

Professor Kathleen Clark  
T/Th  
2:00 pm

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Office Hours: T/Th  
10am-11am and by  
appointment

HISTORY 3085  
U.S. Women's History to 1865  
Fall 2006

This course will explore changing images and realities of American womanhood from the colonial period through the Civil War

**Requirements**

1. Attendance. Attendance at all class meetings is both expected and required. Repeated absences will significantly affect your grade. The instructor reserves the right to withdraw any student who accumulates three or more unexcused absences.
2. Timely completion of assigned readings and film viewing.
3. Participation. Students are expected to come to class prepared to ask questions and discuss material.
4. Writing. There will be in-class writing assignments on the reading throughout the course. Collectively, these assignments will be awarded a letter grade, which will contribute to your over-all grade. In addition, two formal papers, 5 pages in length, will be assigned over the course of the semester. The first paper will be due at the beginning of class on **September 21**. The second paper will be due at the beginning of class on **November 14**. Extensions on papers will be granted only for familial emergencies or situations of similar gravity; in general, please don't ask.
5. Exams. In-class midterm (**October 5**) and a final exam, date and time TBA.

**Grading**

Attendance and participation 10%  
In-class writing assignments 10%  
Papers 40%  
Midterm 20%  
Final 20%

### Assigned Reading

The following assigned books are available at the University bookstore:

Linda Kerber and Jane Sherron De Hart, *Women's America* (Sixth Edition)

Berkin and Horowitz, *Women's Voices, Women's Lives*

Anne Bradstreet, *To My Husband and Other Poems*

Susannah Rowson, *Charlotte Temple*

Phillis Wheatley, *Complete Writings*

Benita Eisler, *The Lowell Offering*

Harriot Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

Holmes and Butler, *Covered Wagon Women*

### Assigned Film

*A Midwife's Tale* (on reserve in the library media center, 7<sup>th</sup> floor, main library)

Scheduled showing T.B.A.

### **Please note:**

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

### Class Schedule

Thursday, August 17: Introduction

Tuesday, August 22

#### **The Pocahontas Problem: Women and European conquest**

"The Expertise of Indian Women" 22-3, "A Speedy Travail," 23-4, "Ottawan Menstrual Taboos" 24-5, "Europeans Describe Indian Courtship and Marriage" pp. 67-69, "Whose God?" 130-1, "Dehgewanus Describes Her Work" 111-12, all in *Women's Voices, Women's Lives*; "Creating a Blended Household" in *Women's America*.

Thursday, August 24

#### **New Arrivals**

Reading: "Masters and Women Servants" p. 16, "Premarital Sex" p. 17, "Deviant Sex" 35-9, "A Servant's Eden" 100-2, "The Harsh Realities of Servitude" 103-6, "An Eighteenth Century Daughter Begs for Assistance" 106-7, "No Votes for Women, Infants, or Convicts" 161-2, all in *Women's Voices, Women's Lives*; "This Evil Extends Especially . . . to the Feminine Sex" in *Women's America*.

Tuesday, August 29

**Defining Slavery**

“Documents: The Law of Slavery” in *Women’s America*; “Condemning Interracial Sex” 13-14, “Feigning Pregnancy” 34-5, “Regulating Marriages of Servants and Slaves” 62-64, “A Black Woman Must Prove She is Free” 108-110, “Enslaved Women Improve their Masters’ Land” 115-116, “A Young Slave Woman’s Marketable Skills” 116-17, “We Were Not Servants,” 168-71, all in *Women’s Voices, Women’s Lives*.

Thursday, August 31

**Domestic Relations**

“The Ways of Her Household,” “Searchers Again Assembled,” and “Documents: The Law of Domestic Relations,” in *Women’s America*. “A Married Woman’s Identity” 54-5, “Teach the Young Women” 55-6, “A Guide for Helpmeets” 56-58, “Grounds for Divorce” 64-65, “Dissolving a Marriage” 87-88, “Offending Women” 90-92 all in *Women’s Voices, Women’s Lives*.

Tuesday, September 5

**The life and times of Anne Bradstreet**

*To My Husband and Other Poems* (selections)

Thursday, September 7

**Religion and gender in Colonial America**

Reading: “Compelling Worship” 133, “Mary Dyer is Martyred” 136-138, “The Excommunication of Mrs. Anne Hibben” 138-9, “Sarah Fiske Acknowledges Her Errors” 145-6, “And He Makes No Difference in the Seed” 152-6.

