

History 336: Women in American History
Spring, 2009
9:30-10:45 TTH
Prof. Paula A. Treckel

This course explores the social, political and economic history of women in America from the colonial period to the present. Special attention will be paid to women's changing role in the American family. The effects of race, religion and ethnicity on women's experience in America will be analyzed. The impact of the nineteenth century women's rights movement and the modern feminist movements on women's and men's lives will also be discussed.

Students enrolled in this class will:

- Understand key themes underlying American women's history from the colonial period to the present.
- Identify and be able to articulate historians' interpretations of major events in American women's past.
- Conduct primary and secondary research about some aspect of American women's history that interests them.
- Lead their classmates in discussion about important works in the field of American women's history.
- Develop their own arguments about women's experience in American history
- Write a research paper on their chosen subject using the *Chicago Manual of Style* as their citation guide.

Required Readings:

Evans, Sara. *Tidal Wave*.
Ewen, Elizabeth. *Immigrant Women in the Land of Dollars*.
Friedan, Betty. *The Feminine Mystique*.
Gluck, Sherna Berger. *Rosie the Riveter: Revisited*. (coursepack)
Griffith, Elizabeth. *In Her Own Right*.
Norton, Mary Beth. *Liberty's Daughters*.
White, Deborah Gray. *Ar'n't I A Woman?*

Discussion Topics and Reading Assignments:

1/15	Introduction to American Women's History	Begin Norton.
1/20	Good Wives in Colonial America	
1/22	The Revolution and Women's Lives	Finish Norton.
1/27	Republican Mothers	Begin White.
1/29	The Plantation Mistress	
2/3	African-American Women in Slavery & Freedom	Finish White.
2/5	The Cult of Domesticity	Begin Griffith.
2/10	The way west...	
2/12	Abolition and Women's Rights	
2/17	Elizabeth Cady Stanton	Finish Griffith.
2/19	Exam #1	
2/24	The Suffrage Movement and "New Women"	Begin Ewan.
2/26	"Hester Street" (in class video)	
3/3	Coming to America...	Finish Ewan.
3/5	Flappers and Fashions	Begin Gluck.
3/10	The Revolution in Morals and Values	
3/12	The Depression and the backlash	
3/17	Spring Break	
3/19	Spring Break	
3/24	"Make do...or do without."	
3/26	"Women, Work and Wartime" (in class video)	
3/31	Rosie the Riveter: Myth and Reality	Finish Gluck.
4/2	Exam #2	

4/7	Homeward Bound: Suburbia	Begin Friedan.
4/9	Women and the Civil Rights Movement	
4/14	The Re-birth of Feminism	Finish Friedan.
4/16	Women and the New Left	Begin Evans.
4/21	Radical Feminisms (Research Papers due)	
4/23	Backlash	
4/28	Post Feminist America	Finish Evans.

5/4 Take Home Final Exam is due by **noon**.

Course Requirements:

You are required to attend all classes, read all assigned works by the dates indicated, participate in and facilitate class discussions, take all exams, and write a research paper for this course. Attendance will be taken. Students with more than **two** unexcused absences in the course will be penalized when their final grade in the course is determined.

All exams must be taken on the dates indicated. The two in-class exams and the take-home final exam are each worth **1/5** of your final course grade.

You are required to write a **12-15** page research paper about some aspect of American women's history that interests you. The paper is due in class on **4/21**. No late papers will be accepted. The research paper is worth **1/5** of your final course grade.

All students are expected to participate in class discussions. You are also required to facilitate class discussion on one of the assigned monographs during the semester. Class participation and discussion facilitation are worth **1/5** of your final course grade.

No incompletes will be awarded in this course without the permission of the Dean.

Office Hours:

203 Arter Hall
M 10:00-12:00, 1:30-3:00
T 8:00-9:30, 11:00-12:00
W 8:00-12:00
TH 8:00-9:30
& by appointment

Office Phone: 332-4309
Cell Phone: 330-606-5006
Home Phone: 330-677-2323 (OH) Th-Sun.
email: paula.treckel@allegheny.edu

