

History of Women in the United States, 1877 to Present
21:512:274

Class Location: Conklin 446
Class Meeting Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30 AM – 12:50 PM
Professor: E. Eittreim
My Office: 313 Conklin Hall
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-2:00 or by appointment
My Email: eittreim@rutgers.edu

Course Description:

This course uses women as a lens to better understand the history of the United States from the end of Reconstruction to the present. Topics covered include immigration, the Progressive Era, World Wars I and II, the Great Depression, the Civil Rights Movement, the Cold War, globalization as well as themes more specific to women and gender including issues related to feminism, families, households, violence, and rights. Course lectures and readings survey perspectives and experiences of women from different backgrounds as well as professional scholarship particular to the study of women's history.

In this class, students will apply analytic reading and writing skills. "Close reading" and "active reading" of primary and secondary sources will be modeled and practiced. Guided and unguided writing assignments will help students to organize their ideas and formulate arguments about class readings and topics covered in the course.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Attendance and regular class participation (in class discussion, activities, and note-taking during lectures).
- 2) Readings. You are expected to read assigned texts prior to class, take notes on ALL of these assigned readings, and bring your notes and readings to class. *Your notes for the readings will be checked (at random) throughout the semester to ensure that you are keeping up with the readings.*
- 3) Written Assignments. You will have two papers for the course. Paper one is due in class on February 16, 2015 and paper two is due in class on April 19, 2015.
- 4) Exams. The Midterm exam will be held in class on Thursday, March 10, 2015 and the Final Exam is TBA.

Grading*:

Participation:	20%
Paper 1:	20%
Paper 2:	20%
Midterm exam:	20%
Final exam:	20%

Readings*: As mentioned above, you are expected to read assigned texts prior to class, take notes on ALL of these assigned readings, and bring your notes and readings to class. *Your notes for the readings will be checked (at random) throughout the semester to ensure that you are keeping up with the readings, and you will be graded at these times with a check plus (if the notes are particularly well done), a check (if the notes are adequate), or a check minus (if the notes are barely passable).*

Extraordinarily good note-taking (many check-pluses) will raise your final grade by half a grade (from “B” to “B+,” for example). Barely passable notes (many check-minuses) will lower your final grade by half a grade (from “B” to “C+,” for example). Seriously incomplete notes will lower your final grade by ONE FULL GRADE (from “B” to “C,” for example).

Attendance/Tardiness:

Attendance is required. Class will begin on time. Habitual lateness is not acceptable and will be penalized. Do not take the course if you are unable to get to class on time. There will be no make-up opportunities for missed classes.

Excused vs. Unexcused Absences: The Rutgers-Newark Undergraduate Catalog (http://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nwk-ug_0608/pg23613.html) states: “The recognized grounds for absence are illness requiring medical attention, curricular or extracurricular activities approved by the faculty, personal obligations claimed by the student and recognized as valid, recognized religious holidays, and severe inclement weather causing dangerous traveling conditions.” If you plan to claim a religious holiday as an excused absence, you must inform me of this fact within the first two weeks of class.

Tardiness and Grade Penalties: Lateness of twenty minutes or more counts as a half-absence and puts a student at risk of grade penalties (discussed below). Any student who is habitually late for class (five or more times over the course of the semester)—even if the student arrived within twenty minutes after the start of class—will receive a half grade reduction (from a “B” to “C+,” for example).

Attendance and Grade Penalties: Any student who misses four classes will receive a half grade reduction (from “B” to “C+,” for example). Any student who misses six classes will receive a full grade reduction (from “B” to “C,” for example). Any student who misses eight or more sessions through any combination of excused and

unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw to avoid getting an F.

Late Writing Assignments:

Writing Assignments: Papers are due at the beginning of class on the dates indicated on the syllabus. For every class day that a paper is not turned in, the paper will lose a half grade reduction (from “B” to “C+,” for example). If turned in late on the due date (after class has begun), the paper will lose a half-grade reduction (from “B” to “C+,” for example). Papers also need to be posted on Blackboard by the due date.

Reading Notes: You are expected to take notes on ALL of the readings for the course. These notes will be checked several times at random over the course of the semester.

Technology and Class Environment:

Use of technology for personal use (texting, social media, etc.) during class time is prohibited. Breaking this code of conduct will result in penalties, including dismissal from class and grade reductions (pertaining to class participation).

Members of the class are expected to create a “safe” learning space by speaking, listening, and engaging with one another in a respectful manner. It is important to both be present—demonstrate that you are engaged in the class—and to consider others’ opinions and ideas regardless of whether they complement or challenge your own. Many of the topics are sensitive (i.e. domestic violence, abortion), and it is important both to respect your own limits as a scholar as well as those of others.

Disabilities:

Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, requiring assistance and/or accommodation should speak with Disability Services in a timely manner to set up appropriate accommodations.

Policy on Academic Integrity (Cheating and Plagiarism):

Rutgers University treats cheating and plagiarism as serious offenses. Cheating is both a moral and ethical offense. It violates your own integrity and the ethics of group commitment: when you cut corners and cheat, you undermine those students who took the time to work on the assignment honestly. The standard minimum penalties for students who cheat or plagiarize include failure of the course, disciplinary probation, and a formal warning that further cheating will be grounds for expulsion from the University.

