

Professor Kathleen Clark
T/Th
11:00 AM

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Office Hours: T 1:30-
3:00 pm and by
appointment

HISTORY 3086
U.S. Women's History

This course will explore changing images and realities of American womanhood from the Civil War to the present

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. In-class writings. There will be in-class writing assignments on the reading throughout the course. These assignments will be awarded a letter grade, which will contribute to your over-all grade.
5. Paper. Students will be assigned a specific topic, relating to U.S. women's history, to research using materials located in the Main Library, at the Galileo database, and on the internet. The goal will be to learn as much as possible about the assigned topic, using the available resources. Students will complete the research project by writing a 6-8 page (typed, double-spaced essay) summarizing the primary findings of their research. This paper is due **at the beginning of class, Tuesday, April 4**
6. Exams. In-class "midterm" exams (February 9 and March 9) and a final exam, date and time TBA.

Grading

Attendance and participation 10%

In-class writing assignments 20%

Paper 20%

Exams 50%

Assigned Reading

The following assigned books are available at the University bookstore:

Baxandall and Gordon, eds., *Dear Sisters*

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *Herland*

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, *Iola Leroy*

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

Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

Assigned Films

Iron Jawed Angels

The Lynchburg Story

Rosie the Riveter

Mildred Pierce

Killing Us Softly (1979 and 2002)

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:

*****please note, unless otherwise stated, all articles and documents can be found in Women's America (sixth edition)***

Tuesday, January 10: Introduction

Thursday, January 12: Women in Antebellum America

Document: Working Conditions in Early Factories, 1845

Article: "The Female World of Love and Ritual"

Tuesday, January 17: The Politics of Gender in Antebellum America

Documents: Claiming Rights I and Claiming Rights II

Articles: "The Seneca Falls Women's Rights Convention" and "Sojourner Truth's Defense of the Rights of Women"

Thursday, January 19: The Civil War
Article: "Enemies in Our Households"

Tuesday, January 24: Gender and Reconstruction
Document: "Counterfeit Freedom"
Article: "Reconstruction and the Meanings of Freedom"
Text: Begin *Iola Leroy*

Thursday, January 26: Struggles over suffrage
Documents: "Minor v. Happersett" and "The Women's Centennial Agenda"
Text: Continue *Iola Leroy*

Tuesday, January 31: A "Woman's Era"?
Articles: "Ida B. Wells and Southern Horrors" and "Forging Interracial Links in the Jim Crow South"
Text: Continue *Iola Leroy*

Thursday, February 2: Discussion, *Iola Leroy*

Tuesday, February 7: Library Day

Thursday, February 9: "Midterm" I

Tuesday, February 14: Working Women
Articles: "From the Russian Pale to Labor Organizing;" "Rape and the Inner Lives of Black Women"
Document: "Protecting Women Wage-Workers"

Thursday, February 16: City Pleasures
Article: "Florence Kelley and Women's Activism"

Monday, February 20, 7:00 pm: Viewing of *Iron Jawed Angels*

Tuesday, February 21: Suffrage—the Next Generation
Article: "The Next Generation of Suffragists"
Text—Begin *Herland*

Thursday, February 23: Feminisms
Document—Margaret Sanger, "I resolved that women should have knowledge of contraception"
Text—Continue *Herland*

Tuesday, February 28: Discussion *Herland*

Thursday, March 2: A “New Woman”?
Document: “Struggling to Unionize”
Articles: “Fasting Girls;” “Disorderly Women”

Tuesday, March 7: In-class viewing and discussion, *The Lynchburg Story*

Thursday, March 9: “Midterm” II

****SPRING BREAK****

Tuesday, March 21: Women and the Great Depression
Articles: “Harder Times;” “Designing Women and Old Fools”

Thursday, March 23: Women and World War II
Articles: “Japanese American Women;” “Gender at Work”
In-class viewing: *Rosie the Riveter*

Tuesday, March 28: Politics of Gender in Post-War America (I)
Article: “Miriam Van Waters and the Burning of Letters;” “‘Mannishness,’ Lesbianism, and Homophobia in U.S. Women’s Sports”
Text: Begin *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 7:00 PM: VIEWING OF MILDRED PIERCE

Thursday, March 30: Politics of Gender in Post-War America (II)
Discussion of *Mildred Pierce*
Article: “Ladies’ Day at the Capitol”
Text: Continue *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

Tuesday, April 4: Women and the Civil Rights Movement
Article: “A Woman’s War”
Text: Continue *Coming of Age in Mississippi*
****Research essay due at the beginning of class**

Thursday, April 6: In-class discussion *Coming of Age in Mississippi*
Text: Conclude *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

Tuesday, April 11: Second Wave Feminism
Article: “Betty Friedan and the Origins of the Feminine Mystique”
Document: “Dimensions of Citizenship II”

Thursday, April 13: Women’s Liberation I
Articles: “Prescribing the Pill;” “Why the Shirelles Mattered”
Documents: Excerpts from *Dear Sisters*

Tuesday, April 18: Women's Liberation II

In-class viewing: *Killing Us Softly* (1979)

Documents: Excerpts from *Dear Sisters*

Thursday, April 20: Confronting Difference

Articles: "A Human Right to Welfare;" "Sexual Harassment on Trial;" "Sweatshops Here and There"

Documents: Excerpts from *Dear Sisters*

Tuesday, April 25: Backlash

Documents: "Making the Personal Political;" "Dimensions of Citizenship III"

Thursday, April 27: "I'm not a feminist, but . . .": The State of a Movement

Documents: "Dimensions of Citizenship IV;" "The Changing Workplace;" "Rethinking Marriage"

Articles: "Material Girl;" "Women and Global Citizenship;" "Inscription of Poverty on the Female Body"

In-class viewing: *Still Killing Us Softly* (1999)