Course # 520  Women in American Society to 1870  Gerda Lerner

T Th  11-12:15.  All assignments are due at beginning of the week.

Course Description  The lectures will offer an overview of the history of women in America, treating the subject both as an integral aspect of general history and as a separate field. Among the major topics to be studied are: Women's domestic and public roles; women's life cycles; the dual work of women; social control of sexuality and the uses of deviance; women as agents of social change; women as builders of communities and institutions; women acting in their own behalf.

The topics will be approached comparatively, in consideration of variations as to class, race and ethnicity. Students will work with primary and secondary sources and become familiar with different historiographic interpretations.

Each lecture period will be followed by class discussion.

Classes will be held Tues and Thurs 11AM - 12:15. Additional section meetings will be scheduled during the first week of classes.

Requirements:

Attendance at lectures and participation in class discussion following the lectures; reading preparation in advance of each lecture; participation in weekly section discussion.

Each student will be asked to keep a Reading Diary, an orderly loose-leaf notebook, typed, if possible. In the reading diary you should record the theme and thesis of your readings and your own ideas and reflections based on the readings and class discussions. You can also include questions, comments, criticism. The Diary is to be turned in to me on Tuesday of weeks IV, VII and XII. If you are absent (for a good reason only), the Diary should be left in the History Office no later than Wed. morning.

Examinations:

There will be an in-class mid-term exam, consisting of one question-answer section and one brief essay (3-5 pp.). You may bring your Reading Diary to the exam, but no other books or notes.

Students may choose either a Take-home final of 10-12 pp. or an in-class paper of 6-8 pp.

Grading System:  Class attendance, participation and Reading Diary 25% of grade
Section attendance and discussion participation 15%
Midterm 25%
Final 35%

Restrictions:  Juniors and Seniors. Sophomores only with the instructor's permission. Graduate students may audit. Auditors must do all class reading assignments.
REQUIRED READING

Textbooks for the Course (all paperbacks):


History 521
Women in American Society
1870 to the Present
T & R 9:30-10:45

Explanation of Symbols:
X=Kinko's Copy Center packet
P=Suggested purchase
L=Lecture

SYLLABUS

History 521
Women in American Society
1870 to the Present
T & R 9:30-10:45

I. WOMEN IN INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY

9/06 L1: The Uneven Development of U.S. Industrialization
9/08 L2: The South

REQUIRED READING:
P HQ1420H3 Margaret Hagood, Mothers of the South, pp. 63-91, 183-198.
P E185.86L4 Gerda Lerner, Black Women in White America (BWWA), pp. 150-158; 226-229 ("Georgia Peons," "Little more than slaves;" "Treadmill Life").
P HQ141OF6 Eleanor Flexner, Century of Struggle, ch. 9, pp. 131-141.
HQ1418S38 Anne Scott, Southern Lady, ch. 5, pp. 106-133.

II. THE STRUGGLE FOR EDUCATION

9/13 L1: Equal Access to Knowledge
9/15 L2: Separate Institutions

REQUIRED READING:
Flexner, ch. 8, pp. 113-130.
P HQ1410F45 Lerner, Female Experience (FE), pp. 417-419; 247-256 (Lockwood; Verduin, Sandler).
Lerner, BWWA, pp. 112-146 (KKK investigations, Clark, Laney, Brown, Burroughs, Bethune).
Hagood, pp. 128-156.

III. WOMEN ORGANIZE FOR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

9/20 L1: The WCTU and the Social Purity Movement
9/22 L2: The Woman's Club Movement, white and Black

REQUIRED READING:
HQ1423E67 Barbara L. Epstein, The Politics of Domesticity, chs. 4-5, pp. 89-146.

Suggested:
B. Epstein, entire book.
Frances Willard, Glimpses of Fifty Years (1889).
IV. WOMEN AS INSTITUTION BUILDERS AND REFORMERS

9/27  L1: Special Needs and Innovations
9/29  L2: Separate Institutions, Leadership, and Networks

REQUIRED READING:

Scott, Southern Lady, ch. 6, pp. 134-163.
HV31.C44
Clarke Chambers, Seedtime of Reform, chs. 5-6, pp. 109-150
Kerber/Mathews, pp. 269-293 (Kelley; B. Cook)

Suggested:
HV4196C4H7 Jane Addams, Twenty Years at Hull House (1910 reprint 1961)

V. THE WORKING WOMAN 1 -- THE HOUSEWIFE

10/4  L1: The Dual Burden
10/6  L2: Ethnicity, Race, and Gender as Factors in Work Decisions

REQUIRED READING:

P HQ1410H47 Nancy Cott/Elizabeth Pleck, A Heritage of Her Own, pp. 367-388; 499-506 (Pleck, A Mother's Wages; J. Vanek, Time Spent in Housework).
Hagood, pp. 92-107.

