

WOMEN IN AMERICA SINCE 1877
HIST 4468 SPRING 2017
MW 2:00-3:15 pm PAFFORD 208
DR. STEPHANIE M. CHALIFOUX

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course surveys the history of American women from 1877 to the present. We will explore American women's lives and experiences and examine how and why historians have approached women's history differently. We will also determine how race, class, and sexual orientation shaped women's experiences.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Identify and explain key issues, themes, and developments related to Women in the US.
2. Analyze primary and secondary sources for their historical content and interpretations.
3. Conduct historical research.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This course will consist of lectures, readings, films, and discussions. There are **five books required** for this course (listed below). In addition to the five required books, there are **required supplemental readings** available on CourseDen. Class lectures will provide an overarching framework within which you will analyze weekly readings. Each week's assigned readings appear in the **Schedule of Lectures and Assignments**, and must be completed by the start of class. To make the most of this class, students must read the assigned materials and be prepared to engage in dialogue based on what they have read. **Expect quizzes or in-class written assignments on the reading materials. Bring two exam books to class by January 30th.**

REQUIRED BOOKS: (5)

Ladies of Labor, Girls of Adventure: Working Women, Popular Culture, and Labor Politics at the Turn of the Century - Nan Enstad

Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold: The History of a Lesbian Community - Madeline Davis and Elizabeth Lapovsky-Kennedy

From the Mississippi Delta: A Memoir - Endesha Ida Mae Holland

The World Split Open: How the Modern Women's Movement Changed America - Ruth Rosen

I am Not a Slut: Slut Shaming in the Age of the Internet - Leora Tanenbaum

Daily/weekly reading assignments: Will be available on CourseDen.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Quizzes and Various Assessments: I will assess your understanding and completion of each required reading. These assessments will take various forms. These readings are not busy work; rather they are designed to enhance your knowledge by pushing you to look a bit deeper into the events and issues we will cover in class.

Plagiarism Quiz: You are required to take and pass a plagiarism quiz. The quiz will take place on **February 8th**. Your paper will not be accepted or graded unless you pass this quiz in advance. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

In-Class Writes : You will be required to complete five in-class writes (essays) based on the three books you will read for this class. The essay question will not be assigned prior so be sure to read the book thoroughly.

Research Paper: The paper will allow you to engage in the process of producing historical interpretations through the use of primary and secondary sources. For this paper, you will write a 2700 word paper on an aspect of women’s experiences in the U.S. since 1877. The paper must be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point font, with standard margins, and in elegant prose. Further information on the paper assignment will be posted on CourseDen. A one page topic description and a draft bibliography is due on **February 1st**. Papers must be submitted via dropbox on CourseDen by 5 pm on **Friday, April 7th**.

Midterm Exam: The midterm exam will consist of short answers and an essay requiring students to draw conclusions from the material in both the readings and the lectures. The midterm exam will be on **March 1st**.

Final Exam: The exam will consist of short answers and a comprehensive essay requiring students to draw conclusions from the material in both the readings and the lectures.

Participation: This course requires you to contribute to class discussions. You are expected to offer insights, informed opinions, and thoughtful exchanges with your peers. If you do not attend or you attend and do not contribute to the discussion you will earn a failing grade for participation.

The assignments are weighted as follows:

Quizzes and In-class assignments	30%
Paper	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Participation	10%

COURSE POLICIES:

ATTENDANCE: There is no attendance policy for this course. However, attendance strongly correlates with your final grade. Students who attend class tend to pass the class. Students who do not attend, typically earn a poor grade. Note that there is a participation grade in this course. If you do not attend, you cannot participate. Your midterm and your final exam are based on the content in my lectures and my powerpoints, which I do not post on CourseDen.

Extracurricular Conflicts: If you are member of an athletic team, musical group, or other University organization, it is your responsibility to provide me with a schedule of planned absences at the beginning of the semester. Participation in extracurricular activities DOES NOT excuse the student from any course requirement.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY: All acts of dishonesty in any work constitute acts of academic misconduct. This includes first and foremost cheating and plagiarism. If you commit academic dishonesty, (plagiarism or cheating) you will FAIL this course. There are no second chances. In addition, I will submit students who cheat or plagiarize to the University of West Georgia's Academic Dishonesty Tracking System.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT: A good learning environment requires that we treat each other with respect and consideration. We must all behave in a manner that is conducive to an effective and positive learning environment. Distracting behavior including, but not limited to, talking, eating, reading the newspaper, listening to music on earbuds or headphones, and texting/internet is not acceptable. You will be asked to leave class if you violate the classroom conduct rules. Continued violations will be reported to the student conduct board. Penalties range from community service, withdrawal from eth course, and suspension from the university.

Laptops: You may not use laptops in class this class

If I find you are using a laptop (or cellphone or other technology) I will ask you to stop. If you disregard my request, I will ask you to leave class and you will be marked absent.

You MAY NOT record my lectures.

MAKE-UP POLICY:

Make-ups are given only with the permission of the instructor and only in the face of extreme, extenuating circumstances (death in the family, serious illness, car accident, injury).

