This course surveys the history of women in the United States from the colonial period to 1870. Tracing the rise of a distinctly Euro-American, middle-class concept of "womanhood" as a central element of the economic and social structure of the new nation, we will examine the strategies through which women of different races, ethnicities, and classes struggled both to assert their own identities and to protect the interests of their families and communities.

The course will proceed through a combination of lectures and discussion sections. You are responsible for reading all assigned materials carefully, for regular attendance at and thoughtful participation in lecture and discussion sections, and for the following written assignments:

- **February 9**: a 1-page summary of Jordan's "Fruits of Passion"
- **March 2**: a 2-3 page comparison of Crane's "When More Means Less" and Soderlund's "Black Women in Colonial Pennsylvania"
- **March 16**: an in-class essay mid-term
- **April 18**: a 5-7 page analytical research paper on a topic approved by either Boydston or Peck
- **May 11**: an in-class essay examination on the second half of the course

Papers are due at the beginning of the lecture on the date listed. Written work may be turned in late only with the approval of the teaching assistant.

I have ordered the following books for you to purchase:

- Nancy Hewitt, *Women’s Activism and Social Change*
- Linda Kerber, *Women of the Republic*
- Christine Stansell, *City of Women*
- Laurel Ulrich, *Good Wives*
- Deborah Gray White, *Arn’t I a Woman?*

Additional assigned readings for the lectures are on reserve in the Historical Society. You are also responsible for supplemental primary documents, which will be assigned in your discussion section.

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

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<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Course participation</td>
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<td>1 page summary</td>
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CLASS SCHEDULE:

**Introduction**

Jan. 24: Some Thoughts on the History of Women's History

**Before Colonization**

Jan. 26: Women in Native American Societies
Reading: Judith K. Brown, "Iroquois Women: An Ethnohistoric Note" in Reiter, ed., Toward an Anthropology of Women (Reserve)

Jan. 31: Women in African Societies
Reading: Christie Farnham, "Sapphire? The Issue of Dominance in the Slave Family, 1830-1865" in Groneman and Norton, eds., "To Toil the Livelong Day" (Reserve)

Feb. 2: Women in Europe
Reading: Merry E. Wiesner, "Women's Work in the Changing City Economy, 1500-1650" in Boxer and Quataert, eds., Connecting Spheres (Reserve)

**Race and Gender in the Southern Colonies**

Feb. 7: Work, Reproduction, and Slavery
Reading: Lois Green Carr and Lorena S. Walsh, "The Planter's Wife" in cott and Pleck, eds., A Heritage of Her Own (Reserve)
Winthrop Jordan, "'Unthinking Decision': The Enslavement of Negroes in America to 1700" in Weinstein and Gatell, eds., American Negro Slavery, 2nd ed. (Reserve)

Feb. 9: Slavery and Sexuality
Reading: Winthrop Jordan, "Fruits of Passion" in Friedman and Shade, eds., Our American Sisters, 1st ed. (Reserve)

**One-Page Summary of Jordan Due**

**Race, Gender and Religion in the Northern Colonies**

Feb. 14: Patterns of Work and Authority
Reading: Laurel Ulrich, Good Wives, Ch. 1-3 & 5
Mary Maples Dunn, "Women of Light" in Berkin and Norton, eds., Women of America (Reserve)

Feb. 16: Witchcraft

Feb. 21: Europeans and Native Americans
Reading: Laurel Ulrich, Good Wives, Ch. 9-11

**Economic Expansion in the Eighteenth Century:**

Feb. 23: The Institutionalization of Plantation Life
Jean R. Soderlund, "Black Women in Colonial Pennsylvania" in Friedman, Shade and Capozzoli, eds. Our American Sisters, 4th ed. (Reserve)
Feb. 28: Invasion, Resistance and Accommodation
Reading: Robert Steven Grumet, "Sunksquaws, Shamans, and Tradeswomen: Middle Atlantic Coastal Women During the 17th and 18th Centuries" in Etienne and Leacock, eds., Women and Colonization (Reserve)

March 2: Women's Work in a Commercial Society
**2-3 Page Comparison of Crane and Soderlund Due

Political Revolution and the Ideology of Gender
March 7: The "Enlightenment"
Reading: Linda Kerber, Women of the Republic, Ch. 1
March 9: Fighting the Revolution
Reading: Linda Kerber, Women of the Republic, Ch. 2-6
March 14: The Problem of "The People"
Reading: Linda Kerber, Women of the Republic, Ch. 7-9

IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAMINATION: MARCH 16

The Emergence of the Domestic Female Ideal
March 28: Domesticity and the New Middle Class
Reading: Nancy Cott, "Domesticity" from The Bonds of Womanhood (Reserve)
Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, "The Female World of Love and Ritual," Signs 1 (Fall 1975) (Reserve)
March 30: Domesticity and its Discontents
Reading: Mary Kelley, "At War with Herself: Harriet Beecher Stowe as Woman in Conflict within the Home" in Kelley, ed., Woman's Being, Woman's Place (Reserve)

Gender and Slavery in the Antebellum South
April 4: Work and Community
Reading: Deborah Gray White, Arn't I a Woman?
April 6: Resistance among Female Slaves
Reading: Angela Y. Davis, "The Black Woman's Role in the Community of Slaves," Black Scholar 3/4 (December 1971) (Reserve)

Free Women of the Antebellum Working Classes
April 11: The Case of Lowell
Reading: Begin Christine Stansell, City of Women
April 13: Gender in the Commercial City
Reading: Finish Christine Stansell, City of Women
April 18: Free Black Women in the Antebellum North
Reading: Sharon Harley, "Northern Black Female Workers: Jacksonian Era" in Harley and Terborg-Penn, eds., The Afro-American Woman
James Oliver Horton, "Freedom's Yoke: Gender Conventions among Antebellum Free Blacks," Feminist Studies 12/1 (Spring 1986) (Reserve)
**5-7 Page Research Paper Due

Gender and Culture on the Western Frontier
April 20: White Women on the Western Frontier
Reading: Johnny Faragher and Christine Stansell, "Women and their Families on the Overland Trail," Feminist Studies 2/3 (1975) (Reserve)
Joanna L. Stratton, "The Clashing of Cultures: Indians" from Pioneer Women (Reserve)
April 25: "Progress" Comes to the Native Americans
Reading: Excerpt from Diane Rothenberg, "Mothers of the Nation: Seneca Resistance to Quaker Intervention" in Etienne and Leacock, eds., Women and Colonization (Reserve)
Mary E. Young, "Women, Civilization and the Indian Question," in Deutrich and Purdy, eds., Clio Was a Woman (Reserve)

Antebellum Reform
April 27: Class, Religion and Reform
Reading: Nancy Hewitt, Women's Activism and Social Change, Intro. and Ch. 1-3
May 2: Abolitionism and Temperance
Reading: Nancy Hewitt, Women's Activism and Social Change, Ch. 4-5
May 4: The Birth of the Women's Rights Movement
Reading: Finish Nancy Hewitt, Women's Activism and Social Change
Angela Y. Davis, "Class and Race in the Early Women's Rights Campaign" from Women, Race and Class (Reserve)

Gender, Race, and Power in the Postbellum South
May 9: Free Women, Black and White, in the Postbellum South

IN-CLASS EXMINATION ON SECOND HALF OF COURSE: MAY 11