

History 72
Fall 2013
TTh 2:45-4:00
Humanities 203

Professor Liss
Hum. 214, x73541
Hrs: Tues. 4:15-5:15; Wed. 11-12

History of Women in the United States

This course will focus on the changing experiences of women in the 19th and 20th centuries with an emphasis on how differences have materialized over time and how they reside in the present. Part of our task will be to explore the continuities of and differences in the lives of women in the face of rapid social and economic change. To do this, the course is divided into three sections: the historical construction of gender; writing a woman's life: the personal is historical; and what do women want?—post-war feminisms and their discontents. Among the questions we will consider are: How have the meanings of the category “woman” changed over time and how have these changes been inflected in the lives of women of the past? How general or shared have “women's experiences” been? How distinctive according to class, race, ethnicity and region? How have historians addressed these questions in the past generation?

The following books are available at Huntley Bookstore and on reserve at Honnold Library:

Vicki Ruiz, ed. Unequal Sisters, 4th edition (ISBN 9780415958417)
Betty Friedan, The Feminine Mystique (ISBN 9780393322576)

Each student will also read two of the following (logistics to be discussed in class):

Judith Ortiz Cofer, Silent Dancing (ISBN 9781558850156)
Monica Sone, Nisei Daughter (ISBN 9780295956886)
Mary Crow Dog, Lakota Woman (ISBN 9780802145420)
Anne Moody, Coming of Age in Mississippi (ISBN 9780385337816)

Readings marked with an asterisk are available in the Resources folder on Sakai.

Course learning objectives, requirements, and grading policy are on the next page.

Course learning objectives and assessment:

- Students will analyze historical arguments and interpretive debates (class participation, Sakai postings, and written work);
- Students will develop historical arguments in oral and written form (class participation and written work);
- Students will develop clear, analytical writing—in a synthetic essay (take-home midterm exam); about a primary source in historical perspective (autobiography assignment); and by developing an independent essay (final paper);
- Students will develop historical research skills (final paper option);
- Students will become familiar with the history of women in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Course requirements and grades:

Students are expected to attend all classes and come prepared to discuss the material. Grades will be determined as follows:

Participation, incl. attendance	30%
Sakai Forum postings	15%
Take-home midterm (Fri., Oct. 18):	15%
Autobiography assignment (Mon., Nov. 25)	25%
Final paper (Fri., Dec. 20)	15%

Participation: The course will be run as a seminar. This means that your active participation is necessary for the course's success. There will be no formal lectures and each class will consist of a discussion of the readings. Students are expected to come to class having completed the assignment for the day and prepared to participate in the discussion. Students should bring the assigned readings to class. Laptops, and other devices, are not allowed because they interfere with discussion. Any student who needs special accommodation should speak to the instructor.

Sakai Forum postings: Every student is required to post questions, comments, or responses to the readings once each week. Postings are due by 9 a.m. of the assignment (i.e. by 9 a.m. on Tuesday or Thursday). These postings can be informal (they are not mini papers) but they should raise thoughtful questions about the readings, their historical relevance. The purpose is to provide a space to share your views and queries and to focus our discussion. Your remarks and questions should be interesting: they should engage the reading and articulate an issue that you want to pursue. I will use these posting to help focus our discussions. You are welcome to post more often, if you are so inclined, including commenting on other students' postings and continuing discussions outside of class in the Forum space.

Take-home midterm: An open-book exam, synthetic essay on readings from weeks 1-7.

Autobiography assignment: a 2-page, reflective essay due on Oct. 31 and an 8-10 page essay due on Nov. 25.

Final paper: An 7-8 page essay on the last unit of the course (weeks 12-15).

Week I: Introduction: Where are We in Women's History?

Sept. 3: Introduction to the course

Sept. 5: "Introduction to the Fourth Edition," Unequal Sisters (US), pp. xiii-xviii

Liu, "Teaching the Differences among Women from a Historical Perspective," US, pp. 29-40

*Feimster, "The Impact of Racial and Sexual Politics on Women's History" (Sakai)

THE HISTORICAL CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER

Week II: Slavery and Servitude

Sept. 10: *Jones, "My Mother Was Much of a Woman" (Sakai)

Camp, "The Pleasures of Resistance," US, pp. 83-107

Sept. 12: Brooks, "This Evil Extends Especially to the Feminine Sex," US, pp. pp. 41-59

Chávez-García, "Race, Culture and Justice in Mexican Los Angeles," US, pp. 108-117

Week III: Work and Domesticity

Sept. 17: Boydston, "To Earn Her Daily Bread," US, pp. 118-129

Fahs, "The Feminized Civil War," US, pp. 130-155

Sept. 19: Brown, "To Catch the Vision of Freedom," US, pp. 156-177

Glenn, "From Servitude to Service Work," US, pp. 427-55

Week IV: Colonialism and Citizenship

Sept. 24: *Bederman, "Civilization, the Decline of Middle-Class Manliness, and Ida B. Wells's Anti-Lynching Campaign (1892-1894)" (Sakai)

