

**HISTORY 49500/CRN 40212**  
**Women in Modern America,**  
**1950 – present**  
**SPRING 2013**  
**Professor Nancy Gabin**  
**T/TH 9:00-10:15**  
**UNIV 319**



This course will introduce students to the methods of historical research and writing by focusing on women and the gender revolution in modern America. The second half of the twentieth century brought a world of change to women’s lives and American ideas about gender. *Life* magazine declared it “the revolution that will affect everybody.” Others called it a “tidal wave” and the “world split open.” As we move from Baby Boomers to Generation Y, we will consider the social, political, economic, and cultural dynamics of the gender revolution for American women from various classes and demographic, racial, and ethnic groups. We will ask if and how this revolution changed: the meanings and understandings of gender; the meanings and significance of family, motherhood, and personal relationships; women’s education and female employment; women’s involvement in political and social movements; women’s relationship to the state; expressions and regulations of female sexuality; and women and popular culture. We will engage these topics through a variety of sources—magazines and newspapers, movies and music, memoirs and fiction, legislative hearings and court decisions, television and advertisements, oral histories and photographs. Students will write a research paper on a topic of their own choosing based on work in these kinds of primary sources.

