

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
Department of History  
Fall 1988

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

Gerda Lerner  
5123 Humanities  
Office Hours:  
Wednesday 1:00-3:00  
or By Appointment

SYLLABUS

Explanation of Symbols:

X=Kinko's Copy Center packet      P=Suggested purchase      L=Lecture

Note: All required and suggested books and articles are on reserve at Helen C. White Library, or at the State Historical Society.

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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 Hagoood, 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 HQ1410F6 Eleanor Flexner, Century of Struggle, ch. 9, pp. 131-141.  
HQ1418S38 Anne Scott, Southern Lady, ch. 5, pp. 106-133.
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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).  
Hagoood, pp. 128-156.  
P HQ1426W663 Linda Kerber & Jane DeHart-Mathews, Women's America, pp. 254-266 (Zitkala-Sa, Antin, M.C. Thomas).
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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:

- Lerner, BWWA, pp. 435-458 (AAFIS Constitution, Ruffin, Washington, Williams, NACW club reports).  
HQ1426L47 Lerner, The Majority Finds Its Past, pp. 83-111.  
HQ1423E67 Barbara L. Epstein, The Politics of Domesticity, chs. 4-5, pp. 89-146.  
Anne Firor Scott, "The 'New Women' in the New South," in Anne Firor Scott, Making the Invisible Woman Visible, pp. 212-221 or in South Atlantic Quarterly Vol. 61 (Autumn 1962): 417-483.

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:

- HV91.C44 Scott, Southern Lady, ch. 6, pp. 134-163.  
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)
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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).  
Lerner, FE, pp. 108-138 ("Just a Housewife," M. C. Wright, Swisshelm, Cleo Dora, C. Beecher, L. M. Child, Farmer's wife, Snider, Wyman, Malkiel)  
Hagood, pp. 92-107.  
HQ1426G45 Charlotte P. Gilman, Women and Economics (reprint, 1965), chs. 11-12, pp. 225-269.

Suggested:

- Daniel Walkowitz, "Working Class Women in the Gilded Age: Factory, Community and Family Life Among Cohes, New York Cotton Workers," Journal of Social Issues, 1973.  
Virginia Yans-McLaughlin, "Patterns of Work and Family Organization: Buffalo's Italians," Journal of Inter-Disciplinary History Vol. 2, #2 (Autumn 1971): 299-314.
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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:

- Linda Gordon, "Birth Control and Social Revolution," in  
Cott/Pleck, pp. 445-470.  
HQ1488D44 Carl Degler, At Odds, chs. 9-10, pp. 210-248.  
Hagood, ch. 9, pp. 108-127.  
HQ1410W65 Lucie Hirata, "Chinese Immigrant Women," in Berkin/Norton,  
Women of America, pp. 223-244.  
Lerner, FE, pp. 98-103; 423-432 (Sadie Sachs, Sanger; "Unwed  
Mother").  
C. Smith-Rosenberg, "The Female World of Love and Ritual,"  
in Cott/Pleck, pp. 311-342.

Suggested:

- HQ76453A3 Margaret Sanger, Margaret Sanger: An Autobiography (1938) or  
Margaret Sanger, My Fight for Birthcontrol (1931).
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10/25 MID-TERM EXAM

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VIII. IN SEARCH OF THE NEW WOMAN

- 10/27 L1: New Types of Women

REQUIRED READING:

- Lerner, FE, pp. 361-378; 419-423 (Stevens, Lewis; Flynn).  
Lerner, BWWA, 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.  
X Emma Goldman, "The Traffic in Women" and "Marriage and  
Love"

Suggested:

- PS1744G57 Charlotte P. Gilman, The Living of Charlotte Perkins Gilman  
(1936).  
Anna L. Strong, I Change Worlds: The Remaking of an American  
(Seal Press, 1979).
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IX. THE WINNING OF SUFFRAGE

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

REQUIRED READING:

- P HQ1426C45 Flexner, chs. 12, and 16, pp. 164-178; 216-225.  
William Chafe, The American Woman..., pp. 3-22.  
Kerber/Mathews, pp. 298-311 (Scott & Scott).

Suggested:

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

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

REQUIRED READING:

- Chafe, pp. 25-47, 112-132.  
 Jacquelyn Hall, "A Truly Subversive Affair: Women Against Lynching in the 20th Century South," in Berkin/Norton, pp. 361-388.  
 Kerber/Mathews, pp. 342-355 (J. Hall).  
 X Estelle Friedman, "The New Woman: Changing Views of Women in the 1920's," Journal of American History, Vol. 61, #2 (1974): 372-393.  
 X Anne F. Scott, "After Suffrage: Southern Women in the Twenties," Journal of Southern History, Vol. 30, #3 (1964): 298-318.
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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: Paddy Quick, "Rosie the Riveter: Myths and Realities," Radical America (July-Oct. 1975), pp. 115-131.
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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)  
 Sara Evans, "Tomorrow's Yesterday...", in Berkin/Norton, pp. 389-417.
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XIII. THE NEW FEMINISM -- VARIETIES

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

REQUIRED READING:

- Lerner, "Women's Rights and American Feminism," in Majority, pp. 48-62.  
 X Documents: NOW Bill of Rights; Millet, Manifesto; Redstockings Manifesto; N.Y. Radical Feminists.  
 Lerner, FE, pp. 378-387; 444-453 (ERA, Woman-Identified Woman).  
 PS3535- Adrienne Rich, "The Meaning of Our Love for Women...", in  
 1233 06 On Lies, Secrets and Silence, pp. 223-230.

XIV. THE NEW FEMINISM -- II

- 12/6 L1: Looking Anew at Old Issues: Sexual Violence, Reproductive  
Control, Equality of Opportunity and Autonomy  
12/8 L2: The Meaning and Significance of Women's Studies

REQUIRED READING:

- Lerner, "The Challenge of Women's History," in Majority,  
pp. 168-180.  
X Lerner, Creation of Patriarchy, pp. 3-14, 212-229  
(Intro, ch. 11).  
Adrienne Rich, "Claiming an Education" and "Taking Women  
Students Seriously," in Lies, pp. 231-245.  
HQ1154D12 Mary Daly, Beyond God the Father, pp. 1-43 (Intro, ch. 1).
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XV. REVIEW

- 12/13 Course Review  
12/15 Party
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- 12/17 Exam at 10:05 a.m.
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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
Department of History  
Semester I, 1988-89

WOMEN IN AMERICAN SOCIETY, 1870 TO THE PRESENT

Course 521  
T & TR: 9:30-10:45  
All assignments are due at  
the beginning of the week.

Gerda Lerner  
5123 Humanities  
Office Hours:  
Wed: 1-3 pm and  
by appointment

Course Description:

The course will offer an overview of the history of women in America. The emphasis will always be on seeing women as active agents in history and on studying them comparatively, in consideration of variables as to class, race, and ethnicity.

Students will work with primary and secondary sources and become familiar with different historiographic interpretations.

Lectures:

There will be class discussion as part of each lecture period. 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, and of course, the taking of tests.

Honor students and graduate students working for credit must do additional work based on some of the suggested readings. See instructor for individual assignments.

Absences:

Unexcused absences from sections will be reflected in the grade. Students having problems about attendance at lectures and sections are urged to see the instructor after class or during office hours.

Restrictions:

Juniors and seniors. Sophomores only with the instructor's permission. Graduate students may audit or take course for credit, except for American History graduate students, who may audit only. Auditors must do all class reading assignments.

Exams:

In-class Midterm. In-class final. Additional credit may be earned by submitting one or more book report(s) based on suggested readings.

Grading System:

Fulfillment of requirements . . . . .	10% of grade.
Section attendance and participation. . . . .	25% of grade.
Midterm . . . . .	30% of grade.
Final . . . . .	35% of grade.

This is a poem for a woman doing dishes.  
This is a poem for a woman doing dishes.  
It must be repeated.  
It must be repeated.  
again and again,  
again and again,  
because the woman doing dishes  
because the woman doing dishes  
has trouble hearing.  
has trouble hearing.

And this is another poem for a woman  
cleaning the floor  
who cannot hear at all.  
Let us have a moment of silence  
for the woman who cleans the floor.

And here is one more poem  
for the woman at home  
with children.  
You never see her at night.  
Stare at an empty space and imagine her there,  
the woman with children  
because she cannot be here to speak  
for herself,  
and listen  
to what you think  
she might say.

If women's lives were fables  
and kitchen feats adventures,  
this bowl would be a talisman,  
tell tales  
and even fly.

But now it is an ordinary bowl.

The place those first women in my world  
taught me to shape more  
than necessary bread  
my life.

--Susan Griffin, "Three Poems for Women," 1970s