

**AMH 3562/2B32**  
**Women in Modern U.S. History**  
**Fall 2018**

Instructor: Dr. Louise Newman, Associate Professor  
Course meets MWF, period 5 (11:45-12:35) in Flint 105  
Office: Keene Flint 212, Office Hours are Mon and Wed, 1-1:30, and Mon, Wed, 3:00-3:30 and by appointment on Fridays  
Email is the best way to reach me: [lnewman@ufl.edu](mailto:lnewman@ufl.edu)  
Course Website (e-learning/Canvas): <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>  
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**Course Description**

This course traces the history of women in the United States from the mid-nineteenth century to the present, paying close attention to how gender, race, class and sexuality figure into individual women's experiences. We rely on a textbook, Ellen Dubois and Lynn Dumenil's *Through Women's Eyes*, to provide information about national events (Civil War, Reconstruction, Depression, World War I and II, etc.) that have informed women's lives. However, we also analyze primary sources (memoirs, song lyrics, cartoons) and read academic monographs (books and articles) to gain an understanding of how individual women experienced their lives and to explore how women become active in political movements to bring about social change. **This course requires a significant amount of reading.** To do well in the course, students must have enough self-discipline to work steadily over the entire semester in order to prepare the various assignments that come due on a regular basis.

**Course Objectives**

- to introduce students to the main narratives in U.S. women's history so that they are able to understand how different groups of women experienced the big events of our nation's history
- to increase students' appreciation for history as an ongoing process of investigation and interpretation, rather than as a set body of facts.
- to encourage students to ponder the big questions that engage professional historians: why is this person or event of historical significance? Whose perspectives are represented in this history and whose perspectives are left out? What larger purpose does this historical knowledge serve?

**Books to purchase (in the order in which they are assigned)**

- **Hodes, Martha.** *The Sea Captain's Wife: A True Story of Love, Race, and War in the Nineteenth Century.* New York: W.W. Norton, 2006. Make sure that it's the monograph by **Hodes**, not the novel by Powning.
- **DuBois, Ellen and Dumenil, Lynn.** *Through Women's Eyes: An American History with Documents.* Vol. 2. New York: Bedford/St. Martins, any publication date is fine. I recommend the second or third editions (2008, 2012), since used copies of these editions are available at a steep discount. You do not have to spend the outrageous amount of \$80-2,000+ for the more recent editions (2016, 2018). Just

make sure that you are purchasing volume 2, which covers the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, chapters 6-12 (not vol. 1, which ends at the Civil War).

- **Moody, Anne.** *Coming of Age in Mississippi.* New York: Dell, 1968. (Any edition)
- **Clinton, Hillary Rodham.** *What Happened.* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2017).

### Articles

(Listed in alphabetical order by author's last name. PDFs of these electronic copies must be downloaded from Course Reserves on E-learning/Canvas and printed out so that hard copies can be brought to class.)

- **Bederman, Gail.** "'Civilization', the Decline of Middle-class Manliness, and Ida B. Well's Anti-Lynching Campaign (1892-94)," *Radical History Review* 52 (1992): 5-30.
- **Carby, Hazel V.** "'It Jus Be's Dat Way Sometime': The Sexual Politics of Women's Blues," *Radical America* 20.1 (1986): 9-22; reprinted in *Unequal Sisters: A Multicultural Reader in U.S. Women's History*, eds. Vick L. Ruiz and Ellen Carol DuBois, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., New York: Routledge, 1994, pp. 330-342.
- **Crenshaw, Kimberle.** "Race, Gender and Sexual Harassment." *Southern California Law Review* (1992) 65 :1459-1476.
- **Douglas, Susan J.** "Genies and Witches," in *Where the Girls Are: Growing Up Female with the Mass Media.* New York: Three Rivers Press, 1994, 1995, 123-138.
- **DuBois, Ellen and Dumenil, Lynn,** "Pedestal, Loom and Auction Block 1800-1860," in *Through Women's Eyes*, 1<sup>st</sup> ed., Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2005, 136-200. This chapter is from volume 1 and will probably not be in your edition of the textbook. You must download and print out this PDF from Course Reserves.
- **Hill, Anita.** *Speaking Truth to Power.* Anchor, 1997. Introduction and ch. 9.
- **Pascoe, Peggy.** "Gender Systems in Conflict: The Marriages of Mission Educated Chinese American Women, 1874-1939." *Journal of Social History* 22.4 (Summer 1989): 631-652.
- **Royster, Jacqueline Jones.** "Introduction: Equity and Justice for All" to *Southern Horrors.* New York: Bedford/St. Martins, 1-41, 209-213.
- **Smith-Rosenberg, Carroll.** "Female World of Love & Ritual." *Signs*, rpt. in *Disorderly Conduct.* New York: Oxford, 1985, pp. 11-52.
- **Others to be added as needed.**

