WOMEN IN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES, 1800 TO THE PRESENT

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Office hours: To be Arranged, always available on Mon. and Wednes. after class.

Required readings: 1) Sara Evans, BORN FOR LIBERTY (ISBN 0029030900). This book ordered at NJ Books
2) All readings (unless an Inter-net assignment is noted for a particular day’s assignment) are posted on Sakai course web site which is: sakai.rutgers.edu. Go to the course number. Click on Electronic Reserves on Resources page. PLEASE NOTE: YOU ACCESS THE COURSE’S SAKAI WEBSITE USING THIS COURSE NUMBER: 212:01
3) A FEW INTERNET ASSIGNMENTS AS NOTED on a particular class day or by email notification from instructor.

Jan. 20 (WEDNES) Introduction to course and an exercise in finding out who we, as western American women, are.

RELIGION AND GENDER


Jan. 27 (WEDNES) Readings: Judith Tucker, GENDER AND ISLAMIC HISTORY
Inter-net on-line assignment: go to: http://chnm.gmu.edu/wwh/
Click on ANALYZING; Click on RELIGIOUS TEXTS, Hadith and Koran

Next, return to ANALYZING; click on ORAL HISTORY; Palestinian women section

FEB. 1 (MON) Traditional Society and the Enlightenment (lecture)
FEB. 3 (WEDNES)  The Questions of Rights and Citizenship  
EVANS, Ch. 3, The Revolutionary Era  
Readings on electronic reserve under “ENLIGHTENMENT AND REVOLUTION/RIGHTS”: Rousseau, Wollstonecraft, Olympe de Gouges; Margaret Darrow, “French Noblewomen”

Feb. 8 (MON) GROUPS FORM: CHOOSE ASSIGNMENTS AND ORGANIZE

VICTORIAN ERA and SEPARATE SPHERES: ENGLAND and the UNITED STATES

Feb. 10 (WEDNES) Life and Times of Sara Bartraam, the “The Hottentot Venus” in Africa and England

Feb. 15 (MON) Boydston, “Pastoralization of Housework”; Caine, “Family History as Women’s History: The Sisters of Beatrice Webb”; Cott, “Passionless”

WORK, RACE, GENDER

Feb. 17(WEDNES) RACE (lecture and discussion)

Evans, Ch. 4, “Age of Associations, 1820-45” and Ch. 5, “A Time of Division, 1845-65”;  
Reading: excerpt from Dorothy Roberts, KILLING THE BLACK BODY

Women’s racial ideologies: on-line assignment: go to: http://chnm.gmu.edu/wwh/ Click on Modules. Click on Western views of Chinese Women” including “foot binding” (all selections on footbinding including photo images)

Also, for a “not required” reading: INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF A SLAVE GIRL at Internet site: http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/JACOBS/hj-site-index.htm

*****GROUP REPORTS START*****

Feb. 22 (MON)

POLITICS AND THE POLITICS OF THE BODY: THE 19TH CENTURY FIRST WAVE FEMINISM---women’s votes, women’s bodies, and women as citizen/wives
women’s rights: “Pastoral Letter”; letters of feminist sisters Sarah and Angelina Grimke; Seneca Falls Women’s convention of 1848 through the Akron Convention and Sojourner Truth.

Nancy Cott, Ch. IV of PUBLIC VOWS: A HISTORY OF MARRIAGE AND THE NATION

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION AND WOMEN’S WORK

March 1 (MON) Urban Working Class Life and Work (lecture)

March 3 (WEDNES) What Kinds of Changes for Working Women and Where?

WOMEN AND THE SCIENCE QUESTION: MIND AND BODY

March 8 (MON) Women and the Science Question (lecture)
Evans, Ch. 7 “Women and Modernity”

***** MARCH 8 (MON) --MID-TERM ESSAY DUE***************

March 10 (WEDNES): Darwin, “Sexual Selection” from THE ORIGINS OF THE SPECIES
AND THE DESCENT OF MAN; selection of contemporary science articles questioning Darwin’s ideas: “The Male of the Species: Why is He Needed?” “The Charms of a Gaudy Male”; for visual representation of these issues, please consult the following website: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/evolution/about/sitemap.html

*******SPRING BREAK MARCH 15-21**************************

March 22 (MON) Smith-Rosenberg and Rosenberg, “The Female Animal”; Gilman, “Yellow Wallpaper”

