

AMH 3562

Women in Modern U.S. History Spring 2023

Instructor: Dr. Louise Newman, Associate Professor

Course meets MWF, period 5 (11:45-12:35)

Office Hours: Wed, Fri, per 7, 2-3:00 in Keene Flint 212 and by appointment

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. 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. 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).

Other monographs may be added later.

Articles

Listed in alphabetical order by author's last name. 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 have the UF VPN Client installed on your computer and be logged into the UF VPN Client before viewing online course reserve materials in an offcampus location. For information on installing and using the UF VPN Client, visit <https://it.ufl.edu/ict/documentation/network-infrastructure/vpn/>. For technical assistance with the UF VPN Client, please call the UF Computing Help Desk, at 352392-4357.

- **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.

- **Royster**, Jacqueline Jones. "Introduction: Equity and Justice for All" to Ida B. Wells, *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 at home

- *Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice* (William Greaves, 1989, PBS, American Experience).
- *The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter* (Connie Field, 1980).
- *Color Adjustment* (Marlon Riggs, 1991).
- *Anita: Speaking Truth to Power* (Freida Mock, 2014).
- *RBG* (2018).

Assignments and Grading Percentages

- Short assignments 300 pts (30% of course grade)
- Midterm 300 pts (30% of course grade)
- Final assignment 400 pts (40% 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

- **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.**
- **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 <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-studentconduct-code/>

Consider Double Majoring in Women's Studies:

Adding the Women's Studies major can deepen your understanding of intersectional feminist approaches to studying and transforming gender, race, class, sexualities and other systems of power. The Women's Studies major shows graduate schools and employers that you bring advanced knowledge and skills about diversity and equity issues. The 30-credit Women's Studies major consists of four core courses and six electives. Up to 15 credits can double count with another degree (including the 3 credits you will earn for this course). If you are interested, please contact undergraduate coordinator Dr. Alyssa Zucker (azucker@ufl.edu) to discuss adding the major.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments—Provisional—to be used as a guide only. The course website on Canvas has precise assignments and dates.

Week 1. Introduction-- no readings

**Asst 1. Historical Autobiography (of yourself) with recent photo.
This assignment, while not assigned a grade, is a prerequisite for continuing in the course.**

Week 2. Ideologies of Womanhood in the Nineteenth Century

Pascoe (CR)

Smith-Rosenberg (CR)

DuBois & Dumenil, "Pedestal, Loom & Auction Block" (Chapter three from *Through Women's Eyes* (CR)

Week 3. Work and Family Life in the Nineteenth Century

Hodes, *Sea Captain's Wife* (Read the entire book, 297 pp)

Asst 2 Hodes Chart (100 pts)**Week 4. Race and Civilization in the 19th Century**

For Mon:

DuBois & Dumenil, "Reconstructing Women's Lives, North and South, 1865-1900" (chapter 6 in *Through Women's Lives*).

DuBois & Dumenil, "Women in an Expanding Nation" (chapter 7 in *Through Women's Lives*).

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)

Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice (documentary)

Week 5. Women's Political Movements, 1890-1920

Mon: Continue discussion of Wells

For Fri:

DuBois & Dumenil, "Power and Politics: Women in the Progressive Era" (**chapter 8** in *Through Women's Lives*, 454-489 in 2nd edition, 406-441 in 4th edition).

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

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

DuBois & Dumenil, "Change and Continuity: Women in Prosperity, Depression, War" (**chapter 9**), 520-544 in 2nd ed, 470-504 in 4th ed.

Asst 3 on Blues Lyrics**Week 7. Impact of WW2 on Women's Lives (1941-45)**

DuBois & Dumenil, Review last ten pages of **chapter 9**, 545-555 in 2nd ed., 493-503 in 4th edition

Rosie the Riveter

Color Adjustment,

Week 8. **Suburban women, television & the Feminine Mystique, 1946-1950s)**

DuBois & Dumenil, "Beyond the Feminine Mystique" (**chapter 10**), 588-627 in 2nd ed.,
534-568 in 4th edition
Douglas, "Genies and Witches" (CR)

Asst 4 Midterm (300 pts)

Week 9. **Woman's Liberation/ /Second Wave Feminism, 1965-1975**

DuBois & Dumenil, "Modern Feminism and American Society" (**chapter 11**), 654-700
in 2nd ed; 606-641 in 4th edition.

Week 10. **Civil Rights Movements, 1960s**

Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Part 1 and 2 (233 pp)

Week 11. **Civil Rights Movements, cont.**

Finish reading **Moody**, Part 3, 4 (200pp)

Asst 5 on Moody

Week 12. Using law to address sexual harassment and sexual inequality

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

Clinton, *What Happened* (2017)

Week 14 . Michelle Obama, Becoming or Kamala Harris, *The Truths We Hold*

Week 15. Conclusion

Week 16. **Asst 6. Final assignment (400 pts)**