

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, CANTON  
CANTON, NEW YORK**

**COURSE OUTLINE  
HISTORY 304: UNITED STATES WOMEN'S HISTORY**

**PREPARED BY: Dr. Carli Schiffner  
Updated by: Dr. Gaylynn Welch**

**SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS  
SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT  
May 2015**

**A. TITLE: United States Women's History**

**B. COURSE NUMBER:** History 304

**C. CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**D. WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No

**E. COURSE LENGTH:** 15 weeks

**F. SEMESTER OFFERED:** Fall and Spring

**G. HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY:**  
3 lecture hours per week

**H. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** This course explores the social, economic, and political themes in United States Women's History from pre-European contact through the twenty-first century. The diversity of women is emphasized and issues of class, race, national origin, activism, work, and the role of motherhood will be explored. Citizenship and the status of women in relationship to government will be discussed and analyzed. Three hours of lecture per week.

**I. PRE-REQUISITES:** 30 credit hours, Expository Writing (ENGL 101) or Oral and Written Expression (ENGL 102), and a 2.50 cumulative GPA, or permission of the instructor.

**J. GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):** By the end of this course, the student will:

<i>Course Objective</i>	<i>Institutional SLO</i>
a. Evaluate primary and secondary sources	2. Crit. Thinking
b. Understand and use gender as a system of analysis and consider ways women's history contributes to and alters our understanding of American history	1. Communication 2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence
c. Identify and discuss factors that contribute to the social construction of gender by place and change over time	1. Communication 3. Prof. Competence
d. Examine diversity of women and identify common experiences	2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence
e. Use primary sources to identify and discuss the significance of the goals, strategies, and results of social movements	2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence
f. Analyze conflict and coalition among women activists from different background	2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence

**K. TEXTS:** To be determined by the instructor.

DuBois, Ellen Carol and Lynn Dumenil. *Through Women's Eyes: An American History with Documents*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2009.

Kerber, Linda, Jane Sherron De Hart, and Cornelia Hughes Dayton. *Women's America: Refocusing the Past*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Rampolla, Mary Lynn. *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2010.

**L. REFERENCES:** Other appropriate texts might include:

**Primary Sources:**

Argersinger, Jo Ann. *The Triangle Fire: A Brief History with Documents*. Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2009.

Cohen, Rose. *Out of the Shadow: A Russian Jewish Girlhood on the Lower East Side*. With an Introduction by Thomas Dublin. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1995.

Cook, Blanche Wisen. *Eleanor Roosevelt: Volume One, 1884-1933*. New York: Vintage Books, 1992.

Fleishner, Jennifer, Ed. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, Written by Herself*. Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2010.

Friedan, Betty. *The Feminine Mystique*. New York: Norton Publisher, 1963.

Godbeer, Richard. *The Salem Witch Hunt: A Brief History with Documents*. Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2011.

Larsen, Nella. *Quicksand and Passing*. New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 2009.

MacLean, Nancy. *The American Women's Movement: A Brief History with Documents*. Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2009.

Murray, Pauli. *The Autobiography of a Black Activist, Feminist, Lawyer, Priest, and Poet*. Knoxville, Tennessee: University of Tennessee Press, 1987.

Salisbury, Neil, Ed. *The Sovereignty and Goodness of God, by Mary Rowlandson, with Related Documents*. Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 1997.

Silko, Leslie Marmon. *Gardens in the Dunes: A Novel*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000.

Sklar, Kathryn Kish. *Women's Rights Emerges within the Antislavery Movement, 1830-1870*. Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2000.

Yeziarska, Anzia. *The Bread Givers*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Introduction by Alice Kessler-Harris. New York: Persea Books, 1999.

**Secondary Sources:**

Armitage, Susan, and Elizabeth Jameson, eds. *Writing the Range: Race, Class, and Culture in the Women's West*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1997.

Berkin, Carol. *First Generations*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1997.