….WOMEN AND THE SCIENCE QUESTION—continued:

March 24 (WEDNES) Evans, Ch. 8 “Flappers”

WOMEN AND WAR; WOMEN AND THE MODERN STATE

March 29 (MON) Women and War in the U.S. And Europe: The Civil War, World War I and World War II (lecture)
Evans, Ch. 9, “Surviving the Great Depression” Chapter 10, “Women at War”

April 1 (WEDNES) Film: ROSIE THE RIVETER

April 5 (Mon) World War II continued


April 7 (Wednes.) After the War: Women, Work, Welfare State and Reform (lecture)


April 12 (MON) Sexuality (lecture) and report: Excerpts: HOW SEX CHANGED
Video: “When Abortion was Illegal”

April 14 (WEDNES) CONTEMPORARY FEMINISMS (lecture and video “Some American Feminists”)

April 19 (MON)—FEMINISM—continued

Evans, Ch. 12, “The Personal Is Political” and Chapter 13, “Politics of Personal Life”;

READINGS:
Organizing Strategies: Charles Payne, “Ella Baker”; Cynthia Harrison, “A New Women’s Movement: The Emergence of NOW”
“The Problem That Has No Name”; selections under “The Women’s Movement” from Consciousness Raising through Rape.

April 21 (WEDNES) PORNOGRAPHY—film NOT A LOVE STORY

April 26 (MON) BACKLASHES AGAINST FEMINISM


APRIL 28 (WEDNES) REVOLUTION AND CHANGE IN WOMEN’S LIVES

Film: THROUGH CHINESE WOMEN’S EYES

May 2 (MON) Review

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***FINAL PAPERS DUE AFTER LAST CLASS ON FIRST DAY OF READING PERIOD, MAY 4
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COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1) MID-TERM ESSAY of 4 to 5 typewritten pages due Monday, March 8; question to be given out beforehand

2) FINAL EXAM of 7 to 8 typewritten pages due after last day of class and ON FIRST DAY OF READING PERIOD, MAY 4. Questions to be given out beforehand.

3) CLASS PARTICPATION: Each student must participate in a GROUP REPORT in class, dates to
be determined. Your participation is REQUIRED and will be included as part of your final grade. You must fulfill your responsibilities to the group project by attending group preparation meetings. If you fail to participate, this will lower your FINAL grade. If your work is spectacular, it works the other way.

You are expected to READ assignments, even those relating to another person’s group report. Your grade will reflect your class participation.

4) All students are REQUIRED to attend class. You are allowed 4 cuts without question. Students who take more than 4 cuts will be penalized when averaging the final grades. Example: if your grade is between a B- and a C+, you will receive the C+. If your absences are flagrant, expect your grade to be lowered significantly.

If you plan to take time off for religious holidays, athletic events or some other purpose, you should plan to include these in your allowable cuts. If you are ill after you have taken your four cuts, you should provide a doctor’s letter. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTION TO THESE RULES.

5. Students are expected to hand their papers in on time. You should plan your work beforehand. If your paper comes in late, you will be penalized. Your grade will be lowered. You are not excused from a late paper because you come to see me to tell me that a paper is going to be late.

IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU CANNOT COMPLY WITH THESE REGULATIONS, PLEASE DO NOT TAKE THE CLASS.

TOPICS AND DATES FOR STUDENT GROUP REPORTS*****

POLITICS AND THE POLITICS OF THE BODY--19TH CENTURY

FEB. 22  1) women’s rights

FEB. 24  2) women’s bodies

MARCH 1  WOMEN AND WORK: EARLY INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

MARCH 3  INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

MARCH 10  THE SCIENCE QUESTION: DARWIN, ETC.

MARCH 22 WOMEN AND THE SCIENCE QUESTION--ROSENBERG ON MEDICINE AND GILMAN ON MADNESS

MARCH 24  WOMEN AND THE SCIENCE QUESTION--FREUD, ETC.
APRIL 5  WORLD WAR II; HOLOCAUST

APRIL 7  AFTER THE WAR; WELFARE

APRIL 12  HOW SEX CHANGED

APRIL 19  FEMINISM

APRIL 26  BACKLASH--RIGHT WING ATTACKS ON FEMINISM; ROE/WADE