

CID 3499
Syllabus: HIS 383W, section 01
American Women's History
Spring 2008, 3 credit hours

Classroom: AB4, room 307
Class Time: TTH 12:30-1:50 pm
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, and by appointment

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. There are no prerequisites for this class.

Course Objectives: This course has the following objectives. In this course, successful students 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, 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. Make-up exams will be permitted and scheduled on a case-by-case basis, provided the student has a doctor's note or other evidence of a serious, compelling reason for missing the exam.

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 383, 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

Please note: the readings are usually listed for the date on which they will be discussed – you must come to that class having already read the material, ready to discuss it.

Week 1: Introduction

January 17: Introduction; syllabus

Read to discuss in class on Tues., Jan. 22: Kerber, pp. 25-68.

Week 2, Jan. 22-24: Women in Colonial North America

Tuesday: Discuss in class Kerber, pp. 25-68

Read to discuss on Thursday: Kerber, pp. 69- 96.

Week 3, Jan. 29-31: Women in the American Revolution & the Early Republic

Read to discuss on Tuesday: Kerber, 97-128.

In class on Thursday: **Film:** *A Midwife's Tale* (1997).

Week 4, February 5-7: Women and Slavery

Read by Tuesday: 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 Thursday: 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 Thursday.

Week 5, Feb. 12-14: Women in the 19th c.

Read to discuss on Tuesday: Kerber, pp. 145-192.

Read to discuss on Thursday: Kerber, 193-219.

Week 6, Feb. 19-21: Women, the Civil War and Reconstruction

***** EXAM #1 in class on Tuesday *****

Read to discuss on Thursday: Kerber, 220-251.

Week 7, Feb. 26-28: Woman Suffrage

In class on Tuesday: **Film:** *Iron-Jawed Angels* (2004).

***** Paper #1 is due in class on Thursday. *****

Week 8, March 4-6: Women, Race, and Immigration at the Turn of the Century
Read to discuss on Tuesday: Kerber, pp. 268- 301.

Read to discuss on Thursday: Kerber, pp. 302-344

***** The last day to drop this class without a grade of "F" is Friday, March 7. *****

Week 9, March 11-13: SPRING BREAK – no classes this week

Week 10, March 18-20: Women in the 1920s and 1930s

Read to discuss on Tuesday: Kerber, 379-422.

Read to discuss on Thursday: Kerber, pp. 423-446

Week 11, March 25-27: Gender, State and Politics in the 1940s

Read to discuss on Tuesday: Kerber, pp. 459-478.

In class on Thursday: **Film:** *Fly Girls* (1999).

No reading due in class on Thursday. Start studying for the exam on Tuesday!

Week 12, April 1-3: Women and the 1950s

***** EXAM #2 in class on Tuesday *****

Read to discuss on Thursday: Kerber, pp. 479-531.

Week 13, April 8-10: The 1960s & Second Wave Feminism

Read to discuss on Tuesday: Kerber, pp. 532-559.

Read by Thursday: 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 14, April 15-17: The 1960s to the Early 1970s and Radical Feminism

Read to discuss on Tuesday: *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.

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

Read to discuss on Thursday: Kerber, pp. 576-592.

Week 15, April 22-24: The 1970s to the 1980s

Read to discuss on Tuesday: Kerber, pp. 593-598, 624-637.

Week 16, April 29-May 1: The 1990s

***** PAPER #2 is due in class Tuesday *****

No reading will be due on Tuesday.

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

Week 17, May 6-8: Recent Trends

Read to discuss on Tuesday: Ariel Levy, *Female Chauvinist Pigs: Women and the Rise of Raunch Culture*, pp. 1-117.

Read to discuss on Thursday: *Female Chauvinist Pigs: Women and the Rise of Raunch Culture*, pp. 118-212.

***** FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, May 13, 11-1 pm ******

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.

Plagiarism consists of using another person's words or ideas without attribution; this includes using direct quotations without indicating that they are such, cutting and pasting from websites without indicating your source, or submitting as your own work a paper that you did not write or that you collaborated on with someone else (in other words, you and your classmate discussed the assignment and came up with the same argument and examples). If you commit academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism, you will receive a grade of "F" for the assignment; at the instructor's discretion, you may receive a grade of "F" for the entire class (if, for example, you repeatedly commit academic dishonesty). 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: Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

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. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with 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.

Assignments: At least two weeks before a written assignment's deadline, you will receive a detailed description of the assignment. A rubric for how written assignments will be graded is available on the course Blackboard site.

Copyright Statement

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