

History of Women in the United States, 1877 to Present

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Spring 2020

Class Location/Time: Thursdays, 6:00-9:00 PM, Conklin Hall, Room 446
Professor: E. Eittreim
Office: Conklin Hall, Room 326
Office Hours: by appointment
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, sexuality, and rights. Course lectures, readings, and activities survey diverse perspectives and experiences and engage with contemporary 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/Participation:** You are required to attend and participate in class discussions and activities.
- 2) **Readings:** You are required to carefully read the assigned texts by the date indicated on the syllabus and complete related writing assignments ("Reading Reactions"). You are also required to bring the assigned readings with you to class to facilitate class discussion.
- 3) **Papers:** You will be assigned one short paper (2 pages – final draft due on Thursday February 20) and one long paper (5 pages – final draft due on Thursday April 23) to be completed outside of class. There will be in-class writing workshops to edit and review peers' work before the final drafts are due.
- 4) **Exams:** Midterm exam held on March 12 and final exam May 8 (tentative date).
- 5) **Does History Matter Reflection:** You are required to select a current news story, write about it, share your findings with the class on one or more occasions, and participate in class related class activities.

Grading:

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| Participation: | 10% |
| Short Paper: | 10% |
| Long Paper: | 20% |
| Midterm exam: | 20% |
| Final exam: | 20% |
| Reading Reactions: | 10% |
| Does History Matter Reflection: | 10% |

Attendance/Tardiness: Attendance is required. You are expected to sign in each class and remain for the duration. Class will begin on time. Habitual lateness and leaving class early is not acceptable and will be penalized. Do not take the course if you are unable to get to class on time or if you regularly have to leave early. 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. Also see “Religious Holiday Policy and Accommodations” below.

Tardiness, Leaving Class Early, 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 (four or more times over the course of the semester)—even if the student arrived within twenty minutes after the start of class—will receive at least a half grade reduction (from a “B” to “C+,” for example). Similarly, any student who habitually leaves class early (four or more times over the course of the semester) will receive at least a half grade reduction (from a “B” to “C+,” for example).

Attendance and Grade Penalties: Any student who misses TWO classes will receive a half grade reduction (from “B” to “C+,” for example). Any student who misses THREE classes will receive a full grade reduction (from “B” to “C,” for example). Any student who misses FOUR 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 must be posted to Blackboard prior to the beginning of class on the dates indicated on the syllabus.

- If posted late on the due date (after class has begun), the paper will lose a half-grade reduction (from “B” to “C+,” for example).
- For every week that a paper is not turned in, the paper will lose a full grade reduction (from “B” to “C,” for example).
- If submitted well after the original due date, the paper will automatically fail.

- If the paper is not submitted, you will earn a zero for the assignment.

Reading Reactions: Late “Reading Reaction” assignments will not be accepted. One of the main purposes of these assignments is to give students a chance to reflect on and engage with the readings, ultimately preparing them for class.

The Writing Center: The Writing Center, located in Room 126 of Conklin Hall, offers writing tutoring and writing workshops to all undergraduate students currently enrolled in classes on the Rutgers-Newark campus. Their tutors work to help students become more independent readers and writers capable of responding well to the demands of writing within the university. Please inform your students that The Writing Center is available to them free of charge and encourage them to take advantage of their services to strengthen their reading, writing, and research skills. For more on the Writing Center, see: <http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter>.

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. violence, abortion), and it is important both to respect your own limits as a scholar as well as those of others.

Accommodation and Support Statement: Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

- **Students with Disabilities:** Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact ODS, register, have an initial appointment, and provide documentation. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and documentation submitted) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided to the student. The student must give the LOA to each course instructor, followed by a discussion with the instructor. This should be completed as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at ods.rutgers.edu. Contact ODS: (973) 353-5375 or ods@newark.rutgers.edu.
- **Religious Holiday Policy and Accommodations:** Students are advised to provide timely notification to instructors about necessary absences for religious observances and are responsible for making up the work or exams according to an

agreed-upon schedule. The Division of Student Affairs is available to verify absences for religious observance, as needed: (973) 353-5063 or DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

- **Counseling Services:** Counseling Center Room 101, Blumenthal Hall, (973) 353-5805 or <http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/>.
- **Students with Temporary Conditions/Injuries:** Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury that is adversely affecting their ability to fully participate in their courses should submit a request for assistance at: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.
- **Students Who are Pregnant:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist students with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy: (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.
- **Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment:** Students experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, should know that help and support are available. To report an incident, contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance: (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. To submit an incident report: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. To speak with a staff member who is confidential and does **NOT** have a reporting responsibility, contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance: (973) 353-1918 or run.vpva@rutgers.edu.

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. As a standard minimum penalty, students who are suspected of cheating or plagiarism are reported to the Office of Academic Integrity. Pending investigation, further penalties can include failure of the course, disciplinary probation, and a formal warning that further cheating will be grounds for expulsion from the University. For more information, see: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>. 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.”

Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance: Rutgers faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. Rutgers has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The University strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the University. Please be aware that all Rutgers employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as advocates, counselors,

clergy and healthcare providers as listed in Appendix A to Policy 10.3.12) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the University. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the University's Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak with a staff member who is confidential and does not have this reporting responsibility, you may contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance at (973)-353-1918, or at run.vpva@rutgers.edu. Learn more about the office here: <http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/vpva>.

Course Readings: There are no required books to purchase for the course. All required readings can be accessed via Blackboard (blackboard.newark.rutgers.edu).

