AMH 3561
American Women in the 19th Century
Matt Gallman
Department of History
Fall 2017

gallmanm@ufl.edu
Keene-Flint 203
MWF 10:40-11:30       KF 0119
Office Hours MW 2:00-4:00
352-227-3368
Course Summary

The nineteenth century was a fascinating time of flux for many American women. Despite commonly acknowledged cultural
rules limiting the public behavior of women, various individuals and groups challenged these dominant gender norms in all sorts of arenas. During this semester we will explore a variety of ways in which women entered the public arena during this period. Lectures and discussion topics will range from activists and reformers, to novelists and orators, to slave owners and the enslaved, to seamstresses.

In addition to text and documents from the main textbook *(Through Women’s Eyes)*, we will be reading and discussing three novels written by 19th Century women.

**Class Meetings and Preparation**

This course will combine occasional traditional lectures with the intensive discussion of books, articles, and a range of primary sources. Students will also have the opportunity to present the products of modest primary research. Attendance is mandatory. More than two absences will result in automatic deductions from your final average. You are expected to attend all classes with notes on the assigned readings. You will have periodic open note quizzes on the assigned readings.

My goal is to create a lively, civil, class community, where students are engaging with each other as much as they are talking to me. Because of these core goals, no computers or other electronic devices are allowed in class.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx.

**Canvas Web Site**

This class will make limited use of the class web site on Canvas. I will link this syllabus and the three paper/presentation
assignments on Canvas.
I will also create links to additional assigned readings.
And, finally, there will be a page with links to useful primary sources.
We will not use Canvas for class discussions or grades.

Readings for Purchase
The following books should be available in the bookstore and also online. You should bring the assigned books to class whenever there is an assignment from the book.
• Dubois and Dumenil, Through Women’s Eyes, 2nd edition (2009), volume 1.
This is an excellent textbook in American women’s history, which combines a concise narrative with excellent documents and images. For many weeks you will be asked to read one or more chapters as background for class discussions. I will also ask you to prepare specific documents for discussion for many days.
Note that Through Women’s Eyes (TWE) has gone through several editions. Some are only available in a large edition that spans all of U.S. History. The 2nd edition, which I have assigned, has a “volume 1” that covers the first half of the entire history. Since this course pretty much begins in 1790, we will be skipping the first few chapters of volume 1. Note that there is also a 3rd and 4th edition of this book and it is also possible to buy the entire 2nd edition as one volume (and it is really inexpensive). If you find yourself with the 3rd or 4th edition you will generally be okay, just check with a classmate about the pagination of assignments.
• Hannah Foster, The Coquette (Oxford UP, Davidson, editor).
This is a very popular novel published in 1797. You do not have to read Davidson’s Introduction, but I would like you read the version edited by Davidson (so that the page numbers are the same for everyone).
• Harriett Wilson, Our Nig (1859).
This autobiographical novel is generally understood to be the first
novel written by an African American. There are multiple printed versions available. (My own copy is the Vintage copy which is out of print, but is available cheap online.) But, if you prefer, the entire novel is available online at the University of Virginia website: http://utc.iath.virginia.edu/africam/ournighp.html

(Links to an external site.)

(If you read a digital version, please be sure to bring notes to class.)


This novel is Louisa May Alcott’s contemplation of working women in society (and various other topics). The book is also available in various online forms, but I would prefer that you get the inexpensive Penguin paperback to facilitate class discussions.

**Assignments**

You will write three short (3-5 pp.) essays this semester. The first two will involve connecting a very small piece of research with the larger themes discussed in class. The third will be your response to the three novels. Each assignment will be discussed as the due date approaches.

In writing papers, be certain to give proper credit whenever you use words, phrases, ideas, arguments, and conclusions drawn from someone else's work. Failure to give credit by quoting and/or footnoting is PLAGIARISM and is unacceptable. Please review the University's honesty policy at http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.htm

(Links to an external site.)

(Links to an external site.)

In addition to these regulations on plagiarism, please understand that I will take *any* instance of cheating or intentional dishonesty very seriously. This would include any form of dishonesty on the
most minor quiz or offering an untrue excuse for a missed class or late assignment.

