

His 521: Women in the US since 1860.

Spring semester, 1988.

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4105 Humanities
263-1777

REQUIRED BOOKS, RECOMMENDED FOR PURCHASE:

Baxandall et al., America's Working Women
DuBois, Elizabeth Cady Stanton/Susan B. Anthony
Ewen, Immigrant Women in the Land of Dollars
Giddings, When and Where I Enter
Gordon, Woman's Body, Woman's Right

OTHER READINGS:

--There is a textbook for background reading: Mary Ryan's Womanhood in America, 3rd ed. However, this book is now out of print, except in the expensive hardback edition, so I did not order it. You have four options: (1) find and 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; (4) read the relevant sections from another textbook, which you might find in libraries or bookstores. No other textbooks are as good as Ryan's, although some have the virtue of being easier. Here are some alternative suggestions:

--Nancy Woloch, Women and the American Experience

--Glenda Riley, Inventing the American Woman

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

--All the required books are on reserve at the Helen C. White Library should you not wish to purchase them. The xeroxed packet is not on reserve.

--In addition, everyone will be required to read one historical novel from a list which will be distributed.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- 2 short papers, 3-4 pages in length, typewritten, double spaced, on topics to be assigned, due Feb. 11 and March 31
- in-class short-answer exams Feb. 25 & April 14
- take-home final exam, due May 10
- regular attendance at lecture and discussion sections

CLASS SCHEDULE

Jan. 21 & 26. INTRODUCTION. PATRIARCHY AND MODERN MALE SUPREMACY.

Reading: THE SYLLABUS! Make sure you understand it and know what is required and expected. Note that the amount of reading is not equally distributed; mark the weeks of heavy reading, the paper due dates, the exam dates, so that you're prepared.

Ewen, chapters 2-3.

Gordon, chapter 1.

Those who have not taken His 520 or the equivalent, the history of US women before the Civil War, should read relevant chapters from a textbook.

Recommended additional reading: Gordon, chapters 2 & 3.

Jan. 28-Feb. 2. FEMININITY, HETEROSEXUALITY, AND WOMEN'S RELATIONSHIPS IN THE 19TH CENTURY.

Reading:

Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, "Female World of Love and Ritual," X.

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

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

Gordon, chapter 5.

DuBois, document #12.

Recommended additional reading: Gordon, chapter 6; Nancy Cott, "Passionlessness," in Cott & Pleck, eds., A Heritage of Her Own.

Feb. 4 & 9. THE LEGACY OF SLAVERY AND ABOLITIONISM.

Reading:

Angela Davis, "The Legacy of Slavery, X.

Giddings, chapter II.

DuBois, introduction to Part I.

Paper #1 due Feb. 11.

Feb. 11 & 16. THE WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT.

Reading:

DuBois, introductions to Parts II and III, documents ## 1, 9, 15.

Giddings, chapter VII.

Gordon, Woman's Body, Woman's Right, chapter 5 (chapters 4 & 6 recommended.)

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 are excellent autobiographies by Cady Stanton and several other suffragists; William O'Neill's Everyone Was Brave is another useful survey.

"Why We Oppose Pockets for Women" (a satire on anti-woman suffrage propaganda)

1. Because pockets are not a natural right.
2. Because the great majority of women do not want pockets. If they did they would have them.
3. Because whenever women have had pockets they have not used them.
4. Because women are required to carry enough things as it is, without the additional burden of pockets.
5. Because it would make dissension between husband and wife as to whose pockets were to be filled.
6. Because it would destroy man's chivalry toward woman, if he did not have to carry all her things in his pockets.
7. Because men are men, and women are women. We must not fly in the face of nature.
8. Because pockets have been used by men to carry tobacco, pipes, whiskey flasks, chewing gum and compromising letters. We see no reason to suppose that women would use them more wisely.

--Alice Duer Miller, approx. 1910

Feb. 18 & 23. WOMEN'S WORK.

Reading:

America's Working Women (hereafter abbreviated as AWW), pp. 38-56, 82-105, 128-138, 161-163, 213-218.

Bularzik, on the history of sexual harassment, X.

Martha May, "Bread Before Roses," X.

Kessler-Harris, "Where Are the Organized Women Workers?" X.

