

Semester I Year 1980-81

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
392	Women in History	Ms. Lindstrom

COURSE DESCRIPTION

History 392 surveys women in American history, concentrating upon the period 1830-1950. Four themes receive special attention: changing cultural definitions of women; attitudes toward sexuality and family; women in the labor force; and the pursuit of sexual equality.

LECTURES

Three lectures and one discussion each week.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

Three exams including an in-class final and either take-home or in-class 6 week and 12 week exams. The choice of exam format to be decided upon by the class.

GRADING SYSTEM

6 week exam: 20%; 12 week exam: 20%; final exam: 50%; discussion section performance: 10%

REQUIRED READINGS

Louisa May Alcott, Little Women
William Chafe, The American Woman, 1920-1970
Kate Chopin, The Awakening
Jean Friedman & William Shade, Our American Sisters
Toni Morrison, The Bluest Eye
Miriam Schneir, Feminism: The Essential Historical Writings
Jo Freeman, The Politics of Women's Liberation

Required Texts:

Alcott, L.M., Little Women

Chafa, W., The American Woman: Her Changing Social, Economic, and Political Roles, 1920-1970

Chopin, K., The Awakening

Freeman, J., The Politics of Women's Liberation

Friedman, J.E., and W.G. Shade, Our American Sisters

Morrison, T., The Bluest Eye

Schneir, M., Feminism: The Essential Historical Writing

Unit 1: to 1865

- Sept. 5 Themes in Women's History
7 No class
- Sept. 10 The Colonial Family
12 Pre-Industrial Work Patterns
14 Women's Status on the Eve of the Revolution
Read: Friedman and Shade, pp. 5-51, 76-92
- Sept. 17 The Cult of True Womanhood: I
19 The Cult of True Womanhood: II
21 The Feminization of Religion and Culture
Read: Alcott
- Sept. 24 Work in Industrializing America
26 Women in Slavery
28 Missionary, Moral Reform and Anti-Slavery Societies
Read: Friedman and Shade, pp. 93-162
Schneir, pp. 49-61
- Oct. 1 Origins of the Women's Rights Movement
3 Legal and Educational Advances to 1865
5 EXAM
Read: Schneir, pp. 2-24, 35-48, 62-131

Unit II: 1865-1930

- Oct. 8 Reconstruction and Women's Rights
10 Education and the Professions
12 Social Feminism
Read: Friedman and Shade, pp. 252-61, 301-12, Schneir, pp. 132-59,
212-27
- Oct. 15 Black Women in Reform
17 Continuing Women's Rights Battles
19 The Woman Question
Read: Chopin; Friedman and Shade, pp. 233-51
- Oct. 22 Women in the Marketplace
24 Women in Trade Unions
26 Charlotte Perkins Tilman
Read: Friedman and Shade, pp. 283-300, Schneir, pp. 230-86
- Oct. 29 Militant Feminism: Margaret Sanger
Emma Goldman
31 Accommodation Within the Suffrage Movement
Nov. 2 Winning the Vote
Read: Friedman and Shade, pp. 262-82, Schneir, pp. 286-343
- Nov. 5 1920s: Decline of Feminism
7 1920s: Anti-Feminist Undercurrents
9 EKAM
Read: Chafe, pp. 25-132; Friedman and Shade, pp. 323-44

Unit III: Since 1930

- Nov. 12 Women in Film
14 "Gold-diggers of 1933"
16 "Mildred Pierce"
Read: Friedman and Shade, pp. 366-85
- Nov. 19 Women in the Home: I
21 Women in the Home: II
No discussion
- Nov. 26 Women in the Labor Market
28 Ambivalent Legacy of Eleanor Roosevelt
30 World War II and the Baby Boom
Read: Chafe, pp. 135-225

Dec. 3 The 1950s
 5 Rebirth of Feminism
 7 Legislative Program

Read: Chafe, pp. 226-254; Freeman

Dec. 10 Re-evaluating Sexuality and the Family
 12 Backlash?
 14 Review

Read: Morrison; Friedman and Shade, pp. 417-29