### Documentaries to be screened in class and/or at home

- *Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice* (William Greaves, 1989, PBS, American Experience) <http://newsreel.org/video/ida-b-wells>
- *The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter* (Connie Field, 1980)
- *Color Adjustment* (Marlon Riggs, 1991) Streamed on CR
- *Anita: Speaking Truth to Power* (Freida Mock, 2014). Streamed on CR
- *RBG* (2018).

### Assignments and Grading Percentages

- Attendance 100 pts (10% of course grade)
- Quizzes (deducted from course grade)
- 3 short assignments 400 pts (40% of course grade)
- Midterm 200 pts (20% of course grade)
- Final assignment 300 pts (30% of course grade)

### Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Total Points	GPA Equivalent
A	950-1000	4.0
A-	900-949	3.67
B+	875-899	3.33
B	850-874	3.0
B-	800-849	2.67
C+	775-799	2.33
C	750-774	2.0
C-	700-749	1.67
D+	675-699	1.33
D	650-674	1.0
D-	600-649	0.67
E	<600	0

### Policies and expectations

- **Attendance and Student Participation:** Because so much of the course depends on in-class exercises and discussions, students' attendance at every scheduled class session is critical. 100 points are allocated to attendance. If you have one absence, you will receive 90 of these 100 points, 2 absences 80 points, 3 absences 70 points. If you are absent more than three times, then you will receive 0 points out of the 100 allocated for attendance. Students who are absent more than five times will be asked to withdraw from the course or risk a failing grade.
- **General Courtesy:** Please remember to turn off cell phones during class. Please do not come late to class. If there are special circumstances that prevent you from being on time, please let the instructor know.
- **Late work** will not be accepted unless circumstances are severe and beyond the student's control. Please let instructor know of any adverse circumstances that may affect your ability to complete assignments on time.
- **Special Accommodations:** Any student requesting special accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc>) **during the first week of the semester** and have that office communicate with the instructor.
- **Plagiarism** is a serious violation of the Student Honor Code and is not tolerated at the University of Florida. For a full description of the University's policy regarding plagiarism, see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php>

## Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Week 1. **Introduction-- no readings**

(--, Aug 22, 24)

**Asst 1 due Monday, Aug 27. Historical Autobiography (of yourself) with recent photo. This assignment, while not assigned a grade, is a prerequisite for continuing in the course. Instructions given out in class.**

Week 2. **Ideologies of Womanhood in the Nineteenth Century**

(Aug 27, 29, --)

Pascoe (CR)

Smith-Rosenberg (CR)

DuBois &amp; Dumenil, "Pedestal, Loom &amp; Auction Block" (CR)

**Quiz 1 on readings at the start of class on Wed Aug 29.****Fri, Aug 31 Labor Day weekend-- No Class****Mon, Sept 3 Labor Day-- No Class**Week 3. **Work and Family Life in the Nineteenth Century**

(--, Sept 5, 7)

For Wed:

Hodes, *Sea Captain's Wife* (Read the entire book, 297 pp)**Asst 2 Hodes Chart., due at start of class, Wed Sept 5 (100 pts)****Instructions given out in class.****Mon, Sept 10 Rosh Hashanah-- No Class**Week 4. **Race and Civilization in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

