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Course Outline for HIST 32

U.S. WOMEN'S HISTORY

Effective: Fall 2004

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

HIST 32 — U.S. WOMEN'S HISTORY — 3.00 units

A survey of United States women's history from its indigenous origins through the present. This course emphasizes the interaction and experiences of diverse racial/ethnic groups that include at least three of the following groups: African-Americans, Chicana/Latina Americans, Asian Americans, European Americans, and Native Americans. Special areas of focus include women's role in the political, economic, social, and geographic development of the United States.

3.00 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Letter Grade

Discipline:

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. identify the roots of women's history as an area of academic study;
2. examine the impact class, race, age and sexual orientation have on women's lives;
3. identify and analyze the diverse indigenous cultures of North American peoples and the role women played in the social, religious, and political life of the community;
4. trace the role of women in various European societies, their arrival in the Americas, and the gender traditions that traveled with them;
5. explain the roots and evolution of the African slave trade, the development of slavery in North America, how slavery differed by region, and how the system impacted African women and others;
6. discuss the role of women in the pre-revolutionary period, and their wartime contributions;
7. explain the impact of the American Revolution on the institution of slavery, Native American land rights, and the establishment of Republican Motherhood.
8. analyze the U. S. Constitution as a document that was not inclusive of women in its original form, with work still to be done;
9. describe the possibilities open to women at the turn of the nineteenth century: the Cult of True Womanhood, the domestic servant, the slave;
10. trace the beginnings of the early women's rights movement as an outgrowth of other social reform movements;
11. discuss the role of women in the Civil War and Reconstruction periods, including the impact of emancipation on African American women and losing ground on women's rights through division and discriminatory postwar constitutional amendments;
12. discuss the role of the west in creating new opportunities for women socially, politically, and economically, while severely curtailing the rights of indigenous peoples; particularly in terms of voting rights and the California Constitution;
13. assess the role of women in the rise and expansion of American industry in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, including emphasis on immigration and urbanization;
14. analyze the role of women in the Progressive movement of the early twentieth century, which brought increased visibility, and participation in the public sphere;
15. trace the final push for suffrage, racial segregation in the movement, World War I and new feminist suffrage strategies, and success with the nineteenth amendment;
16. identify the "New Woman" of the 1920s, and discuss the birth of the movement for reproductive freedom;
17. assess the impact of the Great Depression on women with special emphasis on race and class;
18. discuss the New Deal's impact on women, and its shortcomings;
19. discuss the impact of World War II on American women, and American women on World War II; identify aspects of postwar American society that hindered women's progress in all areas of American life, and heralded in a new age of domesticity;
20. trace the development of the second wave of women's liberation in the early 1960s that led to the birth of a new women's movement;
21. discuss the origins of the feminist backlash of the 1980s and 1990s;
22. identify and discuss issues on the feminist agenda, and assess progress;
23. assess the role of women in the military since World War II, with special attention to current situation;
24. discuss the role of women in the global economy, and in the affairs of state.

V. CONTENT:

- A. Introduction to study of U.S. Women's History.
- B. Birth of patriarchy during ancient historical period and the erosion of women's societal status.
- C. Indigenous cultures of North America with examination of matriarchal and egalitarian tribal organization.
- D. European cultures and traditions transported to North America, and the interaction with indigenous peoples.
- E. African slave trade and the development of the institution of slavery with special emphasis on the African American female experience.
- F. The female experience during the Revolutionary period, and the impact of the Revolution on Native American, African American, and Euro-American women.
- G. The development of the doctrine of separate gender spheres and the nature of female work and leisure.
- H. The role of women in early social reform movements, culminating in the birth of the woman's rights movement
 - I. Women in the western states and territories.
- J. The female experience during the Civil War; emancipation, encroachment on the Plains and impact on indigenous peoples.
- K. The role of women in industrial America and the impact of immigration and urbanization; the female immigrant.
- L. The role of women in the Progressive movement as participants and leaders.
- M. Racial segregation in American society in general, and in the women's movement in particular.
- N. The history of the final push for suffrage that coincided with the Progressive movement; ratification of the nineteenth amendment.
- O. The New Woman of the 1920s, reproductive rights, the selling of mass culture.
- P. World War I and its impact on the suffrage movement.
- Q. Women's experience during the Great Depression; repercussions for racial/ethnic minorities and married women.
- R. New Deal programs that benefited and discriminated against women.
- S. World War II and new opportunities for all women.
- T. The beginning of the Second wave of feminism in the early sixties and the birth of the modern women's movement; lesbians in the movement.
- U. Examination of the current feminist agenda, and assessment of progress.
- V. Examination of women and the American Dream: politics, economics, media, military, labor force, family life, organized sports, etc.
- W. Overview of women's role in the global economy, affairs of state, and domestic policy.

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** - on major themes, events, movements and women.
- B. Readings from texts, handouts, websites and primary documents.
- C. **Audio-visual Activity** - both in class and at home.
- D. Written assignments.
- E. **Discussion** - (small and large group) of themes.

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Write a 3-5 page typed critical analysis on the slave narrative *Incidents In the Life of A Slave Girl* by Harriet Jacobs.
 - B. Interview one of more generations of women in your family to construct a personal family history, to be presented in oral or written form.
 - C. Class discussions about the relevance of the original feminist agenda in Elizabeth Cady Stanton's *Declaration of Sentiments* to the present day feminist agenda.
 - D. Research project will include notation and bibliography.
- Oral presentation of research.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Papers
3. Projects

B. **Frequency**

1. Frequency of Evaluation:
 - a. Quizzes as appropriate throughout the semester
 - b. Midterm examinations and final examinations

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Norton, Mary Beth and Ruth M. Alexander, eds. *Major Problems in American Women's History*. , D.C. Heath and Company, , 1996.
2. Riley, Glenda. *Inventing the American Woman. Vol I & II* ., Harlan Davidson, Inc, 1995.
3. Ruiz, Vicki and Ellen Carol DuBois, eds. *Unequal Sisters: A Multicultural Reader in U.S. Women's History*., Routledge, 2000.
4. Kish Sklar, Kathryn and Thomas Dublin, eds *Women and Power in American History Vol I & II*., Prentice Hall, 1991.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. Bluebooks and scantron sheets