

# Independent Study – Graduate Level Readings Seminar in US Women’s History after 1865

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 after 1865. 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

### Week 1      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.

### Week 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*.

### Week 3

#### Jim Crow

##### Required Reading:

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

##### Recommended Readings:

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

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

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*.

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

### Week 4

#### Gilded Age & Progressive Era

##### Required Reading:

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

##### Recommended Readings:

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*.

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

Mary A. Renda, *Taking Haiti: Military Occupation and the Culture of U.S. Imperialism, 1915-1940*.

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

Linda Gordon, *The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction*

## Week 5

### Working Women in the Gilded Age/Progressive Era

#### Required Reading:

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

#### Recommended Readings:

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

Elizabeth Alice Clement, *Love for Sale: Courting, Treating, and Prostitution in New York, 1900-1945*.

Fiona I. B. Ngô, *Imperial Blues: Geographies of Race and Sex in Jazz Age New York*.

Kimberly Jenson, *Mobilizing Minerva: American Women in the First World War*.

Nan Enstad, *Ladies of Labor, Girls of Adventure: Working Women, Popular Culture, and Labor Politics at the Turn of the Twentieth Century*. Columbia University Press, 1999.

Shenette Garrett-Scott, *Banking on Freedom: Black Women in U.S. Finance Before the New Deal*.

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

Susan Porter Benson, *Counter Cultures: Saleswomen, Managers, and Customers in American Department Stores, 1890-1940*

Rebecca Sharpless, *Cooking in Other Women's Kitchens: Domestic Workers in the South, 1865-1960*

Hillary A. Hallett, *Go West, Young Women!: The Rise of Early Hollywood*

## Week 6

### Suffrage

#### Required Reading:

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

#### 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*.

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

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

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

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*

Wendy L. Rouse, *Public Faces, Secret Lives: A Queer History of the Women's Suffrage Movement*

## Week 7

### The Great Depression

#### 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 20<sup>th</sup> Century America.*

Annelise Orleck, *Common Sense and a Little Fire: Women and Working-Class Politics in the United States, 1900-1960*

Cynthia E. Orozco, *No Mexicans, Women, or Dogs Allowed: The Rise of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement.*

Landon R. Y. Storrs, *Civilizing Capitalism: The National Consumers' League, Women's Activism, and Labor Standards in the New Deal Era.*

## Week 8

### WWII

#### Required Reading:

Maureen Honey, *Creating Rosie the Riveter: Class, Gender, and Propaganda During World War II.*

#### Recommended Readings:

Megan K. Winchell, *Good Girls, Good Food, Good Fun: The Story of USO Hostesses During World War II.*

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.

Allan Bérubé, *Coming Out Under Fire: The History of Gay Men and Women in World War II*

Catherine Ramirez, *The Woman in the Zoot Suit: Gender, Nationalism, and the Cultural Politics of Memory*

Valerie Matsumoto, *City Girls: The Nisei Social World in Los Angeles, 1920-1950*

## Week 9

### Gender in the Cold War Era

#### Required Reading:

Erica J. Ryan, *Red War on the Family: Sex, Gender, and Americanism in the First Red Scare.*

#### Recommended Readings:

Heather Murray, *Not in This Family: Gays and the Meaning of Kinship in Postwar North America.*

David K. Johnson, *The Lavender Scare: The Cold War Persecution of Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Government*.

Natalie M. Fousekis, *Demanding Child Care: Women's Activism and the Politics of Welfare, 1940–1971*.

Lisa Levenstein, *A Movement Without Marches: African American Women and the Politics of Poverty in Postwar Philadelphia*.

Rebecca Jo Plant, *Mom: The Transformation of Motherhood in Modern America*

Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era*

Amy Swerdlow, *Women Strike for Peace: Traditional Motherhood and Radical Politics in the 1960s*

## Week 9

### 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*.

## Week 10

### 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*.

Linda Kintz, *Between Jesus and the Market: The Emotions that Matter in Right-Wing America*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1997.

## Week 11

### Women & the Environment

#### Required Reading:

Nancy C. Unger, *Beyond Nature's Housekeepers: American Women in Environmental History*

Recommended Readings:

Dorceta E. Taylor, *The Rise of the American Conservation Movement: Power, Privilege, and Environmental Protection*  
Jennifer Price, *Flight Maps: Adventures with Nature in Modern America*  
Marsha Weisiger, *Dreaming of Sheep in Navajo Country*  
Carolyn Merchant, "Women of the Progressive Conservation Movement, 1900-1916," *Environmental Review*, 8 (Spring 1984)  
Vera Norwood, *Made from This Earth: American Women and Nature*

**Week 12**

**Second Wave Feminism**

Required Reading:

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

Recommended Readings:

Finn Enke, *Finding the Movement: Sexuality, Contested Space, and Feminist Activism.*  
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*  
Sara Evans, *Tidal Wave: How Women Changed America at Century's End*  
Maylei Blackwell, *Chicana Power! Contested Histories of Feminism in the Chicano Movement.*  
Wendy Kline, *Bodies of Knowledge: Sexuality, Reproduction, and Women's Health in the Second Wave*  
Erik S. McDuffie, *Sojourning for Freedom: Black Women, American Communism, and the Making of Black Left Feminism*

**Week 13**

**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.*  
Wendy Kline, *Bodies of Knowledge: Sexuality, Reproduction, and Women's Health in the Second Wave*

Felicity M. Turner, *Proving Pregnancy: Gender, Law, and Medical Knowledge in Nineteenth-Century America* (\*\*\*releasing Sept. 2022)

**Week 14**

**Gender & Culture in the 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries**

Required Reading:

Lisa Levenstein, *They Didn't See Us Coming: The Hidden History of Feminism in the Nineties*

Recommended Readings:

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

Tanisha C. Ford, *Liberated Threads: Black Women, Style, & The Global Politics of Soul*

Jessica Martucci, *Back to the Breast: Natural Motherhood and Breastfeeding in America*

Kathleen M. Barry, *Femininity in Flight: A History of Flight Attendants*

Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, *Sisters and Rebels: A Struggle for the Soul of America*

Beth Bailey, *From Front Porch to Back Seat: Courtship in Twentieth Century America*

Kelly Schrum, *Some Wore Bobby Sox: The Emergence of Teenage Girls' Culture, 1920-1945*

Joan Jacobs Brumberg. *The Body Project: An Intimate History of American Girls*