

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester I, 1989-90

AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN'S HISTORY
History 901

ASSIGNMENTS

ASSIGNMENT 1 - due Week 4

NOTE: ALL ASSIGNMENTS SHOULD BE HANDED IN TYPED, DOUBLE-SPACED, with ample margins. Give me two copies of each assignment - I will return one to you with my comments and keep the other for my files. I will assign one student each week to give a report on background readings.

Based on what you have read so far, discuss how the experiences of slave women differed from those of male slaves. Focus on no more than three aspects of the problem and offer evidence for your views. (3-5 pp).

ASSIGNMENT 2 - due Week 6

Based on the readings under IV and V, discuss the impact of race prejudice on free black women. (3-4 pp.)

ASSIGNMENT 3 - due Week 8

Discuss the self-help and community-help efforts of free black women. Focus on one topic, cf. education, charity, support of war effort. (3-4 pp.)

ASSIGNMENT 4 - due week 10.

Specific time assignments will be worked out individually.

Each student will be assigned one of the following books for a written and oral report. These books are not on reserve so they should be located three or four weeks prior to assignment due date to insure availability. The written report should be in the form of a book review with critical evaluation. (10-12 pp.) The oral report should take no longer than 15 minutes. To make sure you stay within this time limit, write out your oral report, even if you are not going to read it.

Daisy Bates, The Long Shadow of Little Rock: A Memoir, (New York: David McKay Co., 1962).

Rackman Holt, Mary McLeod Bethune, (New York: Vanguard Press, 1951).
or
Emma Gelders Sterne, Mary McLeod Bethune, (New York: Knopf, 1959).

Septima Clark with Blyth LeGette, Echo in My Soul, (New York: E.P. Dutton, 1962).

Anna Julia Cooper, A Voice From the South by a Black Woman of the South, (Reprint of 1892 ed.; Westport, CT: Negro University Press, 1977).

"...Mrs. Zilpha Elaw" in William Andrews, ed., Sisters of the Spirit: Three Black Women's Autobiographies of the Nineteenth Century, (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1986).

"...Mrs. Julia A.J. Foote" in William Andrews, ed., Sisters of the Spirit: Three Black Women's Autobiographies of the Nineteenth Century, (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1986).

Althea Gibson, I Always Wanted to Be Somebody, (New York: Harper & Row, 1958).

Billie Holiday with William Dufty, Lady Sings the Blues, (New York: Doubleday & Co., 1956).

Zora Neale Hurston, Dust Tracks on a Road: An Autobiography, (Reprint of 1942 ed.; New York: Columbia University Press, 1984).

Jean McMahon Humez, ed., Gifts of Power: Writings of Rebecca Jackson, Black Visionary, Shaker Eldress, (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1981).

"...Jarena Lee" in William Andrews, ed., Sisters of the Spirit: Three Black Women's Autobiographies of the Nineteenth Century, (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1986).

Pauli Murray, Proud Shoes: The Story of an American Family, (New York: Harper & Row, 1956; paperback 1978).

Carmen Moor, Somebody's Angel Child: The Story of Bessie Smith, (New York: Dell Paperbacks, 1969).

Toni Morrison, Beloved, (New York: New American Library 1987).

Mary Church Terrell, A Colored Woman in a White World, (Reprint of 1940 ed.; Salem, N.H.: Ayer, 1980).

Alfreda Duster, ed. Crusader for Justice: The Autobiography of Ida B. Wells, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1970).

Margaret Walker, Jubilee, (New York: Bantam Books, 1966).

Tuesday 1:20-3:20
Office Hours:
Wed. by appointment
History 901

Prof. Gerda Lerner
5123 Humanities

AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN'S HISTORY

NOTE:

All reading assignments are due for the class on the designated week. Do your first reading in advance of class I.

The readings under "Background" are required only for the student assigned to make a report for that week. Other students lacking preparation in Afro-American history are encouraged, but not required to do these readings.

An asterisk (*) preceding a reading indicates books on suggested purchase list. These books can be purchased at either the University Book Store or A Room of One's Own Bookstore. The Xerox Reader can be purchased at Kinko's on University Avenue. All of the readings will be on reserve at Helen C. White Library Reserve Room. Some copies of the readings may also be found on reserve in the State Historical Society Reading Room.