_Accommodations_

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**Grading**

Class Participation, Presentations and Preparation 20%

(This grade will include periodic quizzes)

Short Essays (20%, 20%, 20%) 60%

Final Examination (take home) 20%

Missed classes or persistent lateness will result in substantial grade reductions. For more information on the grading policy see: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx.

_Participation Grades will Reflect_

• Coming to class prepared to discuss readings.
• Active engagement in discussions (and when your classmates are presenting).
• Success on very simple 10 point (unannounced) reading quizzes, which measure preparation.
• Presentations in class.

_Attendance and other Deductions_

• After two absences, the final grade number will be for each additional unexcused absence.
• If a student is habitually late, this will result in a reduction off the
final grade.
• Please do not text or use electronic devices during class! This will result in grade reductions.

Course Evaluation
Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/
(Links to an external site.)

CLASS MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

PRESCRIPTIONS FOR WOMEN
1 M August 21  Introductions
2 W August 23  Rules and Prescriptions
3 F August 25  DISCUSS: Barbara Welter
4 M August 28  Fiction and Prescription
5 W August 30  Discuss: The Coquette
Read: Hannah Foster, The Coquette. You do not have to read Davidson’s Introduction, but I would like you read the version edited by Davidson (so that the page numbers are the same for everyone).
6 F September 1  Discuss: The Coquette, continued
WHAT IS A REPUBLICAN MOTHER?
M  September 4        Holiday
7  W  September 6     Politics and Gender
8  F  September 8     Remember the Ladies?
Read: Letters from Abigail and John Adams  Linked to Canvas.

THE NEW NATION
9  M  September 11    Race and the War’s Legacies
Read: TWE, 137-143, 169-173.
10 W  September 13    Domesticity
Read: TWE, 186-195.
11 F  September 15    Lowell Girls
Read: TWE, 195-203.

DECODING PRESCRIPTION
12 M  September 18    Presentations
13 W  September 20    Presentations
14 F  September 22    Presentations
Essay #1 Due in Class

BATTLES OVER SLAVERY
15 M  September 25    The Institution of Slavery
Read: TWE, 204-219.
16 W  September 27    Resisting Slavery: Two Accounts
Read: TWE, 225-231
17 F  September 29    Abolitionism and Gender
Read: TWE, 266-274.

REFORMING WOMEN
18 M  October 2       Varieties of Reform
Read: TWE, 262-279 (note that this includes the section on abolitionism again).
19 W  October 4      Seneca Falls
Read: TWE, Appendix A-18.
F  October 6                    Homecoming

HARRIET WILSON, NOVELIST
20  M October 9            An African American Novel
21  W October 11         Discuss: Our Nig - I
Read: Wilson, Our Nig
   (Links to an external site.)
   Links to an external site.
22  F October 13         Discuss: Our Nig - II

WOMEN IN PUBLIC
23  M October 16         Women in the street
24  W October 18 Women and Wartime - I
Read: Read: TWE, 279-286.
25  F October 29       Women and Wartime - II
TBA

PRESENTATIONS: IN SEARCH OF WOMEN IN PUBLIC
26  M October 23        Presentations
27  W October 25        Presentations
28  F October 27        Presentations

Essay #2 Due in Class

IN SEARCH OF WOMEN’S RIGHTS
29  M October 30        Suffrage and Reform
Read: TWE, 324-330; 353-357; A14, A24-26.
30  W November 1 Race and Reconstruction
Read: TWE, 330-337.
31  F November 3       Ida B. Wells
Read: TWE, 358-362
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<td><strong>LOUISA MAY ALCOTT</strong></td>
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<td>Louisa May Alcott’s Work</td>
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<td>36 November 17</td>
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<td>Louisa May Alcott’s Work</td>
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<td>37 November 20</td>
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<td>Discussion: Novelists and Gender History</td>
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<td>38 November 27</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Immigration, Displacement and Cultural Difference</td>
<td>TWE, 388-413, 421-424.</td>
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<td>39 November 29</td>
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<td>Jane Addams and the Settlement House Movement</td>
<td>TWE, 413-416, 426-433.</td>
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<td>41 December 4</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Conclusions</td>
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<td>42 December 6</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Prepare for Takehome</td>
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<td>December 14</td>
<td>Take Home due at 12:30 (exam period)</td>
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