

HIST/GEND 4620
Spring 2007
MWF 12:20 – 1:18 PM
P 164

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Office Hrs.: MWF 8:00-9:00; MW 3:00-4:00

GENDER IN U.S. HISTORY

Please read this syllabus carefully. You are responsible for knowing its contents and for requesting clarification. By staying in the course you are agreeing to all course policies.

The instructor reserves the right to modify course policy -- with appropriate notice to students -- if it is judged that doing so will further the course objectives.

Content: This course examines the relation between gender dynamics – particularly as they involve the distribution of power – and major social, cultural, and political developments in United States history from European colonization to the present. Its fundamental assumptions are (1) that gender is a useful category of historical analysis; (2) that since gender dynamics relate so closely to the distribution of political, social, and economic power in American society, they are central to U.S. history; (3) that experiences and constructions of masculinity and femininity are necessarily interrelated; and (4) that those experiences and constructions have varied across lines of race and class. Major areas in which gender has been constructed, and which will be the foci of this course, include work, economics, family, sexuality, and politics.

Learning Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, the student will

- (1) be familiar with major issues and controversies in U.S. gender history.
- (2) understand how historians use the category of gender to analyze the past.
- (3) understand how historical arguments are constructed.
- (4) have strengthened skills in critical and analytical thinking and writing.

Requirements: All students in the class must:

- (1) attend and arrive on time at class sessions.
- (2) do the assigned reading *completely and on time*.
- (3) actively participate in class discussions.
- (4) take the midterm exam and a cumulative essay-style final examination.
- (5) submit a comparative book review of approximately ten pages in length (this assignment is explained in detail on a separate handout).

Class activities: This course is arranged into units, each consisting typically of 3 class sessions and devoted to the examination of a particular topic. The first class session of each unit will be a lecture intended to contextualize the week's reading assignments. The second and third sessions will be devoted to discussions of the assigned readings; these discussions are the central element of the course and are intended to identify arguments, examine their structure, and assess their persuasiveness.

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Participation in class discussions is an important part of this course -- and of your grade. You must come prepared for class discussions, and be ready to be called upon for your input. Your level of class participation will be monitored during the semester. At the end of the semester, you will be assigned a class participation score and it will count for 1/4 of your course grade. The minimum score -- given to one who never participates in class discussions -- is 35 out of a possible 50 points (the equivalent of a C-), though a score of 35 will never be permitted to raise the grade of a person whose scores in other course areas average below a C-.

Study questions, designed to focus your thoughts about the reading, will be distributed in advance. Writing out your answers to these questions will benefit you greatly -- both in class discussions and on the final exam -- and is therefore strongly suggested.

Attendance policy: While conflicting commitments and unforeseen and unpreventable developments may occasionally force an absence, this class, like one's family or job, is a major commitment. Attendance is required and will be monitored by means of daily sign-up sheets. To allow for unforeseen circumstances, every student will be permitted three "cuts" (the equivalent of a week of class), with no questions asked and no penalty. But 5 points will be deducted from your course point total (on which, see below) for each additional absence. If appropriate documentation for severe illness, employment conflict, or other compelling reason for absence is presented, that absence will be "excused" and will not be charged against you. This policy reflects life in the working world, where employers have strict attendance policies and the penalties for violating them are much greater. As in the working world, demonstrated commitment to the class in the form of perfect attendance will be rewarded. 10 points will be added to the course point total of anyone who completes the semester with no unexcused absences.

Make-up policy: Make-ups of the midterm and final exams will be permitted only in extraordinary circumstances, and only if those circumstances are verified in writing to the instructor by the appropriate authority. If such verification is presented, the student will be permitted to take an *oral* examination at a time agreed upon by both student and instructor.

Grading: Please note that plus-minus grading is used in this section of HIST 4620.

A maximum of 300 points will be available in this course. These points are distributed as follows:

- 50 points maximum for the midterm exam
- 100 points maximum for the paper
- 100 points maximum on the final exam
- 50 points maximum for class participation

Grades will be assigned largely on the basis of total points earned, as follows:

280 – 300 = A	260 – 269 = B+	230 – 239 = C+	200 – 209 = D+
270 – 279 = A-	250 – 259 = B	220 – 229 = C	190 – 199 = D
	240 – 249 = B-	210 – 219 = C-	180 – 189 = D-

Points earned for perfect attendance will be added to your total, and points lost for poor attendance will be subtracted from your total.

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IMPORTANT NOTES CONCERNING GRADING:

- 1) For CR/NC students, 210 points are required for credit.
- 2) A passing grade requires that all assignments, including the term paper and final exam, be submitted.
- 3) Change from letter grade to CR/NC will be granted after the university deadline ONLY IF compelling reasons, supported by appropriate written documentation, are offered. Compelling reasons include but are not limited to (a) a change in work schedule that makes attendance at class impossible; (b) an illness serious enough to require hospitalization or medically-ordered bedrest for a lengthy period. Reasons NOT considered compelling include but are not limited to (a) avoidance of a failing grade; (b) avoidance of grade-related loss of financial aid.

