

His 392: Women in Social Movements. spring 1989.

Linda Gordon
4105 Humanities
263-1777

Office hours: Tues & Thurs 10-11
and by appointment (sign up sheet on my door)

Teaching assistant: Susan Smith
5260 Humanities
263-2386

Office hours to be announced

This is a new course, designed as an advanced women's-history course, recommended for those who have already taken History 520 and 521.

The social movements we will cover:

- Abolition
- Woman Suffrage
- Sexual Liberation
- Labor
- Socialism and "Progressivism"
- Communism
- Civil Rights
- The New Left
- Women's Liberation
- Gay Liberation
- The New Right

Requirements: a heavy load of reading; regular attendance at lecture and at a discussion section; one multiple-choice mid-term exam; two short (4-5 page) papers on topics to be assigned; final exam.

Required for purchase: a xeroxed reader available at Kinko's

Books recommended for purchase:

- Sara Evans, Personal Politics
- Meredith Tax, The Rising of the Women

Books you may wish to purchase, of which we only read parts:

- Kristin Luker, Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood
- Barry Adam, The Rise of a Gay and Lesbian Movement
- Angela Davis, Women, Race and Class
- Charlotte Nekola ed. Writing Red
- Mari Jo Buhle, Women and Socialism
- Linda Gordon, Woman's Body, Woman's Right: A History of the Birth Control Movement
- Marilyn Richardson, Maria W. Stewart, America's First Black Woman Political Writer
- Paula Giddings, When and Where I Enter

All books except the xeroxed reader will be on reserve either at Helen C. White or the State Historical Society Library.

Tentative lecture schedule. Note: readings are to be done BEFORE the date for which they are listed. X means the item is in the xeroxed reader.

Jan. 26. INTRODUCTION: What is a social movement? Are women's movements or women's roles in movements unique?

Read:

Temma Kaplan, "Female Consciousness and Collective Action". X.
(Start on next week's heavy reading assignment.)

Jan. 31. Feb. 7, Feb. 9. Abolition and Women's Rights
(Feb. 2 No class.)

Read:

--excerpts from Richardson and Stewart, X.
--DuBois, "The Radicalism of the Woman Suffrage Movement." X.
--Davis, Women, Race and Class, chaps. 2-7
--excerpts from Rossi and Stanton, X.
--"Suffrage Militant Alice Paul Goes to Jail," X.

Recommended:

--Daring to Dream. Utopian Stories by US Women, 1836-1919, ed.
Carol Farley Kessler

Feb. 14-16. Sexual Liberation.

Read:

--Gordon, chapters 5, 9, 14 (other chapters optional)
--DuBois and Gordon, X.
--selections from Oiana, X.

Paper #1 due February 21, on one of a choice of topics to be assigned.

Feb. 21-March 2. Labor

Read:

--Meredith Tax, The Rising of the Women, all.
--Alice Kessler-Harris, "Where Are the Organized Women Workers?" X.
--Dolores Janiewski, "Seeking 'a New Day and a New Way'", X.
--Genora Johnson Oollinger, "Women and Labor Militancy," X.
--Barbara Baer and Glenna Matthews, "The Women of the Boycott," X.

Recommended:

--Jacqueline Hall, "Disorderly Women," X.
--Leslie Woodcock Tentler, chapter III of Wage-earning Women, X.

Film sometime during this unit: Babies and Banners

March 7-14. Socialism and Progressivism

Read:

- Buhle, chapters 3-4, 8, more if possible.
- Freedman, "Separatism as Strategy", X.
- Paula Giddings, chapters 1 and 5, on reserve.
- Bettina Aptheker, "Woman Suffrage and the Crusade Against Lynching," X.

Recommended:

- Terborg-Penn, "Discontented Black Feminists", X.

March 16: Mid-term exam.

March 21-23. Vacation.

March 28-30. Communism

Read:

- Lynd, Rank & File, stories of Christine Ellis and Sylvia Woods, X.
- Robert Shaffer, "Women and the Communist Party USA, 1930-1940", X.
- selections by Ramona Lowe, Elizabeth Thomas, Aunt Molly Jackson, Florence Reece, Tess Slesinger from Writing Red, on reserve.

Recommended:

- more from Writing Red.
- Amy Swerdlow, "Ladies' Day at the Capitol: Women Strike for Peace versus HUAC," X.

8:30 PM, Tuesday, March 28, REQUIRED Film: Salt of the Earth, in Science 180.

April 4-6. Civil Rights

Read:

- Sara Evans, chaps. 1-4
- Jacqueline Jones, chap. 8, chap 7 recommended, X.
- Carl Brauer, "The 'Old Feminism' and the Civil Rights Act of 1964," X.
- "Civil Rights Activists Rosa Parks and Virginia Foster Durr," X.
- Anne Moody, "Coming of Age in Mississippi," X.
- Susan Mitchell, "A Personal Tribute to Ruby Doris Smith Robinson, X.

April 11: Paper #2 due.

April 11-13. New Left

Read: Sara Evans, chaps. 5-9.

April 18-20. Women's Liberation

Read:

--Linda Gordon and Ann Popkin, "Women's Liberation: Let Us Now Emulate Each Other," X.

--Kate Shanley, "Thoughts on Indian Feminism," X.

--Combahee River Collective, "Black Feminism," X.

--Michele Wallace, "A More Personal View of Black Feminism," X.

--Johnnie Tillmon, "Women on Welfare," X.

Read:

April 25-27. Gay Liberation

Read:

--Barry Adam, The Rise of a Gay and Lesbian Movement, chapters 4-5, more if possible.

--Karla Jay and Allen Young, eds., Out of the Closets, pp. 31-37, 122-147, 172-181, 252-262, 346-352, 363-367, and as much else as you can manage. On reserve.

May 2-4. New Right

Read:

--Kristin Luker, chapter 7 from Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood, X.

--Rebecca Klatch, "Coalition and Conflict Among Women of the New Right," and "Portraits of Two Women," X.

--Ros Petchesky, "Fetal Images", X.

May 9-11. Conclusion.