

AMH 3562
Women in Modern U.S. History
Spring 2022

Instructor: Dr. Louise Newman, Associate Professor
Course meets MWF, period 7 (1:55-2:45)
Office hours MWF, 2:45-3:30
Email is the best way to reach me: lnewman@ufl.edu
Course Website (e-learning/Canvas): <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>

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.

IMPORTANT: 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.
- **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. Just make sure that you are purchasing volume 2, or a complete edition, covering the late 19th and 20th 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)

Articles

PDFs of these electronic copies may be accessed from Course Reserves on E-learning/Canvas and printed out so that you can work from hard copies during class.

IMPORTANT: You must use Firefox as your browser (not Chrome) to access Course Reserve materials and sometimes you must first activate the UF VPN client before you will be allowed to view course reserve materials. For information on installing and using the UF VPN Client, visit <https://it.ufl.edu/ict/documentation/network-infrastructure/vpn/>. If you need technical assistance with the UF VPN Client, please call the UF Computing Help Desk, at 352-392-4357.

- **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, 2nd 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," chapter 3 in *Through Women's Eyes*, 1st 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.
- **Smith-Rosenberg, Carroll.** "Female World of Love & Ritual." *Signs*, rpt. in *Disorderly Conduct*. New York: Oxford, 1985, pp. 11-52.

Due Dates and Points for Assignments (1000)

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|---------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| • Chart on Hodes' <i>Sea Captain's Wife</i> | (200 pts) | Jan (Sat) by 10pm |
| • Analysis of a Blues Song/Artist | (100 pts) | Feb (Mon) by 10pm |
| • Midterm (Take-home Essays) | (200 pts) | Feb 26 (Sat) by 10pm |
| • Chart on Moody & Clinton | (200 pts) | Mar (Sat) by 10pm |
| • Final (Take-home Essays) | (300 pts) | April 20 (Wed) by 10pm |

Weekly Schedule is posted online on the course website (Canvas/e-learning)

Grading Scale

Letter grades for the course will be assigned according to the following point scale:

Please note that in this course, to receive a full A, you must earn at least **950 out of 1000 points**.

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 regarding participation and assignments

- Students are expected to have completed all reading and writing assignments by the beginning of class on the date specified on the syllabus. Whenever possible, students should have hard copies of the readings (books, articles, photographs, book reviews, etc.) in front of them.
- In general, no late work will be accepted unless accompanied by documentation from the Dean of Students or Health Services of a serious illness. However, in the case of exceptional or unforeseen circumstances, students needing an extension of a deadline may request one from the instructor, in advance of the deadline.

General course policies

- Students requesting accommodation must register with the Dean of Students Office (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/>) and obtain proper documentation to be submitted to the instructor. **Instructors are not obligated to grant accommodations after the first week of the semester.**
- All students must adhere to the University of Florida's standards of academic honesty. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code." A copy of the student code of conduct/honor code may be found at <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>. The student code of conduct forbids plagiarism, which includes the following:
 - Turning in a paper that was written by someone else (i.e., papers written by another student, a research service, or downloaded off the Internet); or written by you for another course.
 - Copying work written by another author without using quotation marks and without acknowledging the source through a commonly accepted style of footnoting.
 - Paraphrasing text written by another author without referencing that author within the text and by using a commonly accepted style of footnoting.
 - Using someone else's idea or concept without acknowledging the original author and source in the text and by using a commonly accepted style of footnoting.