Extra credit policy: Your grade for the course is based solely on required course work. *No opportunity for extra credit is available.*

Required book (available for purchase at Kiva bookstore; copies will be sent to Stockton and may be ordered through Kiva bookstore by students at other remote sites):

Laura McCall and Donald Yacovone, eds., *A Shared Experience: Men, Women, and the History of Gender*

Also, there are several essays on reserve at Vasche Library; these will be sent to Stockton and other remote sites

Important Dates:

Last day to drop:	M 3/12
Last day to choose CR/NC option:	M 3/12
Final exam:	W 5/30, 11:15 AM – 1:15 PM

PLEASE NOTE: The instructor will be happy to accommodate needs arising from legitimate instances of disability, supported by documentation from the appropriate university authorities. *Making the necessary arrangements is the student's responsibility and should be done during the first week of the course.*

PLEASE NOTE: Any student caught in an act of academic dishonesty will fail the course and may be subject to full disciplinary procedure.

COURSE SCHEDULE

INTRODUCTORY

W 2/14 Introduction to course
 F 2/16 Lecture: Introduction to Gender History

UNIT 1: GENDER AND EURO-INDIAN CONTACT

Reading: *On reserve:* Carol Devens, "Separate Confrontations: Gender as a Factor in Indian Adaptation to European Colonization in New France"
On reserve: Kathleen M. Brown, "The Anglo-Algonquian Gender Frontier"

M 2/19 Lecture W&F 2/21 & 23 Discuss readings

UNIT 2: GENDER AND SOCIETY IN COLONIAL AMERICA

Reading: *A Shared Experience*, 19-50, 78-97

M 2/26 Lecture W&F 2/28 & 3/2 Discuss readings

UNIT 3: GENDER AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Reading: *On reserve:* Joan R. Gundersen, "Independence, Citizenship, and the American Revolution"
On reserve: Ruth Bloch, "The Gendered Meanings of Virtue in Revolutionary America"

M 3/5 Lecture W&F 3/7 & 9 Discuss readings

UNIT 4: GENDER, RACE, AND THE FAMILY IN THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY

Reading: *A Shared Experience*, 119-140, 222-244
On reserve: Samuel J. Watson, "Flexible Gender Roles during the Market Revolution: Family, Friendship, Marriage, and Masculinity among U.S. Army Officers, 1815-1846"

M 3/12 Lecture W&F 3/14 & 16 Discuss readings

UNIT 5: GENDER AND VICTORIAN SEXUALITY

Reading: *On reserve:* Karen Lystra, "Sexuality in Victorian Courtship and Marriage"
On reserve: Carol Groneman, "Nymphomania: Physicians and Female Sexuality in Victorian America"

M 3/19 Lecture W&F 3/21 & 23 Discuss readings

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MIDTERM WEEK

M 3/26 Review for midterm W 3/28 **MIDTERM EXAM**

F 3/30 is the Cesar Chavez Day observance: no class

UNIT 6: GENDER AND THE CIVIL WAR

Reading: *On reserve:* LeeAnn Whites, "The Civil War as a Crisis in Gender"
 On reserve: Jim Cullen, "'I's a Man Now': Gender and African American Men"
 On reserve: Joan Cashin, "'Since the War Broke Out': The Marriage of Kate and William McLure"

M 4/2 Lecture W&F 4/4 & 6 Discuss readings

******* SPRING BREAK – APR. 9-13 *******

UNIT 7: GENDER AND THE SETTLEMENT OF THE WEST

Reading: *On reserve:* John Mack Faragher, "The Separate Worlds of Men and Women [on the Overland Trail]"
 On reserve: Susan Lee Johnson, "Bulls, Bears, and Dancing Boys: Race, Gender, and Leisure in the California Gold Rush"

M 4/16 Lecture W&F 4/18 & 20 Discuss readings

UNIT 8: MASCULINITY BESEIGED? WOMEN'S POWER AND 'CIVILIZATION' IN THE LATE NINETEENTH AND EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURIES

Reading: *A Shared Experience*, 297-322
 On reserve: Susan C. Curtis, "The Son of Man and God the Father: The Social Gospel and Victorian Masculinity"
 On reserve: Gail Bederman, "Civilization, the Decline of Middle-Class Manliness, and Ida B. Wells's Anti-Lynching Campaign"

M 4/23 Lecture W&F 4/25 & 27 Discuss readings

UNIT 9: GENDER AND THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Reading: *On reserve:* Barbara Melosh, "Manly Work: Public Art and Masculinity in Depression America"
 On reserve: Alice Kessler-Harris, "Gender Ideology and Family Survival During the Depression"

M 4/30 Lecture W&F 5/2 & 4 Discuss readings

Optional rough draft of comparative book analysis due by M 4/30

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UNIT 10: GENDER, WORLD WAR TWO, AND THE COLD WAR

Reading: *A Shared Experience*, 323-348
On reserve: Melissa Dabakis, "Gendered Labor: Norman Rockwell's Rosie the Riveter and the Discourses of Wartime Womanhood"

M 5/7 Lecture W&M 5/9 & 14 Discuss readings

F 5/11 is Warrior Day: no class

UNIT 11: RETHINKING GENDER: MEN'S AND WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS IN THE LATE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Reading: *A Shared Experience*, 349-367
On reserve: Alida Brill, "Feminists and the Debate on Pornography"

W 5/16 Lecture F&M 5/18 & 21 Discuss readings

Comparative book analysis due F 5/18
Final exam essay distributed F 5/18

WRAP-UP

W 5/23 Course evaluations; Review final exam essay

W 5/30 Official final exam time is 11:15 AM – 1:15 PM