ASSIGNMENT 1 - due Week 4

NOTE: ALL ASSIGNMENTS SHOULD BE HANDED IN TYPED, DOUBLE-SPACED, with ample margins. Give me two copies of each assignment - I will return one to you with my comments and keep the other for my files. I will assign one student each week to give a report on background readings.

Based on what you have read so far, discuss how the experiences of slave women differed from those of male slaves. Focus on no more than three aspects of the problem and offer evidence for your views. (3-5 pp).

ASSIGNMENT 2 - due Week 6

Based on the readings under IV and V, discuss the impact of race prejudice on free black women. (3-4 pp.)

ASSIGNMENT 3 - due Week 8

Discuss the self-help and community-help efforts of free black women. Focus on one topic, cf. education, charity, support of war effort. (3-4 pp.)

ASSIGNMENT 4 - due Week 10.

Specific time assignments will be worked out individually.

Each student will be assigned one of the following books for a written and oral report. These books are not on reserve so they should be located three or four weeks prior to assignment due date to insure availability. The written report should be in the form of a book review with critical evaluation. (10-12 pp.) The oral report should take no longer than 15 minutes. To make sure you stay within this time limit, write out your oral report, even if you are not going to read it.


or


Tuesday 1:20-3:20
Office Hours: Wed. by appointment
History 901

Prof. Gerda Lerner
5123 Humanities

AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN'S HISTORY

NOTE:

All reading assignments are due for the class on the designated week. Do your first reading in advance of class I.

The readings under "Background" are required only for the student assigned to make a report for that week. Other students lacking preparation in Afro-American history are encouraged, but not required to do these readings.

An asterisk (*) preceding a reading indicates books on suggested purchase list. These books can be purchased at either the University Book Store or A Room of One's Own Bookstore. The Xerox Reader can be purchased at Kinko's on University Avenue. All of the readings will be on reserve at Helen C. White Library Reserve Room. Some copies of the readings may also be found on reserve in the State Historical Society Reading Room.

Reading Assignments

Week I: Conceptual Frameworks

James Baldwin, "Stranger in the Village" in Notes of a Native Son, pp. 159-175.
William Chafe, Women and Equality, chap. 3.
* Audrey Lorde, Sister Outsider, "Scratching the Surface: Some Notes on Barriers to Women and Loving" (pp. 45-52) and "Age, Race, Class and Sex: Women Redefining Difference," (pp. 114-123).
Muriel Rukeyser, "What do we see?" (Xerox 2).
Week II:  
Slavery 1

* Jean F. Yellin (ed.) Linda Brent: Incidents in the Life of Slave Girl, entire. 
  Angela Y. Davis, "Reflections on the Black Woman's Role in the Community of Slaves" in Black Scholar, III (December 1971), pp. 3-15. (Xerox 3).
* Deborah White, Ar'n't I A Woman, chaps. 1-3 (pp. 26-118).

Background Reading:
  John Hope Franklin, From Slavery to Freedom: A History of Negro Americans, chaps. 8 and 11.

Week III:  
Slavery 2

White, chaps. 4-Epilogue.
* Sarah Bradford, Harriet Tubman, entire.
  Narrative of Sojourner Truth, (Xerox 4).
  Lucy N. Colman, Reminiscences, (Xerox 5).
  BWWA, pp. 566-571.
  R.A. Hansley vs. Samuel Hansley, (Xerox 6).

Week IV:  
Free Women of Color

* Harriet E. Wilson "Our Nig", entire, but omit introduction.
  Maria Stewart, America's First Black Woman Political Writer, Preface, pp. 29-42; 65-74; 91-93.
  BWWA, pp. 365-374; 533-536.

Background reading:
  Franklin, chap. 14.

Week V:  
Abolitionists

BWWA, p. 323 (M.S. Carey); p. 363 (S.Douglass); p. 437 (Afric-Amer. Female Intelligence Society); p.530 (Emigration).
  David Walker's Appeal (Xerox 7).
  Dorothy Porter, "Sarah Parker Remond" (Xerox 8).
  Frederick Douglass North Star editorial (Xerox 9).
  Lerner, "The Grimké Sisters and The Struggle Against Race Prejudice" (Xerox 10).

Background reading:
  Benjamin Quarles, Black Abolitionists, chaps. 2-4; 7.
Week VI: Civil War and Reconstruction:

BWWA, p. 240 (S.K. Taylor); pp. 94-113. (Teaching the Freedmen); p. 243-49 (F.E.W. Harper); p. 288, (C.A. Jackson); p. 294 (M. Baldwin); p. 533-37 (F. Harper).

Pension claim of Harriet Tubman, and correspondence (Xerox 11).
"Moses" in The Freedman's Record, (Xerox 12).

Background reading:

Franklin, chap. 16.
Willie Lee Rose, Rehearsal for Reconstruction, chaps. 3, 7, 10, 11.

Week VII: The Betrayal of Reconstruction:

F.E.W. Harper, poem, "Deliverance" (Xerox 13).
Herbert Gutman, The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom, chap. 9. *

BWWA, pp. 370-74 (S. Truth).

Background reading:

Franklin, chaps. 17 and 18.

Week VIII: The Struggle for Education

BWWA, pp. 83-94; 114-150 (Clark; School Founders)

F.J. Coppin, Reminiscences, excerpts (Xerox 14).

Linda Perkins, "The Impact of the 'Cult of True Womanhood' on the Education of Black Women" (Xerox 15).

Background reading:

Franklin, chaps. 22 and 23.

Week IX: Survival is a Form of Resistance

BWWA, pp. 292-3 (Gaudet); 227-239, (Domestic); 250-87, (Jobs); 537-50 (I. B. Wells, Jemand).

Alice Childress, Like One of the Family, pp. 19-22, 25-72, 68-72.

Background reading:

Franklin, chaps. 23, 25.
Week X: Rape, Lynchings and Selfhelp


Week XI: Clubwork and Race Uplift

*BWAA*, pp. 330-52; 440-71; 479-525; 551-562.


Cheryl Gilkes, "'Together and in Harness'..." (Xerox 16).

Week XII: Black Nationalism; Black Protest

*BWAA*, pp. 370-436; 551-562.


Week XIII: The Civil Rights Movement

Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, chap. 4.*

* Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, entire.

E. Cantarow and S. O'Malley, "Ella Baker: Organizing for Civil Rights" (Xerox 17).

Week XIV: African-American Womanhood and Feminism

*BWAA*, pp. 566-614.


Lorde, *Sister Outsider*, pp. 60-65. ("Sexism: An American Disease in Blackface)."

Hull, Scott, Smith, *All the Women...* Section One, pp. 5-22.

(M. Wallace, Combahee).

Jordan, chap. 6 "Report from the Bahamas".
AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN'S HISTORY

BOOK LIST

Background text:


Paperback Books suggested for purchase:

Xerox Reader at Kinko’s on University Avenue.


Additional Readings on Reserve at Helen C. White reserve room or in the Historical Society Reading Room:

James Baldwin, *Notes of a Native Son*.


Alice Childress, *Like one of the Family*.


Gloria T. Hull, Patricia Bell Scott, and Barbara Smith. *All the Women are White, all the Blacks are Men, But some of Us Are Brave: Black Women's Studies*.

**Notable American Women.**

Benjamin Quarles, *Black Abolitionists*

*Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders*, special intro by Tom Wicker.

Marilyn Richardson, ed. *Maria Stewart, America's First Black Woman Political Writer*.

Willie Lee Rose, *Rehearsal for Reconstruction*.

Alice Walker, *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens*.