HISTORY 353:
WOMEN AND GENDER IN AMERICAN SOCIETY TO 1870

This course surveys the history of women in the United States from the colonial period to 1870. We will investigate how women understood their lives as individuals and as members of families and communities and how broad discourses of gender framed and were framed by questions of colonialism, nationalism, race, and class.

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Off. Hrs.: T 1:00-3:00 (& by appt.)

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COURSE MECHANICS

Readings:
We have ordered the following books at A Room of One's Own Bookstore:
Nancy Cott et al, Root of Bitterness, 2nd edition  
The Narrative of Sojourner Truth  

Readings marked [ON-LINE] are available through the University Library. On the UW home page, click “Libraries” (under “Academics”). Then click the red “Find It” site. You will need to enter the journal name and the article title, both of which are provided in the syllabus below. Additional articles [READER] are available in a packet at Bob’s Copy Shop, University Square Mall. (A set of these readings will also be available in the library.) You should have the readings completed by lecture on the date for which they are listed.

Grading:
We expect you to attend all lectures and all discussion sections, to complete all reading and written assignments on time, and to participate in discussions in section and in lecture. We will calculate your final grade as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance/preparation/discussion</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
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Unexplained absences, lack of participation, or late assignments will lower your grade.

Assignments:
Papers 1 and 2 will be critical interpretations of primary documents. Each will be 3-4 typed pages in length. We will distribute the specific assignment a week in advance.
The mid-term will be an in-class examination. The questions will be identifications. We will distribute a study sheet a week in advance.
The final paper will be a critical analysis of no more than 5 typed pages (plus citations) on the Ginzberg book. It will be graded on the basis on your ability to offer a well-constructed and convincing argument informed by the readings and lectures of the course. We will distribute the specific assignment sheet on December 8. The paper is due no later than 9:00 a.m. December 19. There will be no separate final exam.
CLASS SCHEDULE

September 6: Introduction

Colonial Encounters

September 8: Gender and the Colonial Project

September 13: The Everyday Life and Labor of Settler Women North America

September 15: Gender, Colonial Society and Social Disorder

September 20: Fashioning a Colonial Order in the Southern Colonies

September 22: Reading and Writing Critically

September 25: Fashioning a Colonial Order in New England

Eighteenth-Century Transitions

September 27: Labor and a Commercial Economy
First Paper Due in Class

October 4: In-Class Video: “Mary Silliman’s War, Part I”

October 6: In-Class Video: “Mary Silliman’s War, Part II”
October 11: Assessing the Revolution
“Rise and Progress of the Young Ladies’ Academy” (Philadelphia, 1791): Valedictory Oration of Eliza Shrupp; Valedictory Oration of Miss Molly Wallace; Salutatory Oration of Miss [Pricilla] Mason [READER]

October 13: Midterm Examination

October 18: Race, Gender and Order in Post-Revolutionary America

October 23: Middle-Class White Women and the Power of Domesticity

October 25: Middle-Class White Women and the Price of Domesticity

October 27: Gender Transgressions in the Age of Gender Spheres

In-Class Video: “She Even Chew’d Tobacco”

Domesticity and Industrial Society
November 1: Becoming Working-Class in Antebellum America

November 3: Working-Class Women’s Organizing

Gender and the Civilizing Mission
November 8: Women and Reform in Antebellum America
Second Paper Due in Class
November 10: Gender and Authority Overseas


November 15: Overland Confrontations with Domesticity


Women and Slavery

November 17: Slavery


November 22: The Bodies of the Enslaved Woman

The Narrative of Sojourner Truth (1st half)

November 24: Thanksgiving

December 1: Race and Slavery in the North

The Narrative of Sojourner Truth (2nd half)

December 6: Black and White Women on Race and Slavery


Women and Citizenship

December 8: Women’s Rights

Lori Ginzberg, Untidy Beginnings, pp. 5-48.

December 13: Women’s Rights

Lori Ginzberg, Untidy Beginnings, pp. 49-106.

December 15: Conclusions

Lori Ginzberg, Untidy Beginnings, pp. 107-169.

December 19, 9:00 a.m.: Final Paper Due.