

History of Women in the United States 1600-1870

Fall 2012
HIST 354

T/Th 9:00-10:15
LWSN B155



Course Description

This course will examine women's evolving social, political, cultural, and economic position in America from the colonial period to 1870 when the women's movement split over the Fifteenth Amendment. We will explore how both men and women thought of women's proper "place" in society, that is, we will examine how gender came to be constructed and how it changed over time. We will discuss the ways in which race, class, ethnicity, and the region in which they lived shaped women's experiences. We will examine both the everyday lives of women, such as domestic work, as well as women's efforts to dismantle the private / public barrier – and the limitations to these efforts. We will discuss women's family responsibilities, work, education, political role, legal position, and sexuality over a period of two and a half centuries. Finally, we will emphasize women's changing relationship with their families, each other, and the state.

Cheating / Plagiarism:

Plagiarism refers to the reproduction of another's words or ideas without proper attribution. [University Regulations](#) contains further information on dishonesty.

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses, and will be treated as such in this class. You are expected to produce your own work and to accurately cite all necessary materials. Cheating, plagiarism, and other dishonest practices will be punished as harshly as Purdue University policies allow. Any instances of academic dishonesty **will result in a grade of F** for the course and notification of the Dean of Students Office.

Required Texts

Camilla Townshend, *Pocahontas and the Powhatan Dilemma*
Carol Berkin, *Revolutionary Mothers*
Thavolia Glymph, *Out of the House of Bondage*
Nina Silber, *Daughters of the Union*

There is also a required course packet (available at Copy Mat in the Village) – readings from this packet are designated with an *

All assigned books are available for purchase at the bookstore. The books are also available more cheaply or used on Amazon.com, half.com, and bookfinder.com (among others). Feel free to search for used books online, but be careful to purchase the correct edition.

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ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

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Grading:

Reading Assessments:	20%
Paper :	20%
Midterm:	30%
Final Exam:	30%

Attendance:

I will not take attendance. You are responsible for all of the material covered in lectures, and therefore you will find it extremely difficult to pass this course without regular attendance. Any changes to the syllabus will also be announced in class. Students are individually responsible for everything that transpires in class; absence is not a valid excuse. There are no class notes available.

Class Room Etiquette:

Please be courteous and respectful. If you *must* leave early, sit where you will not disturb the professor or other students. **Turn off all cell phones.** *If any cell phone rings during class, the entire class will be subject to a pop quiz.*

Disclaimer:

In the event of a major campus emergency, the above requirements, deadlines and grading policies are subject to changes that may be required by a revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted once the course resumes on Blackboard or can be obtained by contacting the professor via email.



Reading Assessments

For each of the four books, students will be responsible for turning in a reading assessment. The template will be available on Blackboard and is designed to help students read closely. Reading assessments are due in class on the day scheduled for that book's discussion. Each assessment will be worth 5% (for a total of 20%).

Paper

You also will be expected to write a 5-7 page paper. Further instructions will follow. Your papers will be graded for both writing style and analytical content. Please consider visiting the Writing Center for advice about writing in clear, straightforward prose (226 Heavilon Hall; 494-3723; <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>). The paper is **due on November 15. No late papers will be accepted;** a student who fails to submit a paper in class on the due date receives a 0 for the assignment.

Examinations

There will be two examinations in the course. The mid-term will cover materials to the examination date while the final will cover material from the second half and will also include a cumulative section. There will be no make-up examinations in the course.

Discussion

This course will combine lecture and class discussion. Discussions will not always fall on the same day of the week. **Students will need to carefully follow the syllabus to determine which days have been set aside for discussion.** (See more details about break out rooms at end of the syllabus).

Schedule of Lectures and Assignments

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Week 1:

Tues. Aug. 21
Thurs. Aug. 23

Introduction
The Lives of Native American Women

Week 2:

Tues. Aug. 28
Thurs. Aug. 30

The Cultural Baggage of English Colonists
Discussion: Townshend, *Pocahontas*

Week 3:

Tues. Sept. 4
Thurs. Sept. 6

Life in the Colonies
Female Religious Discontent

Week 4:

Tues. Sept. 11

Discussion:
Norton, "Searchers Again Assembled"*
Dayton, "Taking the Trade"*
Karlsen, "The Devil in the Shape of a Woman"*

Thurs. Sept 13.

Women in the 18th century

Week 5:

Tues. Sept. 18
Thurs. Sept. 20

Women and the American Revolution
Discussion: Berkin, *Revolutionary Mothers*

Week 6:

Tues. Sept. 25
Thurs. Sept. 27

Class Formation and Religion in the early 19th Century
Women and Work in the early 19th Century

Week 7:

Tues. Oct. 2

Discussion:
Cott, "Passionlessness"*
Boydston, "Pastoralization of Housework"*
Smith-Rosenberg, "Female World of Love and Ritual"*

Thurs. Oct. 4

The Creation of a Woman's Sphere

Week 8:

Tues. Oct. 9
Thurs. Oct. 11

FALL BREAK
Midterm Review



IT WAS WE, THE PEOPLE; NOT WE, THE WHITE MALE CITIZENS; NOR YET WE, THE MALE CITIZENS; BUT WE, THE WHOLE PEOPLE, WHO FORMED THE UNION.... MEN, THEIR RIGHTS AND NOTHING MORE; WOMEN, THEIR RIGHTS AND NOTHING LESS.

~SUSAN B. ANTHONY

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Week 9:

Tues. Oct. 16
Thurs. Oct. 18

MIDTERM
Religion and Reform

Week 10:

Tues. Oct. 23

Discussion:
Zaeske, "Signatures of Citizenship"*
Riley "Not Gainfully Employed"*
**Stremlau, "I Know What an
Indian Woman Can Do"***

Thurs. Oct. 25

The Lives of Southern Women:
Slave and Free

Week 11:

Tues. Oct. 30
Thurs. Nov. 1

Ghoully Aspects of Victorian Culture
NO CLASS

Week 12:

Tues. Nov. 6

Discussion:
Glymph, *Out of the House of Bondage*
Women's Education and
Professional Lives

Thurs. Nov. 8

Week 13:

Tues. Nov. 13
Thurs. Nov. 15

Alternative Visions: Oneida & Shakers
Origins of the Woman's Rights Movement

Week 14:

Tues. Nov. 20
Thurs. Nov. 22

NO CLASS
THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 15:

Tues. Nov. 27
Thurs. Nov. 29

Women & the Civil War
Discussion:
Silber, *Daughters of the Union*

Week 16:

Tues. Dec. 4
Tues. Dec. 6

Feminism and Suffrage
Where do we go from here?



IMPORTANT DATES

Midterm:	Oct. 16
Paper topic due:	Oct. 30
Paper:	Nov. 15
Final Exam:	Exam Week

In-Class Discussions

Thurs. Aug. 30
Tues. Sept. 11
Thurs. Sept 20
Tues. Oct. 2
Tues. Oct. 23
Tues. Nov. 6
Thurs. Nov. 29

On days allocated for discussion, the class will be divided in half. One half will meet in LWSN B155 and the other half in UNIV 103 (clarification to follow). The professor and teaching assistant will alternate between these discussions sections. You will be assigned to your classroom (LWSN B155 or UNIV 103) during the first week of class.