Crawford, Vicki L., Jacqueline Anne Rouse and Barbara Woods. *Women in the Civil Rights Movement: Trailblazers and Torchbearers, 1941-1965*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1993.

Evans, Sarah. *Born for Liberty: A History of Women in America*. New York: The Free Press, 1997.

Glenn, Susan. *Daughters of the Shtetl: Life and Labor in the Immigrant Generation*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1990.

Gutierrez, Ramon. *When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Went Away: Marriage, Sexuality, and Power in New Mexico, 1500-1846*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1991.

Hunter, Tera. *To 'Joy My Freedom: Southern Black Women's Lives and Labors After the Civil War*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997.

Kessler-Harris, Alice. *Out to Work: A History of Wage-Earning Women in the United States*. Oxford: University of Oxford Press, 1982.

May, Elaine Tyler. *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era*. New York: Basic Books, 1988.

Mead, Rebecca. *How the Vote was won: Woman Suffrage in the Western United States, 1868-1914*. New York: New York University Press, 2004.

Meyerowitz, Joanne, Ed. *Not June Cleaver: Women and Gender in Postwar America, 1945-1960*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1994.

Norton, Mary Beth, ed. *Major Problems In American Women's History*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Lexington, Massachusetts: D.C. Heath, 1996.

- Orleck, Annelise. *Common Sense and a Little Fire: Women and Working-Class Politics in the United States, 1900-1945*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1995.
- Peiss, Kathy. *Hope in a Jar: The Making of America's Beauty Culture*. New York: An Owl Book/Henry Hold and Company, 1998.
- Perdue, Theda. *Cherokee Women: Gender and Culture Change, 1700-1835*. Lincoln, Nebraska: Bison Books, 1999.
- Rosen, Ruth. *The World Split Open: How the Modern Women's Movement Changed America*. New York: Penguin Books, 2000.
- Ruiz, Vicki. *Cannery Women, Cannery Lives*. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1987.
- Ulrich, Laurel Thatcher. *Good Wives: Images and Reality in the Lives of the Women of Northern New England, 1650-1750*. New York: Vintage Books, 1980.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812*. New York: Vintage Books, 1990.
- Weigland, Kate. *Red Feminism: American Communism and the Making of Women's Liberation*. Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, 2001.
- Yung, Judy. *Unbound Feet: A Social History of Chinese Women in San Francisco*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995.

**Videos:**

- The American Experience: A Midwife's Tale* (1998)
- Ikwe* (1997)
- Iron Jawed Angels* (2004)
- Mona Lisa Smile* (2003)
- Nine to Five* (1980)
- Not For Ourselves Alone: The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony* (1999)
- Stepford Wives* (1975)
- Woman of the Year* (1942)
- Working Girl* (1988)

**M. EQUIPMENT:** Smart classroom.

**N. GRADING METHOD:** A-F

## **O. MEASUREMENT CRITERIA / METHODS:**

Exams  
Quizzes  
Papers  
Participation

The following is recommended: Reading-based quizzes, a paper based on the assigned class readings, a midterm exam and a final exam, class discussion, group presentations on social movements, and an Equal Rights Amendment (1920s) debate (with a written component).

## **P. TOPICAL OUTLINE:**

### I. Introduction to Women's History

- A. Stages of Women's History
- B. Gender as a Category of Analysis

### II. Early America, 1600-1820

- A. Indigenous Women: Sexual division of labor; kinship systems; status of Women; fur trade; war
  - 1. Five Nations of the Iroquois
  - 2. Pueblo
  - 3. Ojibwa: *Ikwe*
- B. Colonial Immigrant Women: Work; birth cycle; family life; legal status
  - 1. Southern colonies
    - a. servant labor system in Virginia
    - b. slave labor system in Upper and Lower South
  - 2. Northern colonies
    - a. Massachusetts Puritans
    - b. Anne Hutchinson, Mary Rowlandson
    - c. witchcraft
  - 3. Middle colonies
    - a. Dutch women in New Netherland
    - b. Quaker women in Pennsylvania
- C. Women in the Revolution and New Republic
  - 1. Choosing sides
  - 2. Women's participation in the war
    - a. Philadelphia Association
    - b. camp followers
  - 3. Effects of the Revolution
    - a. Native American women
    - b. African-American women
    - c. Republican Motherhood