Reading Assignments

Week I: Conceptual Frameworks

- W.E.B. Du Bois, The Souls of Black Folk, chap. 1.
James Baldwin, "Stranger in the Village" in Notes of a Native Son, pp. 159-175.
William Chafe, Women and Equality, chap. 3.
- * Gerda Lerner, The Majority Finds its Past, "Black Women in Historiography and Interpretation," (chap. 5).
 - Gerda Lerner, "A Conceptual Framework for Dealing with 'Differences' among Women" (Xerox 1).
 - * Audrey Lorde, Sister Outsider, "Scratching the Surface: Some Notes on Barriers to Women and Loving" (pp. 45-52) and "Age, Race, Class and Sex: Women Redefining Difference," (pp. 114-123).
 - Muriel Rukeyser, "What do we see?" (Xerox 2).

Week II: Slavery 1

- * Gerda Lerner, Black Women in White America, (hereafter BWWA), pp. 10-65.
- * Jean F. Yellin (ed.) Linda Brent: Incidents in the Life of Slave Girl, entire.
Angela Y. Davis, "Reflections on the Black Woman's Role in the Community of Slaves" in Black Scholar, III (December 1971), pp. 3-15. (Xerox 3).
- * Deborah White, Ar'n't I A Woman, chaps. 1-3 (pp. 26-118).

Background Reading:

John Hope Franklin, From Slavery to Freedom: A History of Negro Americans, chaps. 8 and 11.

Week III: Slavery 2

- White, chaps. 4-Epilogue.
- * Sarah Bradford, Harriet Tubman, entire.
Narrative of Sojourner Truth, (Xerox 4).
Lucy N. Colman, Reminiscences, (Xerox 5).
BWWA, pp. 566-571.
R.A. Hansley vs. Samuel Hansley, (Xerox 6).
June Jordan, On Call: Political Essays, chap. 11, (P. Wheatley), pp. 87-98.

Week IV: Free Women of Color

- * Harriet E. Wilson "Our Nig", entire, but omit introduction.
Maria Stewart, America's First Black Woman Political Writer, Preface, pp. 29-42; 65-74; 91-93.
BWWA, pp. 365-374; 533-536.

Background reading:

Franklin, chap. 14.

Week V: Abolitionists

- BWWA, p. 323 (M.S. Carey); p. 363 (S. Douglass); p. 437 (Afric-Amer. Female Intelligence Society); p. 530 (Emigration).
David Walker's Appeal (Xerox 7).
Dorothy Porter, "Sarah Parker Remond" (Xerox 8).
Frederick Douglass North Star editorial (Xerox 9).
Lerner, "The Grimké Sisters and The Struggle Against Race Prejudice" (Xerox 10).

Background reading:

Benjamin Quarles, Black Abolitionists, chaps. 2-4; 7.

Week VI: Civil War and Reconstruction:

BWWA, p. 240 (S.K. Taylor); pp.94-113. (Teaching the Freedmen); p. 243-49 (F.E.W. Harper); p. 288, (C.A. Jackson); p. 294 (M. Baldwin); p. 533-37 (F. Harper).
 Pension claim of Harriet Tubman, and correspondence (Xerox 11).
 "Moses" in The Freedman's Record, (Xerox 12).

Background reading:

Franklin, chap. 16.
 Willie Lee Rose, Rehearsal for Reconstruction, chaps. 3, 7, 10, 11.

Week VII: The Betrayal of Reconstruction:

F.E.W. Harper, poem, "Deliverance" (Xerox 13).
 Herbert Gutman, The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom, chap. 9. *
 C.V. Woodward, The Strange Career of Jim Crow, entire.
BWWA, pp. 370-74 (S.Truth).

Background reading:

Franklin, chaps. 17 and 18.

Week VIII: The Struggle for Education

BWWA, pp. 83-94; 114-150 (Clark; School Founders)
Notable American Women, vol. 1. "Sarah Douglass"; "Fanny Jackson Coppin"; vol. IV, "Nannie Burroughs"; "Charlotte Hawkins Brown"; "Mary McLeod Bethune".
 F.J. Coppin, Reminiscences, excerpts (Xerox 14).
 Linda Perkins, "The Impact of the 'Cult of True Womanhood' on the Education of Black Women" (Xerox 15).