Recommended Readings – In class, I will often cover material that is *not* required reading for the course but is “recommended.” If you would like a textbook to reinforce some of the background material covered in lectures, I recommend the following book (which is on reserve in Dana Library): Ellen Carol DuBois and Lynn Dumenil, *Through Women's Eyes: An American History With Documents, Volume Two: Since 1865* (2012).

SYLLABUS

Week 1: Thursday January 23 – Introduction: History Today

Week 2: Thursday January 30 – Gender and Indigenous Family Separation

Required Readings

- Zitkala-Sa, *American Indian Stories* in DuBois and Dumenil, 421-425.
- Margaret D. Jacobs, excerpt from “Designing Indigenous Child Removal Policies,” *White Mother to a Dark Race* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2009), 25-51.

Week 3: Thursday February 6 – African American Women and the Freedom Struggle

Required Readings

- Ida B. Wells, selection from *Crusade for Justice: The Autobiography of Ida B. Wells* in DuBois and Dumenil, 314-318.
- Deborah Gray White, “The First Step in Nation-Making,” *Too Heavy a Load: Black Women in Defense of Themselves, 1894-1994* (1999), 21-55.

Week 4: Thursday February 13 – The First Wave(s)

- Rough Draft of Paper 1 DUE. Bring hard copy to class for peer review.

Required Readings

- Glenda Gilmore, “Forging Interracial Links in the Jim Crow South,” 300-310.
- Nancy Cott, “The Birth of Feminism,” *The Grounding of Modern Feminism* (1987), 11-50.

- Listen: “Feminism in Black and White,” Scene on Radio (Season 3: MEN, Part IV – 47 minutes)

Week 5: Thursday February 20 – Gender, Immigration, and New Boundaries (Paper 1 DUE)

- Post PAPER 1 to Blackboard PRIOR to class

Required Readings

- Listen: “On the Outs: Restricting American Immigration,” *Back Story* podcast, episode #0180, February 10, 2019
- Vicki L. Ruiz, “The Flapper and the Chaperone: Mexican American Teenagers in the Southwest,” 427-435.

Week 6: Thursday February 27 – Women, Family, and Work: From the Great Depression to World War II

Required Readings

- Leslie J. Reagan, “When Abortion Was a Crime: Reproduction and the Economy in the Great Depression,” 451-456.
- Valeria Matsumoto, “Japanese American Women During World War II,” 530-536.
- Karen Anderson, “The Great Depression and World War II,” in *A Companion to American Women’s History*, ed. Nancy A. Hewitt. (Malden, MA, 2005), 366-379

Week 7: Thursday March 5 – Postwar Wealth and Poverty

Required Readings

- Annelise Orleck, “From the Cotton Fields to the Desert Sands: Living and Leaving the Delta Life,” *Storming Caesar’s Palace: How Black Mothers Fought Their Own War on Poverty* (2005), 7-36.
- Read Voices of “Rosie the Riveter,” in Dubois and Dumenil, 526-531.

Week 8: Thursday March 12 – MIDTERM EXAM

Week 9: Thursday March 19 – SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS!

Week 10: Thursday March 26 – The Civil Rights Movement

Required Readings

- Danielle L. McGuire, “‘It Was Like All of Us Had Been Raped’: Sexual Violence, Community Mobilization, and the African American Freedom Struggle,” *The Journal of American History*, Vol. 91, No. 3 (Dec. 2004), 906-931.
- Anne Moody, excerpt from *Coming of Age in Mississippi* (1968), 283-310.

Week 11: Thursday April 2 – Recasting the Sexual Revolution and Women’s Liberation

Required Readings

- Beth L. Bailey, “Prescribing the Pill: The Coming of the Sexual Revolution in America’s Heartland,” 629-637.
- Joanne Meyerowitz, “Christine Jorgenson and the Story of How Sex Changed,” *Women’s America: Refocusing the Past*, 8th ed. (2016), 615-629.
- Primary Sources: “Women’s Liberation” in Dubois and Dumenil, 654-667.

Week 12: Thursday April 9 - Gender and HIV/AIDS

Required Readings

- Paula A. Treichler, “The Burdens of History: Gender and Representation in AIDS Discourse, 1981-1988,” in *How to Have Theory in an Epidemic: Cultural Chronicles of AIDS* (2004) 42-98.

Week 13: Thursday April 16 – MeToo: Then and Now

- Rough Draft of Paper 2 DUE. Bring hard copy to class for peer review.

Required Readings

- Watch: *Anita: Speaking Truth to Power* (2013) – 77 minutes
- Read: “Time Person of the Year 2017: The Silence Breakers,” *Time* (December 18, 2017)
- Listen: Tarana Burke, “Me Too is a Movement, Not a Moment,” *TED Talk*, (November 2018)

Week 14: Thursday April 23 – Visible and Invisible Women (Paper 2 DUE)

- Post PAPER 2 to Blackboard PRIOR to class

Required Readings

- Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, “Domésticas Demand Dignity,” 759-775.
- Ashraf Zahedi, “Muslim American Women After 9/11,” 775-784.
- “Women’s Lives in Modern America and the World” in Dubois and Dumenil, 713-724.

Week 15: Thursday April 30 – 21st Century Movements

Required Readings

- Read: Alicia Garza, “A Herstory of the #BlackLivesMatter Movement,” *The Feminist Wire* (October 7, 2014)
- Read: The Women’s March on Washington, “Guiding Vision and Definition of Principles” (January 21, 2017)
- Listen: “Nonbinary, pregnant, and taking on the most gendered role of all: motherhood,” Post Reports podcast (August 16, 2019 – 25 minutes)
- TBD

Final Exam: Friday May 8, 6:20-9:20 PM (tentative)