Presentation- Finding Primary and Secondary Sources

F 3/16: Writing Workshop

- In-Class Activity: How to Write a Thesis Statement

****Short Essay 2 Due**

Week 10- The Welfare Rights Movement

M 3/19: A "Movement without Marches"

- (17) Annelise Orleck, “ ‘If It Wasn’t for You I’d Have Shoes for my Children’: the Political Education of Las Vegas Welfare Mothers.”

W 3/21: Women in the Welfare Rights Movement

- (18) Johnnie Tillmon, “Welfare is a Women’s Issue.” *Ms. Magazine*, 1972.

F 3/23: CLASS CANCELLED

Week 11- The 1980s

M 3/26: Title IX and the EEOC

W 3/28: EEOC v. Sears Roebuck and Co.

- (19) Ruth Milkman, “Women’s History and the Sears Case.” OR Jacquelyn Dowd-Hall, “Women’s History Goes to Trial.”

F 3/30: NO CLASS

Week 12- The Culture of the 1990s

M 4/2: Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

- Film: *Anita: Speaking Truth to Power* (90 minutes)

W 4/4: Riot Grrrl

- (20) Rosenberg and Garofalo, “Riot Grrrl: Revolutions from within.”

F 4/6: “Girls to the Front”

- (21) Primary Source Set: Riot Grrrl Zines

Week 13- Globalization and NAFTA

M 4/9: NAFTA activity, background on globalization and women

- (22) Boris and Parrenas, “Introduction” to *Intimate Labors*

W 4/11: Women and the Global Chain of Care

- (23) Boris, “Manicuring Intimacies.”

F 4/13: Globalizing Women’s Activism

- Film: *The Shock Doctrine* (78 minutes)

Week 14- Transnational Feminist Organizing

M 4/16: Global Capitalism

- Film continued.

****Short Essay 3 Due**

W 4/18: The UN Conferences on Women

- (24) Charlotte Bunch, "Opening Doors for Feminism: UN World Conferences on Women."

F 4/20: Transnational Feminism

Week 15- Writing Workshop

M 4/23: Writing Workshop

****Rough Draft Thesis Statement Due**

W 4/25: Writing Workshop

Final Research Proposal and Annotated Bibliography due- Monday, April 30th at 11:00 am