Documentation is required. Feeling under the weather, roommate issues, traffic congestion, or breakups with your partner are not valid excuses for missing an assignment, an exam, or a paper. In the case of an emergency on exam day, you must contact the instructor at the soonest possible time. Students who are involved in extracurricular activities that will occasionally require them to miss class *must provide their travel schedule well in advance of the expected absence. They must also arrange to make up any missed assignments before they leave.*

Make-up reading quizzes/assessments: If approved, I will assign you an alternate assessment due within 48 hours of the original due date.

Late Research Papers: I will allow late papers. However, one letter grade will be docked for each day your paper is late resulting in an F after 5 days (NO EXCEPTIONS).

Make-up midterm exam: If approved, it must be taken within 5 days of the original exam date and at my convenience.

Make-up final exam: If approved, you will receive an incomplete until the following semester when you will take the exam at my convenience.

Please review the Common Language for university syllabi at the link below for further information about course policies as well as information about academic and disability services:

http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

Special Note: I reserve the right to modify the syllabus over the course of the semester as circumstances dictate. Revisions will be announced in class and on CourseDen. Students are responsible for checking CourseDen regularly for any changes to the syllabus and assignments.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENTS

1/9: Why Study Women's History?

1/11: A Woman's Place?

1/16: MLK Jr. Day: No Class

1/18: After the Civil War

Readings: Tera Hunter, "Reconstruction and the Meaning of Freedom"

1/23: Educating, Uplifting, and Saving: Finding a Place in the Public Sphere

1/25: Social Reform, Women's Work, and Sexual Control

Readings:

George Kibbe Turner, "The City of Chicago: A Study of Great Immoralities"

Kathy Peiss, "Charity Girls and City Pleasures"

Muller v Oregon (1908)

Margaret Dreier Robins Describes the Purposes of the Women's Trade Union League
National Women's Trade Union League, "Legislative Goals"

1/30: **Reading:** *Ladies of Labor, Girls of Adventure*

In Class Essay

2/1: Women's Suffrage

Paper topics Due

2/6: Sexual Revolutions

Readings:

New Republic, *Flapper Jane*

Anna Martin, "We Couldn't Afford a Doctor"

The Farmers Wife, "The Labor Savers I Use"
"Letter to Margaret Sanger"
Dorothy Dunbar Bromley, "Feminist: New Style"
Margaret Sanger Publishes Letters Documenting American Wives' and Husbands' Urgent
Need for Legal Birth Control

2/8: Sexual revolutions (continued)
Plagiarism Quiz

2/13: The Great Depression and Sort of a New Deal for Women
Readings:
Meridel Le Seur, "The Despair of Unemployed Women"
Ruth Shallcross, "Shall Married Women Work"
"Letter to Eleanor Roosevelt"
The New York Times Reports, "Destitute Women on Increase Here,"
"Anne Marie Low Records Her Feelings About Life in the Dust Bowl"
Dorothy Dunbar Bromley, "Comments on Birth Control and the Depression"

2/15: Women and Unions

2/20: **Reading:** *Boots of Leather*
In Class Essay

2/22: Women and World War II

2/27: Women on the Homefront
Readings:
Richard Jefferson, "African American Women Factory Workers"
"Post War Plans for Women"
Valerie Matsumoto, "Japanese American Women During World War"
Marilyn Hegarty, "Patriot or Prostitute?"

3/1: Midterm

3/6: The 1950s: In Search of June Cleaver
Readings:
Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*
"50th Anniversary of "*The Feminine Mystique*: Friedan's Rediscovered Writings on
Industrial Working Women"
Susan Douglas, "Fractured Fairy Tales"
"African American Pauli Murray Explains Why Negro Girls Stay Single"
"A Letter to the Editor of The Ladder from an African-American Lesbian"

3/8: Reflections Unheard: Women in the Civil Rights Movement

- 3/13: **Reading:** *From the Mississippi Delta*
In Class Essay
- 3/15: The Beginnings of the Second Wave Feminist Movement
- 3/20: No Class
- 3/23: No Class
- 3/27: **Reading:** *The World Split Open*
In Class Essay
- 3/29: The Feminist Movement
- 4/3: The “Other” Women’s Movement
Readings:
Frances Surge, “Diary of a Rent Striker”
Mirta Vidal Reports on the Rising Consciousness
Frances Beale, "Double Jeopardy: To Be Black and Female, "
Jean Smith, “Black Consciousness”
National Black Feminist Organization, “Manifesto”
Radical Lesbians Explore the Revolutionary Potential
Ariel Levy, “Lesbian Nation: When Gay Women Took to the Road”
- 4/5: Thelma and Louise (Film)
Readings:
Fort Lauderdale Sun “Review of Thelma and Louise”
Raina Lipsit, “‘Thelma & Louise’: The Last Great Film About Women”
- 4/7: **PAPERS DUE (By 5pm submit to dropbox on CourseDen)**
- 4/10: Thelma and Louise (continued) and Discussion
- 4/12: Backlash
Readings:
Susan Faludi, *Backlash*
Phyllis Schafly, *The Power of the Positive Woman*
- 4/17: Women, Poverty, and Assistance
Readings:
Gwendolyn Mink, “Feminists and the Politics of Welfare Reform in the 1990s”
Monica Potts, “What’s Killing Poor White Women?”
Jamala McFadden Tells Her Story of Welfare Assistance in the 1990s
- 4/19: Third Wave Feminism

4/26: **Reading:** *I Am Not a Slut*
In Class Essay

5/1: Final discussion and exam prep

Final Exam: Monday May 8th 2-4pm