All students are required to sign the Rutgers Honor Code Pledge. To receive credit, every assignment must have your signature under the following phrase: “On my

honor, I have neither given nor received any unauthorized assistance on this examination/assignment.”

Course Readings:

The following book is required for the course. It is available at New Jersey Books, 167 University Avenue (corner of University and Bleeker) and at the Rutgers University Book Store. It is also on two-hour reserve at Dana Library.

Required Book

Text: Ellen Carol DuBois and Lynn Dumenil, *Through Women's Eyes: An American History With Documents, Volume Two: Since 1865, THIRD EDITION*. ISBN # 978-0-312-67607-0 (Volume 2).

Blackboard (BB): The rest of the required readings can be accessed via Blackboard (blackboard.newark.rugters.edu) and are indicated in the syllabus below as “BB.” These other course readings are drawn from the following text: Linda K. Kerber, et al, eds., *Women's America: Refocusing the Past, 8th ed.* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016).

SYLLABUS

Tuesday January 19: Introduction

Thursday January 21: Jim Crow and African American Activism

Reading: Dubois/Dumenil, 353-357.

BB: Glenda Gilmore, “Forging Interracial Links in the Jim Crow South,” 300-310.

Tuesday January 26: The “New Woman” and “Other” Women

Reading: Dubois/Dumenil, 374-381, 440-449.

BB: Judy Yung, “Unbound Feet: From China to San Francisco's Chinatown,” 337-344.

Thursday January 28: Late Nineteenth-Century Immigration

Reading: Dubois/Dumenil, 400-420, 426-439.

Tuesday February 2: U.S. Empire

Reading: Dubois/Dumenil, 421-425.

BB: Laura Wexler, "A Lady Photojournalist Goes to the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair," 383-392.

Thursday February 4: The Progressive Era: Labor

Reading: Dubois/Dumenil, 456-473, 493-495.

Tuesday February 9: Women's Suffrage and Feminism

Reading: Dubois/Dumenil, 473-483, 495-500, 506-510.

BB: Leila J. Rupp, "Sexuality and Politics in the Early Twentieth-Century International Women's Movement," 393-404.

Thursday February 11: The Great War

Reading: Dubois/Dumenil, 483-492, 501-505, 511-516.

Tuesday February 16: Women's Activism

PAPER 1 DUE

Reading: None.

Thursday February 18: The Twenties

Reading: Dubois/Dumenil, 522-537, 559-561.

BB: Vicki L. Ruiz, "The Flapper and the Chaperone: Mexican American Teenagers in the Southwest," 427-435.

Tuesday February 23: The Thirties and the Great Depression

Reading: Dubois/Dumenil, 537-546, 562-572, 580-587

BB: Leslie J. Reagan, "When Abortion Was a Crime: Reproduction and the Economy in the Great Depression," 451-456.

Thursday February 25: World War II

Reading: Dubois/Dumenil, 546-558, 573-579.

BB: Valeria Matsumoto, "Japanese American Women During World War II," 530-536.

Tuesday March 1: Beyond the Feminine Mystique

Reading: Dubois/Dumenil, 594-617.

Thursday March 3: Consumerism and Conservatism

Reading: Dubois/Dumenil, 635-655.

BB: Michelle M. Nickerson, "Politically Desperate Housewives in Southern California," 581-591.

Tuesday March 8: How Sex Changed

Reading: Joanne Meyerowitz "Christine Jorgenson and the Story of How Sex Changed," 615-629.

Thursday March 10: MIDTERM EXAM

Reading: None.

SPRING RECESS NO CLASS

Tuesday March 22: The Civil Rights Movement

Reading: Dubois/Dumenil, 617-634, 656-664.

Thursday March 24: Sexual Violence and the Civil Rights Movement

Reading: Danielle L. McGuire, "Sexual Violence and the Long Civil Rights Movement," 591-605.

Tuesday March 29: Modern Feminism

Reading: Dubois/Dumenil, 672-693.

Thursday March 31: Women's Liberation

Reading: Dubois/Dumenil, 721-735.

BB: Beth L. Bailey, "Prescribing the Pill: The Coming of the Sexual Revolution in America's Heartland," 629-637.

Tuesday April 5: Impact of Feminism

Reading: Dubois/Dumenil, 693-720.

Thursday April 7: Feminism and the New Right

Reading: Dubois/Dumenil, 742-754.

BB: Rosalyn Baxandall and Linda Gordon, "The Women's Liberation Movement," 705-718.

Tuesday April 12: Women, Politics, and War

Reading: Dubois/Dumenil, 755-765.

BB: Elizabeth L. Hillman, "The Female Shape of the All-Volunteer Force," 689-698.

Thursday April 14: 9/11

Reading: Dubois/Dumenil, 765-768.

BB: Ashraf Zahedi, "Muslim American Women After 9/11," 775-784.

Tuesday April 19: Women in the Twenty-First Century

Paper 2 Due

Reading: None.

Thursday April 21: Visible and Invisible Women

Reading: Dubois/Dumenil, 779-788.

Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, "Domésticas Demand Dignity," 759-775.

Tuesday April 26: American Women in the World

Reading: Dubois/Dumenil, 768-778, 789-803.

Thursday April 28: Last Day of Class - Final Exam Review

Reading: None.

Final Exam: TBA.