

HIST 309, Spring 2017
History of Women in the United States, 1870 – Present
CRN 36309
Tuesday, Thursday, 12:00 – 1:20 in Pacific Hall 123

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION

HIST 309 is the second part of a two-quarter sequence on the history of women and gender in the United States. Its starting point is that the history of women and gender *is* U.S. history rather than something set apart from the major developments that have shaped the nation's past. The course examines the historical significance of gender, for men and boys as well as women and girls, and explores Americans' lives as family members, workers, and citizens. It will survey many different dimensions of gendered lives from Reconstruction to the present. As we read and think about change and continuity over the course of modern U.S. history, we will consider the following topics in relation to women and gender: migration and immigration; industrialization; reform movements; suffrage; labor and consumption; family roles; war; sexuality and health; violence; feminism and anti-feminism. The course will emphasize diversity in the history of women and gender and profile individuals who illustrate the dynamic relationship between gender and other aspects of social identity, including race, ethnicity, class, national origin, sexual orientation, and age. The course is designed to move forward chronologically in time, but its thematic organization also means that we will sometimes move across time, compare different periods, and ask questions—and question our assumptions—about the meaning and inevitability of progress.

CLASS FORMAT

There will be two lectures each week. Although this course requires no separate discussion sections, you can expect to participate in regular small group discussions for 20-30 minutes, typically on Thursdays, about the readings for that week. Please be sure to bring the reading and notes to class with you in whatever form (electronic or hard copy) is most convenient.

WRITING REQUIREMENTS

Three short essay-writing assignments. Each one will explore and/or compare primary source documents and be 4-5 pages long, double-spaced.

Essay #1, due during week 4 on April 25, 2017

Essay #2, due during week 6 on May 9, 2017

Essay #3, due during week 8 on May 23, 2017

There will also be a comprehensive take-home final exam, covering the major readings and themes of the course. It will be distributed on the final day of class, Thursday, June 8, 2017. and will be due on Monday, June 12, 2017 by noon.

READING REQUIREMENTS

Required reading does not mean required buying. You can find all of the texts below on reserve in Knight Library as well as at the UO Bookstore. You are expected to complete the required reading *before* class. Doing so will make the lectures more understandable and interesting. It will also prepare you for the in-class discussions.

Rita Mae Brown, *Rubyfruit Jungle* (Bantam, 1973).

Ellen Fitzpatrick, *The Highest Glass Ceiling: Women's Quest for the American Presidency* (Harvard University Press, 2016).

Danielle McGuire, *At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance—A New History of the Civil Rights Movements from Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power* (Vintage, 2011).

Recommended text:

Ellen Carol DuBois and Lynn Duménil, *Through Women's Eyes: An American History With Documents*, 4th edition (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2016).