(--, Sept 12, 14)

For Wed:

DuBois & Dumenil, "Reconstructing Women's Lives, North and South, 1865-1900" (**chapter 6**, pp. 324-356 in 2<sup>nd</sup>DuBois & Dumenil, "Women in an Expanding Nation" (**chapter 7**, pp. 391-421 in 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 344-371 in 4<sup>th</sup> edition).ed., 282-313 in 4<sup>th</sup> edition). **Quiz 2 on readings in class on Wed, Sept 12**

For Fri:

Bederman, "The White Man's Civilization on Trial: Ida B. Wells" (CR)

Royster, "Introduction: Equity & Justice for All" to *Southern Horrors and Other Writings* (CR)DuBois & Dumenil, "Ida B. Wells, Race Woman," (pp. 358-62 in 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 314-18 in 4<sup>th</sup> ed.)*Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice* (documentary) will be screened in classWeek 5. **Women's Political Movements, 1890-1920**

(Sept 17, --, 21)

Mon: Continue discussion of Wells; quiz in class

**Wed, Sept 19 Yom Kippur-- No Class**

For Fri:

DuBois & Dumenil, "Power and Politics: Women in the Progressive Era" (**chapter 8**, 454-489 in 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 406-441 in 4<sup>th</sup> edition).

**Week 6. Sexuality & the Blues (inter-war period, 1920-1940)**

(Sept 24, 26, --)

Carby, "Jus Be Dat Ways Sometime" (CR)

DuBois & Dumenil, "Change and Continuity: Women in Prosperity, Depression, War (**chapter 9**, 520-544 in 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, 470-504 in 4<sup>th</sup> ed.**Asst 3 on Blues Lyrics due at start of class, Mon, Sept 24 (100 pts)****Week 7. Impact of WW2 on Women's Lives (1941-45)**

(Oct 1, 3, 5)

DuBois & Dumenil, Review last ten pages of **chapter 9**, 545-555 in 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 493-503 in 4<sup>th</sup> edition  
*Rosie the Riveter* screened in class Oct 1, 3.**Asst 4 Midterm/Rosie the Riveter, due at start of class, Fri Oct 5 (200 pts)***Color Adjustment*, begin screening in Friday's class**Week 8. Suburban women, television & the Feminine Mystique, 1946-1950s)**

(Oct 8, 10, 12)

DuBois & Dumenil, "Beyond the Feminine Mystique" (**chapter 10**, 588-627 in 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 534-568 in 4<sup>th</sup> edition

Douglas, "Genies and Witches" (CR)

Finish screening of *Color Adjustment* at home.**Week 9. Woman's Liberation/ /Second Wave Feminism, 1965-1975**

(Oct 15, 17, --)

DuBois & Dumenil, "Modern Feminism and American Society" (**chapter 11**, 654-700 in 2<sup>nd</sup> ed; 606-641 in 4<sup>th</sup> edition).**Week 10. Civil Rights Movements, 1960s**

(Oct 22, 24, 26)

**Moody**, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Part 1 and 2 (233 pp)**Week 11. Civil Rights Movements, cont.**

(Oct 29, 31, --)

Finish reading **Moody**, Part 3, 4 (200pp)**Asst 5 on Moody due at start of class Wed Oct 31 (200 pts)****Fri, Nov 2 Homecoming-- No Class****Week 12. Using law to address sexual harassment and sexual inequality**

(Nov, 5, 7, 9)

Crenshaw, "Race, Gender and Sexual Harassment" (CR)

MacKinnon (CR), *Sexual Harassment*Hill, "Introduction and chapter 9, *Speaking Truth to Power* (CR)Screen documentary, *Anita: Speaking Truth to Power* at home (CR)*RBG* (2018) screened in class Nov 5-9**Week 13. Almost Hillary: Election of 2016**

(--, Nov 14, 16)

Clinton, *What Happened* (2017)**Week 14. Thanksgiving Break—No classes Nov 19-23****Week 15. Conclusion**

(Nov 26, 28, 30)

**Week 16. Final assignment (300 pts)**