

Wia 521: Women in the US since 1860.

Spring semester, 1986.

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4105 Humanities  
263-1777

**BOOKS REQUIRED:**

Maxendell et al., America's Working Women  
Cott & Plack, A Heritage of Her Own  
DuBois, Elizabeth Cady Stanton/Susan B. Anthony: Correspondence,  
Writings, Speeches  
Even, Immigrant Women in the Land of Dollars  
Giddings, When and Where I Enter  
Gordon, Woman's Body, Women's Right  
Tax, The Rising of the Women

The required textbook is Mary Ryan's Womanhood in America, 3rd ed. However, this book is now out of print, except in the expensive hardback edition. You have three options as to how to get it: (1) buy a used copy; (2) read it on reserve at H.C. White Library; (3) purchase a xerox of the assigned sections, which will be available at a commercial xerox place, to be announced.

All the required books are on reserve at the Helen C. White Library if you do not wish to purchase them.

A xeroxed anthology of readings will be required; where to get it and how much it will cost to be announced. All articles marked X are to be found in this xeroxed packet.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

--2 short papers, 3-4 pages in length, typewritten, double spaced; on topics to be assigned; due February 4 and March 11.  
--in-class mid-term exam approx. April 8  
--take-home final exam  
--regular attendance

**FILMS:** Two films will be shown, one in class time and one on an evening to be arranged; both are REQUIRED; the evening film will have showings at two times.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

Jan. 21-23. Introduction. Patriarchy and modern male supremacy.

Reading: THE SYLLABUS! Make sure you understand it.

Even, chapters 2-3.

Gordon, chapter 1.

Recommended additional reading: Gordon, chapters 2 & 3; Ryan, Womanhood in America. This is the general textbook, supplying background. Those of you who have not taken His 520, the history of US women before the Civil War, should read chapters 2 and 3.

Jan. 28-30. New Patterns of Femininity, Heterosexuality, and Women's Relationships.

Reading:

Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, "Female World of Love and Ritual," in Cott and Plack.

Barbara Walter, "Cult of True Womanhood", X.

Bianche Cook, "The Historical Denial of Lesbianism," X.

Gordon, chapter 5.

DuBois, document #12.

Recommended additional reading: Gordon, chapter 6; Nancy Cott, "Passionlessness," in Cott & Plack.

February 4-6. Abolition, Civil War and Suffrage.

Paper #1 due Feb. 4.

Reading:

DuBois, 3 introductions; documents #1, 9, 15.

Gutman, "Perseverent Myths about the Afro-American Family," X.

Giddings, chapter VII.

Recommended additional reading: Ellen DuBois, Feminism and Suffrage; Eleanor Flexner, Century of Struggle (an older book but still the only general survey of the women's-rights movement); there is an excellent autobiography by Cady Stanton; William O'Neill's Everyone Was Brave is another useful survey.

Feb. 11-13. Employment.

Reading:

Alice Kessler-Harris article in Cott and Pleck.

AWW, pp. 38-56, 82-105, 128-138, 161-163, 213-218.

Bulerzik, X.

Martha May, X.

Recommended additional reading: Jacqueline Jones, Labor of Love, Labor of Sorrow (on black women's labor); Ruth Rosen, The Silent Sisterhood (on prostitution); Alice Kessler-Harris, Out to Work (a textbook on the history of women's employment); Faye Dudden, Serving Women (on domestic service).

Feb. 18-20. Immigration and Ethnicity.

Reading:

Even, chapters 4, 6, 7, 9-13.

AWW, pp. 132-141, 173-176, 194-200.

Lucie Cheng Hirata, X.

Recommended additional reading: Mary Ryan, chapter 4; Maria Diner, Irish Daughters in America (on Irish women); the rest of Even's book.

Feb. 25-27. Social Work and Family.

Reading:

Giddings, chapters V-VI.

Blanche Cook, "Female Support Networks," in Cott and Pleck.

Linda Gordon, "Child Abuse, Gender and the Myth of Family Independence," X; Linda Gordon, "Single Mothers and Child Neglect," X.

Recommended additional reading: Gerda Lerner, ed., Black Women in White America, section 8; Allen Davis, Spearheads of Reform (on settlement house work); Jane Addams, Twenty Years at Hull House (recollections of the greatest feminist social worker); William Leach, True Love and Perfect Union (a rather hostile view of the prudish and controlling tendencies of feminists); Christopher Lasch, Never in a Heartless World and Culture of Narcissism (two indictments of social control and feminism).

March 4-6. Women in Male-dominated Radical Movements: Labor and Socialism.

Reading:

AWM, pp. 77-80, 104-125, 167-218.

Tex, Rising of the Women, all if you possibly can, at least Part I, chapters 4, 5, 6, 8, 9.

Recommended additional reading: Mari Jo Buhle, Women and American Socialism; Philip Foner, Women and the American Labor Movement (a sourcebook, not reliable for analysis); several excellent critical essays by women in the Communist Party, especially Peggy Dennis, Autobiography of an American Communist.

March 11-13. Sexual Revolution, 1890-1930.

Paper #2 due March 11.

Reading:

Gordon, chapters 9-10.

DuBois and Gordon, I.

Ryan, chapter 5, to p. 244.

Recommended additional reading: Smith-Rosenberg, "The New Woman as Androgyne," in her Disorderly Conduct; in a very interesting anthology, Powers of Desire, ed. Smitow et al., two historical articles are of interest, by Epstein and Trisberger.