Start reading the historical novel you have chosen from the list now. You will have to include it in your short paper due March 31.

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. 25 Exam in class.

March 1 & 3. WOMEN'S EXPERIENCE OF IMMIGRATION, ETHNICITY AND CLASS.

Reading:

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

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

Lucie Cheng Hirata, on Chinese immigrant prostitutes, X.

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

March 7, 7:30 PM, Historical Society: Lecture by Prof. Vicki Ruiz on growing up Chicana in the 1930s. Attendance highly recommended.

March 8 & 10. "STATE" REGULATION OF FAMILY AND GENDER.

Reading:

Giddings, chapters V-VI.

Linda Gordon, "Child Abuse, Gender and the Myth of Family Independence," and "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, Haven in a Heartless World and Culture of Narcissism (two indictments of social control and feminism).

March 15-17 Spring Vacation.

March 22 & 24. WOMEN IN SOCIAL MOVEMENTS 1880-1920.

Reading:

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

Tax, Rising of the Women, selections, X.

Giddings, chapter I, IX.

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 memoirs by women in the Communist Party, especially Peggy Dennis, Autobiography of an American Communist.

March 29 & 31. SEXUAL REVOLUTION, 1890-1930.

Reading:

Gordon, chapters 9-10.

DuBois and Gordon, "Seeking Ecstasy on the Battlefield," X.

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. Snitow et al., two historical articles are of interest, by Epstein and Trimberger.

March 31. 2nd short paper due.

April 5 & 7. DEPRESSION AND WORLD WAR II.

Reading:

Ryan, pp. 244-259.

Milkman, "Women's Work and the Economic Crisis," X.

AWW, 223-298.

Clark-Lewis, "'This Work Had a End,'" X.

Giddings, chapter XIV, pp. 231-238.

Strasser, "Quick and Easy," X.

Recommended additional reading: Gordon, chapter 11; Giddings, chapters XII-XIV.

April 7: ROSIE THE RIVETER, film.

April 12. FEMININE MYSTIQUE AND MCCARTHYISM.

Reading:

Ryan, pp. 259-304.

Gordon, chapter 12.

AWW, pp. 299-353.

Giddings, chapter XIV, pp. 238-258.

Barbara Ehrenreich, *The Hearts of Men*, chapters 4-5, X.

Recommended additional reading: Gordon, chapter 13; Betty Friedan, The Feminine Mystique; Peter Biskind, Seeing is Believing (movie criticism, about 1950s films), chapters on gender in film.

April 14. Exam in class.

April 19 & 21. CIVIL RIGHTS, NEW LEFT, WOMEN'S LIBERATION, GAY LIBERATION.

Reading:

Ryan, chapter 7.

AWW, pp. 354-end.

Evans, "Tomorrow's Yesterday", X.

Recommended additional reading: Sara Evans, Personal Politics (on the origins of women's liberation from within the civil rights movement); Alice Walker, Meredian (a novel); John D'Emilio, Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities (on the rise of the gay movement).

"Turning"

turning into my own
turning on in
to my own self
at last
turning out of the
white caage, turning out of the
lady cage
turning at last
on a stem like a black fruit
in my own season
at last

--Lucille Clifton, 1974

April 26 & 28. FEMINISM.

Reading:

Sheila Rowbotham, from Woman's Consciousness, Man's World,
chapter 2, X.

Giddings, chapters XV, XVI, XVII, XVIII.

Adrienne Rich, "The Lesbian Continuum," and response by
Ferguson, X.

Ann Koedt, "The Myth of the Vaginal Orgasm", X.

Carol Hanish, "The Personal is Political," X.

We are the mad women,
Private property itself rising in rebellion.
The trees and flowers shall join us.
Power is doomed.

--Mary Damon, "Power," 1970

May 3 & 5. THE NEW CONSERVATISM AND CONTEMPORARY FAMILY ISSUES.

Reading:

Phyllis Schlafly, "What's Wrong with 'Equal Rights' for Women?", X

Andrea Dworkin, "Safety, Shelter, Rules, Form, Love: The Promise of the Ultra-Right," X.

Gordon and Hunter, "Sexual Politics of the New Right," X.

(additional xerox material to be added)

Final take-home exam, due May 10.