

CID 4558
Syllabus: HIS 383W, section 01
American Women's History
Fall 2007, 3 credit hours

Classroom: LDB 207
Class Time: TTH 11-12:20
Instructor: Dr. Nancy Baker
Instructor's office location: AB4, room 412
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Phone: 936-294-1475
Office hours: TTH 2-3:30 pm, W 2-3 pm

This course will cover the history of American women from the colonial era to the 1990s, emphasizing the themes of women and domesticity, women and the public sphere, and societal images of women. Drawing on primary and secondary sources, students will examine the ways in which issues of family, class, economics, and race/ethnicity have shaped the lives of American women.

Course Objectives: This course has the following objectives. In this course, you will:

1. Gain factual knowledge about the history of American women.
2. Learn fundamental principles and theories pertaining to the study of gender in American history.

Grading:	Paper #1 (3-4 pp.)	15%
	Paper #2 (3-4 pp.)	15%
	Exam #1	20%
	Exam #2	20%
	Final Exam	20%
	Class Attendance	10%

This class will consist of a blend of **lecture** and of **class discussion** of assigned readings. Occasionally (technology permitting!), we may watch a film in class, and discussion will follow.

Exams: Exam #1 and #2 will be objective, with multiple-choice, true-false and/or matching questions. The final exam may include a written portion. Each exam is NOT cumulative, but is based on material we have covered since the previous exam. On exam days, please bring a Scantron answer sheet and a #2 pencil with you. These can be purchased in the bookstore.

Attendance: Your grade for attendance involves attending class regularly and being prepared to engage actively with the material we are covering in class. This means that you must be present, attentive, and prepared (having completed the reading assigned for that date). Sleeping, reading books unrelated to HIS 164, surfing the net, text messaging

or other activities are forbidden during class time. **If you are absent more than three times, your grade will be lowered for the class. Attendance will be graded as follows:**

0 to 3 absences = A

4 to 6 absences = B

7 to 9 absences = C

10 to 12 absences = D

13 or more absences = F

Absences from class are not excused unless you give me proof of illness (such as a doctor's note) or a death in your family.

Required Books: The following four books are required reading for this course. In order to pass this course, you must purchase these books at the start of the semester and read them throughout the semester. All other readings in the syllabus will be available on-line or as hand-outs in class.

1. Linda K. Kerber and Jane Sherron DeHart, eds., *Women's America: Refocusing the Past* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004) 6th edition. (If you are buying this book used or on-line, PLEASE make sure to buy the SIXTH edition.)

2. Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of A Slave Girl* (Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, Inc., 1861, 2001), Dover Thrift Edition.

(This book is also available through the Newton Gresham Library's website as an e-book, free of cost.)

3. Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1963, 2001).

4. Ariel Levy, *Female Chauvinist Pigs: Women and the Rise of Raunch Culture* (New York: Free Press, 2006).

***** PLEASE NOTE *****

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this schedule throughout the semester, as she deems necessary.

We may not be able to discuss each and every reading in class; whether we discuss the reading or not, you will be responsible for being familiar with all readings for exams and paper assignments. As always, please feel free to meet with me during office hours if you are unclear about a reading.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week 1, Aug. 21-23: Introduction; Women in Colonial North America

8/21: Introduction; syllabus

Read to discuss in class on Thurs., 8/23: Kerber, pp. 25-68.

Week 2, Aug. 28-30: Women in the American Revolution & the Early Republic

Read to discuss on 8/28: Kerber, pp. 69- 96.

Read to discuss on 8/30: Kerber, 97-128.

Week 3, Sept. 4-6: Women and Slavery

Read by 9/4: Harriet A. Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, chaps. 1, 2, 5-7, 10, 13, 15-18. This book is available for free as an e-book on the Library's on-line catalogue; do a keyword search for Harriet Jacobs and the electronic version should be one of the results.

Read to discuss on 9/6: Jacobs, chaps. 19-21, 22, 24, 32-41 (end of book); read also Kerber, pp. 135-145.

