

Independent Study – Graduate Level Readings Seminar in US Women’s History

Instructor: Mandy L. Cooper

Course Overview:

This course is a directed readings course designed to introduce students to major historical and historiographical issues, trends, and themes in the field of US women’s history. In historical terms, we will read the books with an eye toward developing your own ideas about the meaning and importance of these issues, trends, and themes. In historiographical terms, we will read to understand how historians have discussed the historical issues and how and why that has changed over time. The two are related: your understanding of the assumptions and concerns that shaped historians’ interpretations will help you evaluate their historical findings, just as your understanding of the historical issues will help you evaluate historians’ interpretations of them. The course will place older literature and new literature in dialogue, with the goal of preparing students for comprehensive exams and for teaching introductory courses.

Reading and Written Assignments:

Students will read a book each week and come to the weekly meeting prepared to discuss the reading in depth. They will also complete three written assignments over the course of the semester. The first assignment is a critical reading journal with an entry for each book that includes notes on questions, sources, thesis, structure, assessment, further questions, and themes. The second assignment is a professional-style book review of a book selected from the recommended readings. The third and final assignment is a summative historiographical essay due at the end of the semester. The final grade breakdown will be: Participation: 25%, Book Review: 20%, Reading Journal: 20%, Historiographical Essay: 35%

Course Schedule

January 19 Foundations in Women’s and Gender History

Required Readings:

Cornelia H. Dayton & Lisa Levenstein, “The Big Tent of U.S. Women’s and Gender History: A State of the Field,” *Journal of American History* 99, no. 3, Dec. 2012: 793-817.

Joan W. Scott, “Gender as a Useful Category of Historical Analysis,” *The American Historical Review* 91, no. 5, (Dec. 1986): 1053-1075.

Jeanne Boydston, “Gender as a Question of Historical Analysis,” *Gender & History* 20, no. 3, (November 2008): 558-583.

January 26 British Colonial North America

Required Reading:

Kathleen M. Brown, *Good Wives, Nasty Wenches, and Anxious Patriarchs: Gender, Race, and Power in Colonial Virginia*, (UNC Press, 1996).

Recommended Readings:

Karin Wulf, *Not All Wives: Women of Colonial Philadelphia*.

Mary Beth Norton, *Separated by Their Sex: Women in Public and Private in the Colonial Atlantic World*.

Jennifer L. Morgan, *Laboring Women: Reproduction and Gender in New World Slavery*.

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *Good Wives: Image and Reality in the Lives of Women in Northern New England, 1650-1750*.

Camilla Townsend, *Pocahontas and the Powhatan Dilemma*.

Sharon Block, *Rape and Sexual Power in Early America*.

Catherine Kerrison, *Claiming the Pen: Women and Intellectual Life in the Early American South*.

Carol F. Karlsen, *The Devil in the Shape of a Woman: Witchcraft in Colonial New England*.

Marylynn Salmon, *Women and the Law of Property in Early America*.

February 2 European Empires in North America

Required Reading:

Juliana Barr, *Peace Came in the Form of a Woman: Indians and Spaniards in the Texas Borderlands*, (UNC Press, 2007).

Recommended Readings:

Ramón Gutiérrez, *When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Went Away: Marriage, Sexuality, and Power in New Mexico, 1500-1846*.

Kathleen DuVal, "Indian Intermarriage and Metissage in Colonial Louisiana," *William and Mary Quarterly* 65, #2 (April 2008): 267-304

Emily Clark, *Masterless Mistresses: The New Orleans Ursulines and the Development of a New World Society, 1727-1834*.

James Brooks, *Captives and Cousins: Slavery, Kinship, and Community in the Southwest Borderlands*.

Susanah Shaw Romney, *New Netherland Connections: Intimate Networks and Atlantic Ties in Seventeenth-Century America*.

Albert Hurtado, *Intimate Frontiers: Sex, Gender, and Culture in Old California*.

Susan Sleeper-Smith, *Indian Women and French Men: Rethinking Cultural Encounter in the Western Great Lakes*.

February 9 Revolutionary America

Required Reading:

Linda Kerber, *Women of the Republic: Intellect and Ideology in Revolutionary America*, (UNC Press, 1980).

Recommended Readings:

Susan Klepp, *Revolutionary Conceptions: Women, Fertility, and Family Limitation in America, 1760-1820*.

Ellen Hartigan-O'Connor, *The Ties that Buy: Women and Commerce in Revolutionary America*.

Mary Beth Norton, *Liberty's Daughters: The Revolutionary Experience of American Women, 1750-1800*.

Marla R. Miller, *The Needle's Eye: Women and Work in the Age of Revolution*.

Rosemarie Zagari, *Revolutionary Backlash: Women and Politics in the Early American Republic*.

Kate Haulman, *The Politics of Fashion in Eighteenth-Century America*.

Alfred F. Young, *Masquerade: The Life and Times of Deborah Sampson, Continental Soldier*.

Jan Lewis, "The Republican Wife: Virtue and Seduction in the Early Republic," *WMQ* 44, #4 (Oct 1987): 689-721

February 16 The Early Republic

Required Reading:

Nancy Cott, *The Bonds of Womanhood: "Woman's Sphere" in New England 1780-1835*, Yale University Press, 1997.

