

History of Women in the United States 1600-1870

**HIST 354 - Fall 2010
T/Th 12:00 – 1:15
BRNG 2280**

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COURSE INTRODUCTION

This course will examine women's evolving social, political, cultural, and economic position in America from the colonial period to 1870 when the women's movement split over the Fifteenth Amendment. We will explore how both men and women thought of women's proper "place" in society, that is, we will examine how gender came to be constructed and how it changed over time. We will discuss the ways in which race, class, ethnicity, and the region in which they lived shaped women's experiences. We will examine both the everyday lives of women, such as domestic work, as well as women's efforts to dismantle the private / public barrier – and the limitations to these efforts. We will discuss women's family responsibilities, work, education, political role, legal position, and sexuality over a period of two and a half centuries. Finally, we will emphasize women's changing relationship with their families, each other, and the state.

COURSE POLICIES

This course will combine lecture and class discussion. Discussions will not always fall on the same day of the week. **Students will need to carefully follow the syllabus to determine which days have been set aside for discussion.**

Attendance at lectures and discussion is required, and roll call will be taken on occasion. **Frequent absences, late arrivals, and early departures will adversely affect a student's grade.** If you *must* leave early, sit where you will not disturb the professor or other students. All material presented in class, including film clips, in addition to assigned readings will be covered on exams and/or in papers. Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class. Students are individually responsible for everything that transpires in class; absence is not a valid excuse. There are no class notes available.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Turn off all cell phones. *If any cell phone rings during class, the entire class will be subject to a pop quiz.*

Reading Assessments

For each of the four books (see list below), students will be responsible for turning in a reading assessment. The template will be available on blackboard and is designed to help students read closely. Reading assessments are due in class on the day scheduled for that book's discussion. Each assessment will be worth 5% (for a total of 20%).

Quizzes

Quizzes will be given in class on the articles assigned for discussion. These may be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, or fill in the blank. Each quiz will be worth 5% (for a total of 15%).

Examinations

There will be two examinations in the course. The mid-term will cover materials to the examination date while the final will cover material from the second half and will also include a cumulative section. There will be no make-up examinations in the course and no "extra credit" options.

Grading

Reading Assessments:	20%	
Quizzes:	15%	
Midterm:	30%	October 14
Final Exam:	35%	To be announced

Cheating / Plagiarism

Plagiarism refers to the reproduction of another's words or ideas without proper attribution. University Regulations contains further information on dishonesty. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses, and will be treated as such in this class. You are

expected to produce your own work and to accurately cite all necessary materials. Cheating, plagiarism, and other dishonest practices will be punished as harshly as Purdue University policies allow. Any instances of academic dishonesty will likely result in a grade of F for the course and notification of the Dean of Students Office.

Disclaimer

In the event of a major campus emergency, the above requirements, deadlines, and grading policies are subject to changes that may be required by a revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted once the course resumes on Blackboard or can be obtained by contacting the professor via email or phone.

Required Readings

All books are available for purchase at the bookstore. Many are also available more cheaply or used on Amazon.com, half.com, abebooks.com, and bookfinder.com (among others). Feel free to search for used books online, but be careful to purchase the correct edition.

- Camilla Townshend, *Pocahontas and the Powhatan Dilemma*
- Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *A Midwife’s Tale*
- Melton A. McLaurin, *Celia, A Slave*
- Jacqueline Glass Campbell, *When Sherman Marched North from the Sea*

There is also Course Packet of required readings (marked with * in the syllabus) for sale at the Copy Mat.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS, AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1:		
Tuesday	August 24	Introductory Session
Thursday	August 26	The Lives of Native American Women
Week 2:		
Tuesday	August 31	The Cultural Baggage of English Colonists
Thursday	September 2	DISCUSSION Read: Townshend, <i>Pocahontas and the Powhatan Dilemma</i>
Week 3:		
Tuesday	September 7	Life in the Colonies
Thursday	September 9	CLASS CANCELLED
Week 4:		
Tuesday	September 14	Female Religious Discontent
Thursday	September 16	DISCUSSION Read: Mary Beth Norton, “Searchers Again Assembled” * Cornelia Hughes Dayton, “Taking the Trade”* Carol F. Karlsen, “The Devil in the Shape of a Woman” *

Week 5:		
Tuesday	September 21	Women in the 18 th Century
Thursday	September 23	Women and the American Revolution
Week 6:		
Tuesday	September 28	DISCUSSION Read: Ulrich, <i>A Midwife's Tale</i>
Thursday	September 30	Class Formation and Religion in the Early 19 th Century
Week 7:		
Tuesday	October 5	Women and Work in the Early 19 th Century
Thursday	October 7	DISCUSSION Read: Nancy Cott, "Passionlessness" * Jeanne Boydston, "The Pastoralization of Housework" * Carol Smith-Rosenberg, "The Female World of Love and Ritual" *
Week 8:		
Tuesday	October 12	FALL BREAK
Thursday	October 14	MIDTERM
Week 9:		
Tuesday	October 19	The Creation of a "Woman's Sphere"
Thursday	October 21	Religion and Reform
Week 10:		
Tuesday	October 26	DISCUSSION Read: Nancy Taniguchi, "Weaving a Different World: Women and the California Gold Rush"* Glenda Riley, "Not Gainfully Employed: Women on the Iowa Frontier"*
Thursday	October 28	<i>Ghoulis</i> Aspects of Victorian Culture in the Mid-19 th Century
Week 11:		
Tuesday	November 2	The Lives of Southern Women: Slave and Free
Thursday	November 4	CLASS CANCELLED
Week 12:		
Tuesday	November 9	DISCUSSION Read: Celia, <i>A Slave</i>
Thursday	November 11	Women's Education and Professional Lives
Week 13:		
Tuesday	November 16	Alternative Visions: Oneida and the Shakers
Thursday	November 18	Origins of the Woman's Rights Movement

Week 14:		
Tuesday	November 23	CLASS CANCELLED
Thursday	November 25	THANKSGIVING BREAK
Week 15:		
Tuesday	November 30	Women and the Civil War
Thursday	December 2	DISCUSSION Read: <i>Campbell, When Sherman Marched North</i>
Week 16:		
Tuesday	December 7	Feminism and Suffrage
Thursday	December 9	Where Do We Go From Here?
FINAL EXAM: To be announced		