History of Women in the United States to 1877
21:512:273
Section 01

Class Location: Hill Hall – Room 104
Class Meeting Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30 AM – 12:50 PM
Professor: E. Eittreim
My Office: 313 Conklin Hall
Office Phone: 973-353-3823
Office Hours: before class by appointment or Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-2:00
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 pre-colonial era through 1877. Topics covered include Anglo-Indian encounters, slavery, the Revolutionary War, colonial settlement, the Civil War, and Reconstruction as well as themes more specific to women and gender, including issues related to 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, careful reading of assigned texts by date indicated on syllabus, and participation in class discussions/activities. You are required to bring the assigned readings with you to class to facilitate class discussion.
2) Midterm exam held on Thursday October 22, 2015.
4) Journal. You are required to write informal journal entries (one to three pages in length) about the assigned readings for every class meeting* and bring the journal to every class. Some journal entries will be guided (you will be asked to respond to a specific question/prompt) and others will be free form. The journal will give you a chance to respond to the primary and secondary source readings, be helpful in studying for the exams and used to facilitate class discussions. Journal entries will be collected at unannounced times, at a minimum of five class sessions over the course of the semester. Journal entries will be graded with a check, check minus, and check plus. Please use a three-ring binder with looseleaf paper to facilitate collection of journal entries. (*No journal entries are due on the days of the midterm exam and paper due dates.)
Grading:

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

Journal Entries**: As mentioned above, journal entries will be graded with a check (if the entry is completed), a check plus (if the entry is particularly well done) or a check minus (if the entry is barely passable). Extraordinarily good journals (many check-pluses) will raise your course grade by half a grade (from “B” to “B+,” for example). A barely passable journal (many check-minuses) will lower your grade by ONE FULL GRADE (from “B” to “C,” for example). Seriously incomplete journals will lower your final grade by TWO FULL GRADES (from “B” to “D,” for example).

Attendance/Tardiness:

Attendance is required. Class will begin on time. Lateness of twenty minutes or more counts as a half-absence and puts a student at risk of grade penalties (discussed below). 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.

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:

Papers 1 and 2: 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 full 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).

Journal Entries: Late journal entries will not be accepted. One of the main purposes of the journal is to give students a chance to reflect on and engage with the readings.
ultimately preparing them for class. As indicated above, several missing journal entries can significantly bring down the final grade.

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 accomodations.

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 books are required for the course. They are available at New Jersey Books, 167 University Avenue (corner of University and Bleeker) and at the Rutgers University Book Store. They are also on two-hour reserve at Dana Library.

Required Books


The rest of the required readings can be accessed via Blackboard (blackboard.newark.rutgers.edu) and are indicated in the syllabus below as “BB.”

Syllabus

Reminder: All readings must be completed by the class date under which they are listed below. Any modifications to the assigned readings will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

Week 1:

Tuesday Sept. 1 – Introduction

Thursday Sept. 3 – Sex and Gender

Readings:

Text: DuBois/Dumenil, xxvii-xxxv


Week 2:

Tuesday Sept. 8 – NO CLASS [Go to your regularly scheduled classes that meet on Mondays]
Thursday Sept. 10 – Anglo-Indian Encounters

Readings:

Text: DuBois/Dumenil, 2-28; 36-46.


Week 3:

Tuesday Sept. 15 – African Women and Slavery

Readings:


Thursday Sept. 17 – The Imperial Gaze/Empire

Readings:


Week 4:

Tuesday Sept. 22 – Colonial Worlds and Households

Readings:


Thursday Sept. 24 – Colonial Women and Families

Readings:


Paper 1 DUE IN CLASS TODAY.

Week 5:

Tuesday Sept. 29 – Captivity in Borderlands


Thursday Oct. 1 - The Salem Witchcraft Crisis

Readings:


Tuesday Oct. 6 - Negotiating Sex and Gender in the 18th Century

Readings:


Week 6:

Thursday Oct. 8 – Mothers and Daughters of the Revolutionary Era

Readings:


Week 7

Tuesday Oct. 13 – A Revolution for Whom?

Readings:


**Thursday Oct. 15 – Rights, Freedoms, and Parlor Politics**

**Readings:**


**Week 8:**

**Tuesday Oct. 20 – Redefining Family and Friendship; Midterm Exam Review**

**Readings:**


BB: Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, “The Female World of Love and Ritual: Relations between Women in Nineteenth-Century America,” in Linda K.

**Midterm Prep:**
Formulate questions related to readings that you would like to discuss further and bring these texts/questions to class. To facilitate class discussion, it is advised that you bring all readings to class.

**Thursday Oct. 22 - MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS.**

**Week 9:**

**Tuesday Oct. 27 – Women, Work, and Politics**

**Readings:**

**Text:** DuBois/Dumenil, Chapter 4: 186-224; 233-247.


**Novel:** Sue Monk Kidd, *The Invention of Wings*. (Begin reading. Read entire book by November 19.)

**Thursday Oct. 29 – Association and Reform**

**Readings:**


Novel: Sue Monk Kidd, The Invention of Wings. (Read entire book by November 19.)

Week 10:

Tuesday Nov. 3 – Agents and Agency in Slavery

Readings:


Novel: Sue Monk Kidd, The Invention of Wings. (Read entire book by November 19.)

Thursday Nov. 5 – Race In/To the West

Readings:


**Novel:** Sue Monk Kidd, The Invention of Wings. (Read entire book by November 19.)

**Week 11:**

**Tuesday Nov. 10 – Women’s Rights**

**Readings:**


**BB:** Sara M. Evans, ““A Time of Division,” Born For Liberty “(New York, 1997), 93-118.

**Novel:** Sue Monk Kidd, The Invention of Wings. (Read entire book by November 19.)
Thursday Nov. 12 – A Gendered Civil War

Readings:

Text: DuBois/Dumenil, 300-313.


Novel: Sue Monk Kidd, The Invention of Wings. (Read entire book by November 19.)

Week 12:

Tuesday Nov. 17 – A Gendered Reconstruction

Readings:


Novel: Sue Monk Kidd, The Invention of Wings. (Read entire book by November 19.)
Thursday Nov. 19 – Discussion, *The Invention of Wings*

Paper 2 due at the beginning of class.

Readings:

Text: DuBois/Dumenil, 353-381.

**Novel:** Sue Monk Kidd, *The Invention of Wings.* ([Read book in its entirety by this class meeting.](#))

Week 13:

Tuesday Nov. 24 - Meanings of “Maternal Commonwealth,” 1865-1890; Review

Readings:

**BB:** Sara M. Evans, “‘Maternal Commonwealth’ in the Gilded Age, 1865-1890,” *Born For Liberty* (New York, 1997), 119-143.

Thursday Nov. 26 NO CLASS THANKSGIVING

Week 14:

Tuesday Dec. 1: Wests

Readings:

**Text:** DuBois/Dumenil, Chapter 7: Women in an Expanding Nation: Consolidating the West, 388-400


Thursday Dec. 3 – Violence in the West

Readings:


**Week 15:**

**Tuesday Dec. 8 – Colonial Legacies**

**Readings:**


**Thursday Dec. 10 – Review**

**Readings/All:**

Formulate questions related to texts that you would like to discuss further and bring these texts/questions to class. To facilitate class discussion, it is advised that you bring all readings to class. *THE FINAL EXAM IS CUMULATIVE.*

**FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, December 22 from 11:45-2:45**