Recommended Readings:

Erica Armstrong Dunbar, *Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge*.

Jeanne Boydston, *Home and Work: Housework, Wages, and the Ideology of Labor in the Early Republic*.

Christine Stansell, *City of Women: Sex and Class in New York, 1789-1860*.

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812*.

Laura F. Edwards, *The People and Their Peace: Legal Culture and the Transformation of Inequality in the Post-revolutionary South*.

Rachel Hope Cleves, *Charity and Sylvia: A Same-sex Marriage in Early America*.

Theda Perdue, *Cherokee Women: Gender and Culture Change, 1700-1835*.

Lucia McMahon, *Mere Equals: The Paradox of Educated Women in the Early American Republic*.

Mary Kelley, *Learning to Stand and Speak: Women, Education, and Public Life in America's Republic*.

February 23 The Antebellum Era

Required Reading:

Stephanie E. Jones-Rogers, *They Were Her Property: White Women as Slave Owners in the American South*

Recommended Readings:

Alexandra J. Finley, *An Intimate Economy: Enslaved Women, Work, and America's Domestic Slave Trade*

Martha Jones, *All Bound Up Together: The Woman Question in African American Public Culture, 1830-1900*.

Lori D. Ginzburg, *Untidy Origins: A Story of Woman's Rights in Antebellum New York*.

Nancy Hewitt, *Women's Activism and Social Change: Rochester, New York, 1822-1872*.

Stephanie Camp, *Closer to Freedom: Enslaved Women and Everyday Resistance in the Plantation South*.

Deborah Gray White, *Arn't I a Woman? Female Slaves in the Plantation South*.

Tiya Miles, *Ties that Bind: The Story of an Afro-Cherokee Family in Slavery and Freedom*, 2nd ed.

Devon Ah. Mihesuah, *Cultivating the Rosebuds: The Education of Women at the Cherokee Female Seminary, 1851-1909*.

María Raquel Casas, *Married to a Daughter of the Land: Spanish-Mexican Women and Interethnic Marriage in California, 1820-1880*.

March 2 Reconstruction

Required Reading:

Hannah Rosén, *Terror in the Heart of Freedom: Citizenship, Sexual Violence, and the Meaning of Race in the Postemancipation South*.

Recommended Readings:

Thavolia Glymph, *Out of the House of Bondage: The Transformation of the Plantation Household*.

Faye E. Dudden, *Fighting Chance: The Struggle Over Woman Suffrage and Black Suffrage in Reconstruction America*.

Laura F. Edwards, *Gendered Strife and Confusion: The Political Culture of Reconstruction*.

Amy Dru Stanley, *From Bondage to Contract: Wage Labor, Marriage, and the Market in the Age of Slave Emancipation*.

Leslie Schwalm, *A Hard Fight for We: Women's Transition from Slavery to Freedom in South Carolina*.

Noralee Frankel, *Freedom's Women: Black Women and Families in Civil War Era Mississippi*.

Tera W. Hunter, "Bound in Wedlock": Slave and Free Black in the Nineteenth Century.

Heather Andrea Williams, *Self-Taught: African American Education in Slavery and Freedom*.

Caroline E. Janney, *Burying the Dead but not the Past: Ladies' Memorial Associations and the Lost Cause*.

March 9

Jim Crow/Gilded Age/Progressive Era

Required Reading:

Tera W. Hunter, *To Joy My Freedom: Southern Black Women's Lives and Labors After the Civil War*.

Recommended Readings:

Crystal N. Feimster, *Southern Horrors: Women and the Politics of Rape and Lynching*.

Glenda Gilmore, *Gender and Jim Crow: Women and the Politics of White Supremacy in North Carolina, 1896-1920*.

Sarah Haley, *No Mercy Here: Gender Punishment, and the Making of Jim Crow Modernity*.

Karen L. Cox, *Dixie's Daughters: The United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Preservation of Confederate Culture*.

Kathy Peiss, *Cheap Amusements: Working Women and Leisure in Turn-of-the-Century New York*.

Jane E. Simonsens, *Making Home Work: Domesticity and Native American Assimilation in the American West, 1860-1919*.

Cheryl D. Hicks, *Talk with You Like a Woman: African American Women, Justice, and Reform in New York, 1890-1935*.

Barbara Young Welke, *Recasting American Liberty: Gender, Race, Law, and the Railroad Revolution, 1865-1920*.

Judy Yung, *Unbound Feet: A Social History of Chinese Women in San Francisco*.

Helen Lefkowitz Horowitz, *Alma Mater: Design and Experience in the Women's Colleges from Their Nineteenth Century Beginnings to the 1930s*.

Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, *Revolt against Chivalry: Jessie Daniel Ames and the Women's Campaign against Lynching*.

March 16

Suffrage

Required Reading:

Martha Jones, *Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All*

Recommended Readings:

Nancy Hewitt, "From Seneca Falls to Suffrage? Reimagining a 'Master' Narrative in U.S. Women's History," in *No Permanent Waves: Recasting Histories of U.S. Feminism*.

