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Office Hours:
T.Th. 8-9:15 A.M.
W. 2– 3:00 P.M.
T. 11-12:00 P.M.
and by appt.

History 335 Women & Gender in American History

This course of Women and Gender in American history assumes an angle of vision different from that in most history courses. Here gender plays the major role. We will explore gender influences and relations to the economy, the family, and to political movements from the colonial era to the present to learn how gender played a leading part. We will discuss the changing ideals of women, always aware of class, race, ethnic distinction, and sexual preference in women's experience. We will explore how the social/cultural constructs of (feminine and masculine) gender shaped the way women and men saw themselves individually and through organizations.

- **Course Requirements:** Your grade will be based upon two quizzes, a final examination on **Tuesday, December 15**, and two short papers. I will discuss the papers during the third week of class. I have put Linda Kerber and Jane DeHart, eds., *Women's America*, on Reserve in the library. Its use is optional but I suggest it as additional background material on U.S. women's history.
- The five books assigned will be discussed in class after each is read. It is expected that most of the other assigned reading will be discussed, or at least given some weight, and used as evidence in your examinations. Failure to do so will result in an automatic grade reduction (depending on the number missing). I wish to motivate and reward conscientious reading of the assigned material.

Grades will be based on written work and on oral class participation. The two quizzes are each worth 50 points. Each paper is worth 50 points, and the final examination is worth 100 points. In addition, there will be a bonus for those who attend class regularly. This will be discussed during the third week of class.

Graduate students must do an additional short research project based upon additional reading, film or television sources. The assignment will be discussed at greater length with graduate students in the course.

Incompletes will only be given in instances of genuine and documented emergency or unpredictable cataclysmic events.

Plagiarism is a crime and will result in automatic failure of this class and may result in dismissal from the university.

This course satisfied the requirements for the GE program and the Gender Perspectives Theme (F)

The faculty of all campuses of California State University has been required to take nine mandatory unpaid furlough days per semester this year, three have been assigned by President Zing and six others set by professors in consultation with our chairs and deans. This means that I will be unavailable to lecture on these furlough day, Tuesday Sept. 8, Thursday Oct. 15, and Tuesday Nov.3. This is not an ideal learning environment and none of the faculty is happy with the order that takes us away from our classes nine days this semester. If you are as frustrated as the faculty by this outrageous manipulation by the California legislature, the Governor, and the administration of the university, please send grievance letters to all concerned parties.

Required Books:

Susan Douglas, *Where the Girls Are*
Harriet Jacobs, *Life of a Slave Girl*
Eve LaPlante, *American Jezebel*
Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*
Anzia Yezierska, *Bread Givers*

Reading Packet

Available for purchase at: **The Print Shop**, 730-B Main Street, 530-893-2555. Hours are M-F 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. **The Print Shop** accepts cash, M.C. and Visa, Am. Express, Discover but no checks

Remember: The syllabus is only an approximation of course topics and reading due dates. Students are responsible for adjustments to the schedule and may be made according to class interest and discussion needs. I am looking forward to an intellectually exciting and challenging semester together.

Weekly Topics:

- August 25 Introduction to the Course
 Status of English Women and Native Peoples in Early America
 Joan Jensen "Native American Women and Agriculture"
 Ramon Gutierrez, "The Pueblo Indian World in the Sixteenth Century"
 (reading in the Reading Packet)
 LaPlante, *American Jezebel*, pp. 1-113.
- September 1 Status of Women and Men continued...
 John Demos, "The Poor and Powerless Witch"
 Carol Karlsen, "The Potentially Powerful Witch"
 (Reading Packet)

Laurel Ulrich, "A Friendly Neighbor"
LaPlante, *American Jezebel*, pp. 114-256.

September 8 Mandatory Unpaid Furlough Day

September 10 Gender and Women in the New Republic
Barbara Welter, "Cult of True Womanhood"
(Reading Packet)
Jacobs, pp. xv-142

September 15 Nineteenth-Century America
Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women" (Reading Packet)

Nancy Woloch, "Sara Hale and the *Ladies Magazine*"
E. Anthony Rotundo, "Boy Culture: Middle Class Boyhood in
Nineteenth-Century America"
(Reading Packet)
Jacobs, 143-228

September 22 Gender, Abolition, and the Civil War
Gerder Lerner, "Political Activities of Anti-Slavery Women,"
Frederick Douglass: "The Liberator and William Lloyd Garrison"
Elizabeth Leonard, "Mary Walker, M.D."
(Reading Packet)
First Quiz: Thursday, September 24
(Conflicts resolved by appointment)

September 29 Common School Movement
McGuffey Readers
Library Thursday, October 1, Room 226

October 6 Westward Expansion
John Mack Faragher, "Women and Men in the Overland Trail: The
Separate Worlds of Men and Women"
(Reading Packet)

Chinese and Gold Mountain
Maxine Hong Kingston, "China Men"
Lucie Chang, "Chinese Immigrant Women"
(Reading Packet)
Yeziarska, *Bread Givers*

October 13 **First Paper Due**
Constructions of Gender during the Progressive Era
Kathryn K. Sklar, "Hull House in the 1890's: A Community of Women"

- Reformers” (Reading Packet)
Yeziarska, *Bread Givers*
- October 15** **Mandatory Unpaid Furlough Day**
- October 20 Industrialization and the Consumer Culture
 Ruth Schwartz Cowan, “Two Washes in the Morning and a Bridge Party
 at Night: Consumer Culture and the American Housewife
 Between the Wars” (Reading Packet)
Second Paper Due October 22
- October 27 Gender Roles during the Great Depression
 “Brother (Sister) Can You Spare a Dime?” The Depression Decade
 Julia Kirk Blackwedder, “Women of the Depression: Anglo, Black,
 Hispanic Families in San Antonio”
 Robert Griswold, Fatherhood in America (Reading Packet)
- November 3** **Mandatory Unpaid Furlough Day**
- November 5 World War II and Gender Roles
 “Rosie the Riveter” - video
- November 10 The 1950s- 1960s
Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Part 1 and Part 2
Second Quiz: Thursday, November 12
- November 17 Out of the Closet
 Martin Duberman, Martha Vicinus & George Chauncey Jr., eds.,
 “Hidden from History: Gay Politics and Community in San Francisco”
 (Reading Packet)
Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Part 3
- November 24 **Thanksgiving Week**
- December 1 **Third Paper Due**
 Masculinity and Femininity
 Betty Friedan, from *The Feminine Mystique*
 (Reading Packet)
Douglas, *Where the Girls Are*, pp. 3-138
Bring unmarked Blue Book to Class
- December 8 Gender Roles into the Twenty-First Century?
Douglas, *Where the Girls Are*, pp. 139-294
- December 15 **Final Examination**
Tuesday, December 16, 2-3:50 P.M.
- Happy Holidays!**