Background reading:

Franklin, chaps. 22 and 23.

Week IX: Survival is a Form of Resistance

BWWA, pp. 292-3 (Gaudet); 227-239, (Domestic); 250-87, (Jobs); 537-50 (I. B. Wells, Jemand).
 Alice Childress, Like One of the Family, pp. 19-22; 26-27; 68-72.

Background reading:

Franklin, chaps. 23, 25.

Week X: Rape, Lynchings and Selfhelp

BWWA, 173-226 (Memphis Riot, KKK, Ingram, Harper, Wells, Terrell);
472-78 (Lynchings).

A. Duster, The Autobiography of Ida B. Wells, entire.

Week XI: Clubwork and Race Uplift

BWWA, pp. 330-52; 440-71; 479-525; 551-562.

Lerner, Majority, "Community Work of Black Club Women" pp. 83-93.

Cheryl Gilkes, "'Together and in Harness'..." (Xerox 16).

Week XII: Black Nationalism; Black Protest

BWWA, 370-436; 551-562.

Nathan Huggins et.al, Key Issues in the Afro-American Experience,
vol. II, articles by Redkey, pp. 107-124; E. Essien-Udom,
pp.233-258; John Bracy, Jr., pp. 259-279.

Week XIII: The Civil Rights Movement

Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders,
chap. 4.

* Anne Moody, Coming of Age in Mississippi, entire.

E. Cantarow and S. O'Malley, "Ella Baker: Organizing for Civil
Rights" (Xerox 17).

Week XIV: African-American Womanhood and Feminism

BWWA, pp. 566-614.

Alice Walker, In Search of Our Mothers' Garden, pp. xi-xii; 231-243.

Lorde, Sister Outsider, pp. 60-65. ("Sexism: An American Disease in
Blackface).

Hull, Scott, Smith, All the Women... Section One, pp. 5-22.
(M. Wallace, Combahee).

Jordan, chap. 6 "Report from the Bahamas".

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History 901

Fall 1989

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BOOK LIST

Background text:

John Hope Franklin. From Slavery to Freedom: A History of Negro Americans, 3rd ed. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, [1947] 1968.

Paperback Books suggested for purchase:

Xerox Reader at Kinko's on University Avenue.

Sarah Bradford, Harriet Tubman, Secaucus, NJ: Lyle Stuart, Inc. [Citadel, 1974].

Anne Moody, Coming of Age in Mississippi, New York: Dell Publishing Co., Inc., 1980.

Gerda Lerner, Black Women in White America: A Documentary History, New York: Pantheon, 1972.

---, The Majority Finds Its Past: Placing Women in History, New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1979.

Audrey Lorde, Sister Outsider, Trumansburg, NY: The Crossing Press, 1984.

Deborah G. White, Ar'n't I A Woman?: Female Slaves in the Plantation South, New York: W.W. Norton, 1985.

Harriet E. Wilson, "Our Nig"; or, Sketches from the Life of a Free Black, New York: Vintage Books, 1983.

C. Vann Woodward, The Strange Career of Jim Crow, 3rd rev. ed. 1974 New York: Oxford University Press)

Jean F. Yellin, ed., Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl. Written by Herself. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Univ. Press, 1987.

June Jordan, On Call: Political Essays, Boston: Southend Press, n.d.

Additional Readings on Reserve at Helen C. White reserve room or in the Historical Society Reading Room:

James Baldwin, Notes of a Native Son.

William Chafe, Women and Equality.

Alice Childress, Like one of the Family.

W.E.B. DuBois, The Souls of Black Folk.

Alfreda Duster, Crusader for Justice: The Autobiography of
Ida B. Wells.

Herbert G. Gutman, The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom.

Nathan I. Huggins, Martin Kilson, Daniel Fox, Key Issues in the Afro-American
Experience, Vol II.

Gloria T. Hull, Patricia Bell Scott, and Barbara Smith.
All the Women are White, all the Blacks are Men, But some of Us Are
Brave: Black Women's Studies.

Notable American Women.

Benjamin Quarles, Black Abolitionists

Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders,
special intro by Tom Wicker.

Marilyn Richardson, ed. Maria Stewart, America's First Black Woman Political
Writer.

Willie Lee Rose, Rehearsal for Reconstruction.

Alice Walker, In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens.