

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester I, 1987-88

History 520
9:30 - 10:45
Tuesday, Thursday
All assignments are due at
the beginning of the week.

**Women in American Society
to 1870**

Gerda Lerner
5123 Humanities
Office Hours:
Wed: 10-12 a.m. &
by appointment

Course Description:

The course will offer an overview of the history of women in America, treating the subject as a separate field and as an integral aspect of general history. The emphasis will always be on seeing women as active agents in history and on studying them 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.

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 participating in class discussion following the lectures; reading preparation in advance of each unit; participation in weekly section discussion and, of course, the taking of tests.

Absences:

Unexcused absences from sections or classes will be reflected in the grade. In case of illness students should see or phone the instructor or the Teaching Assistant. In case of emergency, phone.

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.

History 520 - Semester 1, 1987-88
Gerda Lerner

Grading System:

Fulfillment of requirements, including section attendance and participation	15% of grade
Exam 1	20% of grade
Exam 2	30% of grade
Final	35% of grade
	<hr/>
	100%

Books for purchase are available at University Bookstore; Brown's Book Store and A Room of One's Own. The Xerox Reader can be purchased at Kinko's, 620 University Avenue.

All required and suggested books are on reserve at Helen C. White Library. Notable American Women is in the Reference Room. An additional set of Notable American Women will be kept in the History Library where students can read it.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester I, 1987-88

History 520
9:30 - 10:45

Tuesday, Thursday

All assignments are due at
the beginning of the week.

**Women in American Society
to 1870**

Gerda Lerner
5123 Humanities
Office Hours:
Wed: 10-12 a.m. &
by appointment

REQUIRED READING ASSIGNMENTS are due at the beginning of the week.

Th. 9/3 I. Introduction

Lecture: How to think of women in history

Required Reading:

Kerber/Mathews, pp 3-23

Gerda Lerner, "Placing Women in History: Definitions and Challenges" and "Women's Rights and American Feminism" - Xerox Reader. Also in Gerda Lerner, The Majority Finds Its Past, (1979), 145-159; 48-62.

II. Women in Seventeenth Century Europe

9/8 Lecture 1: The Creation of Patriarchy

9/10 Lecture 2: Status of Women, - legal, political, social, economic

Required Reading:

Xeroxed documents in Reader

Joan Kelly, "Early Feminist Theory and the Querelle des Femmes" in Xerox Reader

Richard T. Vann "Toward a New Lifestyle: Women in Pre-Industrial Capitalism" in Renate Bridenthal and Claudia Koonz (eds.) Becoming Visible: Women in European History (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1977) pp 192-216

III. Women in the American Colonies

9/15 Lecture 1: Women in the family

9/17 Lecture 2: Women's role in the economy

Kerber/Mathews, pp 28-51, 97; 100-114 (Ulrich, Salmon, Perkins, White)

Ibid. pp. 468-470 (Divorce, Dower)

Robert V. Wells, "Women's Lives Transformed: Demographic and Family Patterns in America, 1600-1970" in Carol Berkin and Mary Beth Norton (eds.) Women of America: A History (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1979) pp 16-33.

Lerner, Female Experience, pp 6-10, 21-25.

Adams Correspondence in Xerox reader

IV. Race, Class and Sex

- 9/22 Lecture 1: Native American women
 9/24 Lecture 2 Bondswomen and servants

Required:

Judith Brown "Iroquois Women" in Rayna Reiter (ed) Toward an Anthropology of Women, (1975), 235-251
 Selection from "Mountain Wolf Woman" - Xerox Reader
 Joan Jensen, "Native American Women and Agriculture: A Seneca Case Study" in Xerox Reader
 Lerner, Black Women in White America (hereafter BWWA), 1-53.
 Kerber/Mathews, 100-15 (D. White)

V. Female Deviance.

- 9/29 Lecture 1: Dissidents and Rebels
 10/1 Lecture 2: A Prevalence of Witches

Required:

Lerner, Female Experience, pp. 465-474 (Hutchinson; Dyer)
 John Demos "Underlying Themes in the Witchcraft of the 17th Century New England" in Xerox Reader
Notable American Women (NAW) essays on Margaret Brent, Anne Hutchinson, Mary Dyer, Ann Lee
 Kerber/Mathews. pp 52-54 (Koehler).

VI. Women and Religion.

- 10/6 Lecture 1: Religion as ideology and as liberating force
 10/8 TEST

Required:

Lerner, Female Experience, 162-170.
 Mary Dunn, "Saints and Sisters...", American Quarterly, XXX, #5 Winter 1978) 582-601. Also in Janet James (ed.) Women in American Religion (1980), 27-46.

VII. Did the American Revolution Make a Difference for Women?

- 10/13 Lecture 1: Law and Politics
 10/15 Lecture 2: Education and Social status

Required:

Kerber/Mathews, 80-90 (Documents; Kerber)
 Lerner, Female Experience, 209--215 (female Academy;
 Cott/Pleck, pp. 136-153 (Norton)
 Joan Wilson "The Illusion of Change: Women and the American Revolution" in Xerox Reader

VIII.The Right to Learn and the Right to Teach

- 10/20 Lecture 1: The struggle for educational equality
10/22 Lecture 2: Women's separate education

Required:

Lerner, Female Experience, Chap.5.