The assignment for Paper #1 will be handed out in class on 9/6.

Week 4, Sept. 11-13: Women in the 19th c.

Read to discuss on 9/11: Kerber, pp. 145-192.

Read to discuss on 9/13: Kerber, 193-219.

Week 5, Sept. 18-20: Women, the Civil War and Reconstruction

***** EXAM #1 in class on 9/18 *****

Read to discuss on 9/20: Kerber, 220-251.

Week 6, Sept. 25-27; Woman Suffrage

In class on 9/25: **Film:** *Iron-Jawed Angels* (2004).

Seeing a film will depend upon being able to work out the technical challenges of not having equipment in our classroom.

***** Paper #1 is due in class on Thurs., 9/27. *****

Week 7, Oct. 2-4: Women, Race, and Immigration at the Turn of the Century

Read to discuss on 10/2: Kerber, pp. 268- 301.

Read to discuss on 10/4: Kerber, pp. 302-344

***** The last day to drop this class without a grade of "F" is Wed., 10/10. *****

Week 8, Oct. 9-11: Women in the 1920s and 1930s

Read to discuss on 10/9: Kerber, 379-422.

Read to discuss on 10/11: Kerber, pp. 423-446

Week 9, Oct. 16-18: Gender, State and Politics in the 1940s

Read to discuss on 10/16: Kerber, pp. 459-478.

No reading due in class on 10/18. Start studying for the exam on Tuesday!

Week 10, Oct. 23-25: Women and the 1950s

***** EXAM #2 in class on 10/23 *****

Read to discuss on 10/25: Kerber, pp. 479-531.

Week 11, Oct. 30 - Nov. 1: The 1960s & Second Wave Feminism

Read to discuss on 10/30: Kerber, pp. 532-559.

Read by 11/1: Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*, chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 7. You will receive a handout in class to read for next time (a short article by Alicia Chavez).

Week 12, Nov. 6-8: The 1960s to the Early 1970s and Radical Feminism

Read to discuss on 11/6: *The Feminine Mystique*, chapters 8, 12, 13, 14. Read also an in-class handout, Alicia Chavez, "Dolores Huerta and the United Farm Workers" in Vicki Ruiz, ed., *Latina Legacies* (2005), pp. 240-252.

Read to discuss on 11/8: Kerber, pp. 576-592.

Week 13, Nov. 13-15: The 1970s to the 1980s

Read to discuss on 11/13: Kerber, pp. 593-598, 624-637.

Assignment for paper #2 will be handed out today in class.

11/15 – Library Day

Week 14, Nov. 20

11/20 – Library Day

11/22 – no class meeting due to Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 15, Nov. 27-29: The 1990s

***** PAPER #2 is due in class Tues., 11/27 *****

No reading will be due on Tues., 11/27.

Read to discuss on Thurs., 11/29: Schneir, pp. 454-468 (Susan Faludi, *Backlash*). Kerber, pp. 670-676. Camille Paglia, TBA.

Week 16, Dec. 4-6: Recent Trends

Read for 12/5: Ariel Levy, *Female Chauvinist Pigs: Women and the Rise of Raunch Culture*, pp. 1-117.

Read for 12/7: *Female Chauvinist Pigs: Women and the Rise of Raunch Culture*, pp. 118-212.

***** 11-1 pm, Dec. 13: Final Exam ******

COURSE POLICIES

Student enrollment in this course confirms that you have read and accepted these policies.

Student Syllabus Guidelines: The following link provides a more detailed description of the course policies: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Academic Dishonesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. Students are to turn off all cell phones while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days: Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work.

Students with Disabilities Policy: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center.

Visitors in the Classroom: Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

Instructor Evaluations: Toward the end of the semester, you will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form.

Copyright Statement

The materials presented in this syllabus and course are copyrighted. Reproduction of these materials without the express permission of the copyright holder is prohibited. Tape recorders are not permitted in class without prior permission from the instructor.