Suggested:

VI. THE WORKING WOMAN 2 -- OUT TO WORK

10/11  L1: The Unorganized
10/13  L2: Women in the Union Movement

REQUIRED READING:

Kessler-Harris, "Where are the Organized Women Workers," in Cott/Pleck, pp. 343-361 or in Kerber/Mathews, pp. 237-253
Lerner, FE, PP. 257-272; 286-316 (Stevens, Beecher, Starkweather, Seeley, Brozan; Dorr, Blanshard, Barry, Schneiderman, Van Etten, NWTUL, UAW).
Flexner, chs. 9, 14, 18; pp. 131-141, 193-202, 240-247.
VII. THE SEXUAL REVOLUTION

10/18  L1: Demographic Changes and What They Mean
10/20  L2: Reproduction and Changing Sexual Mores

REQUIRED READING:

HQ1488D44 Carl Degler, At Odds, chs. 9-10, pp. 210-248.
HQ141OW65 Hagood, ch. 9, pp. 108-127.

Suggested:
HQ764S3A3 Margaret Sanger, Margaret Sanger: An Autobiography (1938) or
Margaret Sanger, My Fight for Birthcontrol (1931).

10/25  MID-TERM EXAM

VIII. IN SEARCH OF THE NEW WOMAN

10/27  L1: New Types of Women

REQUIRED READING:

Lerner, FF, pp. 361-378; 419-423 (Stevens, Lewis; Flynn).
Lerner, EWWA, pp. 333-357; 378-382 (M.C. Terrell, E.P.
Ensley, Mrs. Patterson, C. Bass, Ella Baker, S. Chisholm).
R. Rosenberg, "The Academic Prism..." in Norton/Berkin
pp. 319-341.

Suggested:
PS17449S7 Charlotte P. Gilman, The Living of Charlotte Perkins Gilman
(1936).
Anna L. Strong, I Change Worlds: The Remaking of an American
(Seal Press, 1979).

IX. THE WINNING OF SUFFRAGE

11/1  L1: Strategy and Tactics
11/3  L2: The Significance of Suffrage and Anti-Suffrage

REQUIRED READING:

Flexner, chs. 12, and 16, pp. 164-178; 216-225.
Kerber/Mathews, pp. 298-311 (Scott & Scott).

Suggested:
Flexner, chs. 21-23, pp. 276-324.
Ellen Dubois, Feminism and Suffrage, chs. 4-6.
X. POST_SUFFRAGE_FEMINISM

11/8  L1: Mainstreaming and Coalition
11/10 L2: Women's Issues

REQUIRED READING:

Kerber/Mathews, pp. 342-355 (J. Hall).
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X

XI. WOMEN FROM THE 1930'S TO THE 1960'S

11/15 L1: Economic Changes
11/17 L2: Social and Cultural Changes

REQUIRED READING:

Chafe, pp. 135-225.
Lerner, BWWA, pp. 275-284; 306-308; 398-405 (F. Rice; D. Bates; WPA letters)
Lerner, FE, pp. 290-292 (Blanshard)
Kerber/Mathews, pp. 401-414 (A. Moody, delaCruz)
Suggested:

XII. THE RE-EMERGENCE OF FEMINIST CONSCIOUSNESS

11/22 L1: Origins and History of the New Feminism
11/24 THANKSGIVING

REQUIRED READING:

Kerber/Mathews, pp. 415-462 (Swerdlow, Friedan, Mathews)
Lerner, FE, pp. 458-462 (1975 Agenda)
Lerner, BWWA, pp. 599-614 (Robinson, Chisholm, Wright, Hamer)

XIII. THE NEW FEMINISM -- VARIETIES

11/29 L1: Some Theoretical Considerations
12/1 L2: Varieties of Feminism

REQUIRED READING:

Documents: NOW Bill of Rights; Millet, Manifesto; Redstockings Manifesto; N.Y. Radical Feminists.
Lerner, FE, pp. 378-387; 444-453 (ERA, Woman-Identified Woman).
XIV. THE NEW FEMINISM -- II


12/8  L2: The Meaning and Significance of Women's Studies

REQUIRED READING:
Lerner, Creation of Patriarchy, pp. 3-14, 212-229 (Intro, ch. 11).
HQ1154D12 Mary Daly, Beyond God the Father, pp. 1-43 (Intro, ch. 1).

XV. REVIEW

12/13 Course Review
12/15 Party

12/17 Exam at 10:05 a.m.