Ellen Carol DuBois, *Feminism and Suffrage: The Emergence of an Independent Women's Movement in America*.

Lisa Tetrault, *The Myth of Seneca Falls: Memory and the Women's Suffrage Movement, 1848-1898*.

Nancy F. Cott, *The Grounding of Modern Feminism*.

Cathleen Cahill, *Recasting the Vote: How Women of Color Transformed the Suffrage Movement*.

Rumi Yasutake, *Transnational Women's Activism: The United States, Japan, and Japanese Immigrant Communities in California, 1859-1920*.

Marjorie Spruill Wheeler, *New Women of the New South: The Leaders of the Woman Suffrage Movement in the Southern States*.

Allison Sneider, *Suffragists in an Imperial Age: U.S. Expansion and the Woman Question, 1870-1929*

March 23

Depression & WWII

Required Reading:

Vicki Ruiz, *Cannery Women, Cannery Lives: Mexican American Women and the California Food Processing Industry, 1930-1950*.

Recommended Readings:

Mary Triece, *On the Picket Line: Strategies of Working-Class Women during the Depression*

Alice Kessler-Harris, *In Pursuit of Equity: Women, Men, and the Quest for Economic Citizenship in 20th Century America*.

Marilyn E. Hegarty, *Victory Girls, Khaki-Wackies, and Patriotutes: The Regulation of Female Sexuality During World War II*.

Evelyn Nakanno Glenn, *Issei, Nisei, War Bride: Three Generations of Japanese American Women in Domestic Service*.

Megan Taylor Shockley, *We, Too, Are Americans: African American Women in Detroit and Richmond, 1940-1954*.

Laura Micheletti Puaca, *Searching for Scientific Womanpower: Technocratic Feminism and the Politics of National Security, 1940-1980*.

Valerie Matsumoto, "Japanese American Women During World War II," *Frontiers* 8, No. 1 (1984): 6-14.

March 30

Civil Rights Movement

Required Reading:

Danielle L. McGuire, *At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance—a New History of the Civil Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to Black Power*

Recommended Readings:

Barbara Ransby, *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003.

Bettye Collier-Thomas and V.P. Franklin, eds., *Sisters in the Struggle: African American Women in the Civil Rights-Black Power Movement*.

Tiffany M. Gill, *Beauty Shop Politics: African American Women's Activism in the Beauty Industry*.

Belinda Robnett, *How Long? How Long? African-American Women in the Struggle for Civil Rights*.

Katherine Mellen Charron, *Freedom's Teacher: The Life of Septima Clark*

Ashley D. Farmer, *Remaking Black Power: How Black Women Transformed an Era*.

April 6

Conservative Activism

Required Reading:

Elizabeth Gillespie McRae, *Mothers of Massive Resistance: White Women and the Politics of White Supremacy*

Recommended Readings:

Michelle Nickerson, *Mothers of Conservatism: Women and the Postwar Right*.

Kathleen M. Blee, *Women of the Klan: Racism and Gender in the 1920s*.

Catherine E. Rymph, *Republican Women: Feminism and Conservatism From Suffrage Through the Rise of the New Right*.

Mary C. Brennan, *Wives, Mothers, and the Red Menace: Conservative Women and the Crusade Against Communism*.

Donald T. Critchlow, *Phyllis Schlafly and Grassroots Conservatism: A Woman's Crusade*.

April 13

Second Wave Feminism

Required Reading:

Anne Enke, *Finding the Movement: Sexuality, Contested Space, and Feminist Activism*.

Recommended Readings:

Anne M. Valk, *Radical Sisters: Second-Wave Feminism and Black Liberation in Washington, D.C.*

Sara Evans, *Personal Politics: The Roots of Women's Liberation in the Civil Rights Movement and New Left*

Berita Roth, *Separate Roads to Feminism: Black, Chicana, and White Feminist Movements in America's Second Wave*.

Maylei Blackwell, *Chicana Power! Contested Histories of Feminism in the Chicano Movement*.

April 20

The Past and Future of Reproductive Rights

Required Reading:

Brianna Theobald, *Reproduction on the Reservation: Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Colonialism in the Long Twentieth Century*

Recommended Readings:

Cornelia Hughes Dayton, "Taking the Trade: Abortion and Gender Relations in an Eighteenth-Century New England Village," *William & Mary Quarterly*, 48 (1991)

Deirdre Cooper Owens, *Medical Bondage: Race, Gender, and the Origins of American Gynecology*.

Susan Cahn, *Sexual Reckonings: Southern Girls in a Troubling Age*.

Elaine Tyler May, *America and the Pill: A History of Promise, Peril, and Liberation*.

Linda Gordon, *The Moral Property of Women: A History of Birth Control Politics in America*.

Leslie J. Reagan, *When Abortion Was a Crime: Women, Medicine, and Law in the United States, 1867-1973*.

Johanna Schoen, *Choice and Coercion: Birth Control, Sterilization, and Abortion in Public Health and Welfare*.

Jennifer Nelson, *Women of Color and the Reproductive Rights Movement*.

Laura Briggs, *Somebody's Children: The Politics of Transracial and Transnational Adoption*.