AMH 3931

American Women in the 19th Century

J. Matthew Gallman
Department of History

gallmanm@ufl.edu
Keene-Flint 203
MWF 11:45-12:35; Pugh 120
Office Hours MW 10:30-11:30 and by appointment
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 and prostitutes.

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.

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 on line. You should bring the assigned books to class whenever there is an assignment from the book.

  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 3rd 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 4th edition, but it does not have separate volumes, so I have elected to go with the 3rd edition, volume 1 (because that should be the least expensive volume).

- 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).


**Assignments**

You will write three short (3-5 pp) essays this semester. Each will involve connecting a very small piece of research with the larger themes discussed in class. 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](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.htm).

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**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation, Presentations and Preparation (This grade will include periodic quizzes)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Essays (10%, 15%, 15%)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination (take home)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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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](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.
- Success on very simple 10 point (unannounced) reading quizzes, which measure preparation.
- Presentations in class.

ATTENDANCE 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.

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/.
CLASS MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

1. W Jan 6  
   **Introduction**
2. F Jan 8  
   NO CLASS – GALLMAN AT A CONFERENCE

PREScriptions FOR women

3. M Jan 11  
   **Rules and Prescriptions**
4. W Jan 13  
   **DISCUSS: Barbara Welter**
   See link on Canvas

4. F Jan 15  
   **Novels and Prescription**

THE COQUETTE

5. M Jan 18  
   **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 Jan 22  
   *The Coquette* continued.

WHAT IS A REPUBLICAN MOTHER?

7. M Jan 25  
   **Republican Motherhood**
   Read: TWE, 122-138; 162-167, 174-175.
8. W Jan 27  
   **Remember the Ladies**
9. F Jan 29  
   **Race and Legacies**
   Read: TWE, 138-143, 168-172.

TRUE WOMANHOOD?

10. M Feb 1  
    **Domesticity**
    Read: TWE, 186-195.
    Linked on Canvas.
11. W Feb 3  
    **Lowell Girls**
    Read: TWE, 195-203.
12. F Feb 5  
    **Prostitution**
    Read: TWE, 220-224.

PRESCRIPTION DECODED

13. M Feb 8  
    **Presentation #1**
14. W Feb 10  
    **Presentation #1**
15. F Feb 12  
    **Presentation #1**
    **Paper #1 Due in Class**

BATTLES OVER SLAVERY

16. M Feb 15  
    **The Institution of Slavery**
    Read: TWE, 204-219.
17. W Feb 17  
    **Resisting Slavery**
    Read: TWE, 225-232.
18. F Feb 19  
    NO CLASS MEETING. GARY GALLAGHER LECTURE AT 4:00.
WOMAN’S RIGHTS AND REFORM
18. M Feb 22  Varieties of Reform  
   Read: TWE, 263-277.

19. W Feb 24  Seneca Falls  
   Read: Appendix A-1.  
   [You might wish to read Celia, A Slave for the week after spring break.]

20. F Feb 26  Anna Dickinson: Transgressing Reformer

M Feb 29  SPRING BREAK

A SLAVE WOMAN IN COURT
21. M Mar 7  Read: Celia, A Slave

22. W Mar 9  “

23. F Mar 11  “

WOMEN IN PUBLIC
24. M Mar 14  Women in the street  
   Read: Christine Stansell, “Women, Children, and the Uses of the Streets: Class 
   and Gender Conflict in New York City, 1850-1860,” Feminist Studies Vol. 8, 
   No. 2 (Summer, 1982), pp. 309-335.  
   Linked to Canvas

25. W Mar 16  Women and Wartime 
   Read: TWE, 278-286.

26. F Mar 18  Citizenship?  
   Read: Gail Hamilton, “A Call to my Country-Women,” Atlantic Monthly (March, 
   [Caroline Kirkland], “A Few Words on Behalf of the Loyal Women of the United 
   States” 
   Both linked to Canvas

PRESENTATIONS: IN SEARCH OF WOMEN IN PUBLIC
27. M Mar 21  PRESENTATIONS

28. W Mar 23  “

29. F Mar 25  “

   Paper #2 Due

IN SEARCH OF WOMEN’S RIGHTS
30. M Mar 28  Suffrage and Reform  

31. W Mar 30  Racial Justice  

32. F Apr 1   Working Women  
   Read: TWE, 333-352, 358-363.

33. M Apr 4   Immigration, Displacement and Cultural Difference  
   Read: TWE, 388-413, 421-424

34. W Apr 6   Jane Addams and the Settlement House Movement  
   Read: TWE, 413-416, 426-433.

F Apr 8   NO CLASS MEETING
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>M Apr 11</td>
<td>NO CLASS MEETING: MEET IN GROUPS</td>
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<tr>
<td>W Apr 13</td>
<td>GROUP PRESENTATIONS</td>
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<td>F Apr 15</td>
<td>GROUP PRESENTATIONS</td>
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<td>Paper #3 Due</td>
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<td>M Apr 18</td>
<td>To be announced.</td>
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<td>W Apr 20</td>
<td>Conclusions</td>
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<td>Friday Apr 39</td>
<td>Take Home Final due in my office at 10:00 am.</td>
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