Tuesday, September 12

**“Well-behaved Women Rarely Make History”**

“Document: The Trial of Anne Hutchinson, 1637” in *Women’s America*.

Thursday, September 14

**Goodwife or Witch?**

Reading: “The Devil in the Shape of a Woman” in *Women’s America*; “The Wife of Henry Batchiler Stands Accused” 140-1, “Goodwife Corey Denies All Charges” 141-43, “Frightened into False Confessions” 143-45” all in *Women’s Voices, Women’s Lives*.

Tuesday, September 19

**A Midwife’s Tale**

Watch *A Midwife’s Tale* before class. Read: “Taking the Trade,” in *Women’s America*; “A Child is Stillborn” 26-7, “A Father Reports a Difficult Delivery” 27-8, “Landon Carter Opposes Breast-Feeding” 29-30, “Long and Anxious Days” 30-1, “Infanticide” 39-46, all in *Women’s Voices, Women’s Lives*

Thursday, September 21

**Changes and Continuities**

Reading: "A Woman Takes the Pulpit," 156-7 in *Women's Voices, Women's Lives*

**\*First paper due at the beginning of class\***

Tuesday, September 26

**Women for the Revolution**

Reading: "Documents: Supporting the Revolution" in *Women's America*; "Politics Does Not Become the Ladies" 175-6, "Protest Against the Lieutenant Governor" 176, "Women Must Defend Liberty" 177-8, "Renouncing Tea" 179-80, "For the Publick Good" 180, "Renouncing Tea Once More" 181, all in *Women's Voices, Women's Lives*.

Thursday, September 28

**A Revolution for women?**

Reading: "The Republican Mother and the Woman Citizen" in *Women's America*; "Woman Suffrage in NJ" 162-3, "Zeal Transforms the Women" 182-3, "A Soldier Commends a Camp Follower" 183-4, "Women Were Not Destined to Vote" 184-5, "A Female Soldier in the American Revolution" 185-6, "In a Traditional Political Voice" 186-7, "A Challenge to Patriarchy" 191-2, "A Call for Reform" 192-6, "The Virtues of an Educated Wife" 196-9 all in *Women's Voices, Women's Lives*.

Tuesday, October 3

**The meaning(s) of virtue in the new republic**

Reading: *Charlotte Temple* (entire)

Thursday, October 5

**Midterm Exam**

Tuesday, October 10

**The Limits of Freedom**

Reading: Phillis Wheatley, *Complete Writings* (selections)

Thursday, October 12

**"True Womanhood"**

Reading: "The Pastoralization of Housework" and "The Female World of Love and Ritual" in *Women's America*.

Tuesday, October 17

**Cities of Women**

Reading: "Abortion in America" in *Women's America*  
Christine Stansell article on reserve.

Thursday, October 19

**Out to Work**

Reading: *The Lowell Offering* (selections)

Tuesday, October 24

**Beyond Scarlett: Women in the Antebellum South I**

Reading: “Women’s Work: The Gender Division of Labor in Yeoman Households” in *Women’s America*.

**Get ahead:** Begin *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

**\*Fall Break\***

Tuesday, October 31

**Women in the Antebellum South II**

Reading: Finish *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

Thursday, November 2

**Women in the West I**

Reading: *Covered Wagon Women* (selections)

Tuesday, November 7

**Women in the West II**

Reading: *Covered Wagon Women* (selections)

Thursday, November 9

**Expanding “Woman’s Sphere”**

Reading: Kathryn Kish Sklar, “Catharine Beecher, Transforming the Teaching Profession,” (on reserve)

Tuesday, November 14

**Women Religious**

Reading: Suellen Hoy, “Agatha O’Brien and the Sisters of Mercy” (on reserve)

**\*Second paper due at the beginning of class\***

Thursday, November 16

**Claiming Rights I**

Reading: “Documents: Claiming Rights I” in *Women’s America*

Tuesday, November 21

**Claiming Rights II**

Reading: “Documents: Claiming Rights II,” “Sojourner Truth’s Defense of the Rights of Women,” and “The Seneca Falls Women’s Rights Convention: A Study of Social Networks,” all in *Women’s America*

Tuesday, November 28

**Divided Houses**

Reading: “Enemies in Our Households,”  
in *Women’s America*.

Thursday, November 30

**Freedom!**

Reading: “Documents: Counterfeit Freedom” and “Reconstruction and the  
Meanings of Freedom” in *Women’s America*

Tuesday, December 5

**Wrap-Up and Review for Final**

No assigned reading