### III. The Many Frontiers of Industrializing America, 1820-1880

- A. The Cult of True Womanhood
- B. Social Movements
  - 1 moral reform

2. Petition campaign against removal of the Cherokee
3. Labor reform
4. Abolition and women's rights
  - a. Sarah Grimke and Angelina Grimke
  - b. Seneca Falls and Elizabeth Cady Stanton
  - c. Harriot Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

- C. Civil War
- D. Reconstruction

#### IV. Creating the State in an Industrialized Nation, 1880-1945

- A. Clubs
  1. Woman's Christian Temperance Union
  2. National Association of Colored Women
    - a. Ida B. Wells
    - b. anti-lynching campaign
- B. Education
  1. Zitkala-Sa
  2. Mary McLeod Bethune
- C. The Nineteenth Century Woman Suffrage Movement
  1. National Woman Suffrage Association
  2. American Woman Suffrage Association
  3. Victoria Woodhull and the Beecher-Tilton trial
  4. Woman suffrage in the West
- D. Work
  1. Garment industry
  2. Clerical work
  3. Domestic work
- E. Immigration
  1. Jewish immigrants
  2. Asian immigrants
- F. Middle-Class Progressives and Working-Class Labor Activists
  1. Settlement houses
  2. Consumer's League
  3. Woman's Trade Union League
  4. International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
  5. Socialist party
- G. The Twentieth Century Woman Suffrage Movement
  1. Carrie Chapman Catt and the National American Woman Suffrage Association
  2. Harriot Stanton Blatch and the Women's Political Union
  3. Alice Paul and the National Woman's Party
  4. Ida B. Wells Barnett and the Alpha Suffrage Club of Chicago
- H. Politics and Culture in the 1920s
  1. Women's Joint Congressional Committee
    1. Equal Rights Amendment Debate
    2. Flappers

- 3. Birth control
  - 4. Harlem Renaissance
  - I. The Great Depression and WWII
    - 1. Gender and Social Security
    - 2. Women in the workplace and the armed forces
      - a. segregation in the workplace
      - b. “Rosie the Riveter”
      - c. WAC, WAVES, MCWR, SPAR, WASP
    - 3. Internment
- V. Struggles against Injustice, 1945-2010
- A. Containment and Consumer Culture
    - 1. Women Strike for Peace versus HUAC
    - 2. Betty Friedan, “The Way We Were, 1949”
    - 3. Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*
  - B. Civil Rights
    - 1. Ella Baker and the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee
    - 2. Fannie Lou Hamer and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party
    - 3. Jo Ann Robinson and the Women’s Political Council
  - C. The Second Wave
    - 1. Connections to labor unions and the civil rights movement
      - a. Title VII
      - b. Pauli Murray and Jane Crow
      - c. National Organization of Women
    - 2. Women’s liberation
      - a. making the personal political
      - b. consciousness raising
      - c. women’s health: *Our Bodies, Ourselves; Roe v. Wade*
    - 3. ERA
    - 4. Backlash
      - a. Phyllis Schlafly
      - b. STOP-ERA
  - D. Marriage
    - 1. *Loving v. Virginia* (1967)
    - 2. *Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965)
    - 3. Defense of Marriage Act (1996)
    - 4. *Goodridge v. Massachusetts Department of Public Health* (2003)
  - E. Work and Labor Legislation
    - 1. migrant workers
    - 2. sweatshops
    - 3. welfare reform
  - F. Sexual Harassment and Violence against Women
    - 1. Public policy
    - 2. Anita Hill and Clarence Thomas
    - 3. Violence against Women Act
  - G. The Third Wave and Popular Culture



1. Riot grrrl
2. Madonna
3. Lady Gaga