Lerner, BWWA, 83-94.

NAW, essays on Mary Lyon, Emma Willard, Catharine Beecher.

IX.The Impact of Industrialization on Women

- 10/27 Lecture 1: The lady and the mill girl
10/29 Lecture 2: Working for a living

Required:

Kerber.Mathews, 148-157 (Wertheimer)

Lerner. "The Lady and the Mill Girl - Xerox Reader

Barbara Welter, "The Cult of True Womanhood" - Xerox Reader

Lerner, Female Experience, 272-286

Suzanne Lebsack, The Free Women of Petersburg, chap.6.

X.Women Organize for Welfare.

- 11/3 Lecture 1: Women's activities in voluntary associations
11/5 Lecture 2: Women's antislavery activities

Required:

Lerner, Female experience, 191-199

Keith Melder, "Ladies Bountiful: Organized Women's Benevolence in Early 19th Century America," New York History (July 1967), 231-254

Lerner, "Antislavery Activities of American Women," in Xerox Reader. Also in Majority, pp.112-128

XI.Women and their bodies.

- 11/10 Lecture 1: Sexuality; health and health reform
11/12 TEST

Required:

Lerner, Female Experience, 77-97.

Kerber/Mathews, pp.190-199.

Carl Degler, At Odds: Women and the Family in America, 1776 to the Present, (1980) chaps.9 and 10.

XII.Women in their own right.

- 11/17 Lecture 1: Women work for their own emancipation
 11/19 Lecture 2: The emergence of feminist consciousness

Required:

Lerner, Female Experience, 338-347; 317-322.
 Kerber/Mathews, 201-216; 471-475
 Anne and Andrew Scott, One Half the People: The Fight for
 Woman Suffrage (1975), 3-12; 56-59
 Sarah Grimke, excerpts from Letters on the Equality of the
 Sexes, in Xerox Reader
 Ellen DuBois, Feminism and Suffrage: The Emergence of an
 Independent Women's Suffrage Movement in America: 1848-1869,
 21-52.

XIII. Defining Womanhood.

- 11/24 Lecture 1: The housewife; the spinster
 11/26 THANKSGIVING VACATION

Required:

Lerner, Female Experience, 104-147.
 Lerner, BWWA, 150-159; 165-172.

XIV. Defining Womanhood 2

- 12/1 The prostitute and the uses of deviance
 12/3 SLIDE SHOW -PREHISTORIC GODDESSES

Required:

Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, "The Female World of
 Love and Ritual" in Kerber/Mathews, 167-189. Also
 in Cott/Pleck, 311-342.
 Lucie Chang Hirata, "Chinese Immigrant Women in
 19th Century California," in Berkin/Norton, Women
 of America, 223-244.

XV. Women in Civil War and Reconstruction

- 12/8 Lecture 1: Civil War
 12/10 Lecture 2: Reconstruction

Required:

Lerner, Female Experience, 180-190; 487-490.
 Lerner, BWWA, 94-114; 243-252; 173-187.
 Anne Firor Scott, The Southern Lady, (1970), chaps. 4 and 5.

12/15 XVI. Review and last day of class party
XVII. FINAL

BOOKS

Purchase Required:

Linda K. Kerber & Jane De Hart-Mathews, Women's America: Refocusing the Past, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1987)

Gerda Lerner, The Female Experience: An American Documentary (New York, MacMillan, 1977)

Gerda Lerner, (ed.) Black Women in White America: A Documentary History, (New York: Vintage, 1973)

Xerox Reader, available at KINKO, Johnson St.

Purchase Optional:

Gerda Lerner The Majority Finds Its Past: Placing Women in History, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1981)

Nancy F. Cott and Elizabeth Pleck A Heritage of Her Own (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1979)

Anne and Andrew Scott, One Half the People: The Fight for Woman Suffrage (1975).

ADDITIONAL READING - NOT REQUIRED

Linda Kerber Women of the Republic Intellect and Ideology in Revolutionary America, (1980)

John Demos, Little Commonwealth (1970)

Paul Boyer and Stephen Nissenbaum, Salem Village Witchcraft: A Documentary Record of Local Conflict in Colonial New England (1972)

Suzanne Lebosck, The Free Women of Petersburg: Status and Culture in a Southern Town, 1784-1860. (1984)

Nancy Cott, The Bonds of Womanhood, (1977)

Gerda Lerner, The Grimke Sisters from South Carolina: Rebels Against Slavery, (PB 1971)

--- The Creation of Patriarchy, (1986)

Kathryn Sklar, Catharine Beecher: A Study in American Domesticity (1973)

Thomas Dublin, Women at Work: The Transformation of Work and Community in Lowell, Massachusetts, 1826-1860. (1979)

Mary Ryan, Cradle of the Middle Class: The Family in Oneida County, New York, 1790-1865 (1981)

Students wishing to do additional readings are encouraged to read the books listed in the required reading section in their entirety.