Raibmon, "The Practice of Everyday Colonialism," US, pp. 194-220

Sept. 26: *Cott, "Marriage and Women's Citizenship" (Sakai)

Pascoe, "Miscegenation Law, Court Cases, and Ideologies of 'Race,'" US, pp. 303-324

Week V: Women's Rights in Different Keys

Oct. 1: DuBois, "Working Women, Class Relations, and Suffrage Militance," US, pp. 271-288

Yung, "The Social Awakening of Chinese American Women," US, pp. 259-270

Oct. 3: Higginbotham, "In Politics to Stay," US, pp. 289-302

Gordon, "Black and White Visions of Welfare," US, pp. 221-247

Week VI: The New Women

Oct. 8: Meyerowitz, "Sexual Geography and Gender Economy," US, pp. 325-341

*Carby, "It Jus Be's Dat Way Sometime" (Sakai)

Oct. 10: Peiss, "Making Faces," US, pp. 342-362

Ruiz, "Star Struck," US, pp. 363-378

Week VII: Depression and War

Oct. 15: Matsumoto, “Japanese American Women... Creation of Urban Nisei Culture” US, pp. 379-389
Weber, “*Raiz Fuerte*,” US, pp. 417-426
Orleck, ““We Are that Mythical Thing Called the Public,”” US, pp. 401-416

Oct. 17: Film: “Rosie the Riveter” in class (Honnold AV 4285)

Friday, Oct. 18: Take-home midterm due by 4 p.m. (turn in to dropbox on Sakai)

WRITING A WOMAN’S LIFE: THE PERSONAL IS HISTORICAL

Week VIII-IX: Personal Politics

Oct. 22: FALL BREAK

Oct. 24: Friedan, The Feminine Mystique, pp. ix-xiii, 3-12, and ch. 1-4, 7
Horowitz, “Rethinking Betty Friedan and *The Feminine Mystique*,” US, pp. 495-520

Oct. 29: Friedan, The Feminine Mystique, ch. 8, 13-14, epilogue, pp. xv-xxxiv
*hooks, “Black Women: Shaping Feminist Theory” (Sakai)
* “The Feminine Mystique 50 Years Later” –sections of video screened in class
*CCF 50th Anniversary of Feminine Mystique symposium (optional—browse through)

Weeks IX-XI: Life Stories

Oct. 31: *Juhasz, ““Some Deep Old Desk or Capacious Hold-All’: Form & Women’s Autbio.”
*Conway, “Introduction,” Written by Herself
*Personal Narratives Group, Interpreting Women’s Lives, selections
Preliminary autobiography writing assignment due in class (2 pp.)

Nov. 5: Cofer, Silent Dancer

Nov. 7: Sone, Nisei Daughter

Lecture: Myrlie Evers-Williams, Garrison Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 12: Crow Dog, Lakota Woman

Nov. 14: Moody, Coming of Age in Mississippi

WHAT DO WOMEN WANT? POST-WAR FEMINISMS AND THEIR DISCONTENTS

Week XII: Radical Feminisms

Nov. 19: *Morgan, Sisterhood is Powerful (Sakai): everyone should read pp. xiii-xl and 3-28. In addition, browse through and choose readings to raise in class in parts ii (pp. 161ff), iii (pp. 337ff), iv (pp. 447ff), and Historical Documents (pages 512ff)

*Enke, “Smuggling through the Gates” (Sakai)

Nov. 21: *Moraga and Anzaldúa, This Bridge Called My Back (Sakai): everyone should read Forewords to the Second Edition (there are two) and pp. vi-xxvi and p. 5, 98-101. In addition, browse through, read and prepare for discussion at least one piece from each section (You have selections, not the whole book. You should use the table of contents as a guide, because the sections are not clearly marked in the text)

Week XIII-XIV: The Politics of Reproduction and Sexuality

Nov. 25: **Autobiography assignment due by 3 p.m.**

Nov. 26: *Solinger, Abortion Wars, selections (Sakai)
Film: “Prairie Storm” in class

Nov. 28: **THANKSGIVING**

Dec. 3: *Davis, “Racism, Birth Control and Reproductive Rights” (Sakai)
*Roberts, “Punishing Drug Addicts Who Have Babies” (Sakai)
*Covert, “‘Roe’ at 40” (Sakai)

Dec. 5: *Duggan, The Twilight of Equality?, selections (Sakai)
*Reddy, “Time for Rights?” (Sakai)
Browse through the ACLU, Blog on Rights: War on Women here:
<https://www.aclu.org/blog/tag/war-women>

Week XV: The Continuing Problem of (In)Equality

Dec. 10: *Coontz, “Why Gender Equality Stalled” (Sakai)
*“Room for Debate: Feminism’s Next Act” (pdfs in separate folder on Sakai and also here:
<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2013/02/18/what-should-feminists-focus-on-next>)

Dec. 20: Final Papers due by Noon