Women in American History--50:512:220
MWF 11:15-12:20
Armitage Building, Room 220
Final Exam: May 14, 8-11am

Dr. Catherine D’Ignazio
dignazio@camden.rutgers.edu
Office Hours: Wed, 1-2 and by appointment
429 Cooper Street, History Department, Room 107

In this course we will meet everyday women and extraordinary American women. A study of their lives will be a study of what it has meant to be a woman in America, from the founding of the country to the present. The goals of this course are threefold: to introduce the class to the breadth of women’s experiences; to track some important organized efforts for full citizenship and periodically to demonstrate how history is done.

This is a history course. It is focused on change over time.

Students are expected to have read and thought about the assignments for each class.

Attendance will be taken and will count toward your grade.

GRADING

Your grade will be based on weekly reading quizzes on Sakai, an in-class Mid-Term Exam, a Final Exam and a Final written five page paper chosen from the following list: Your State or County’s Status of Women Committee history; an organization history; a local activist or another topic approved by me.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT:

Academic integrity prohibits “submitting a work for credit that includes words, ideas, data, or creative work of others without acknowledging the source.” It also prohibits “using another author’s words without enclosing them in quotation marks...or without citing the source appropriately.” The typical penalty for infractions of academic integrity is a grade of “F” for the course.
DISABILITY STATEMENT:

Any student who has a documented disability and is in need of academic accommodations should notify the professor either in person or at dignazio@camden.rutgers.edu

TEXTBOOKS:


*The Murder of Helen Jewett, The Life and Death of A Prostitute in Nineteenth-Century New York*, Patricia Cline Cohen

We will read eight chapters from *One Woman, One Vote, Rediscovering the Woman Suffrage Movement*, ed. Marjorie Spruill Wheeler. You may want to purchase it, but the chapters will be made available on reserve.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

**W, Jan 22**

READ: *The Life of Martha Ballard*, “Introduction” (to page 35) Library e-reserve

Introduction to Class

**F, Jan 24**


READ: *Unequal Sisters*, “Beyond the Search for Sisterhood...”

**M, Jan 27**

READ: *The Life of Martha Ballard*, pages 35-49. Library e-reserve


**W, Jan 29**

READ: *Unequal Sisters*, “This Evil Extends Especially to the Feminine Sex...”

**F, Jan 31**

Lecture: A Brief History of the Patriarchy (Judith Sargeant Murray, Mary Wollstonecraft, Abigail Adams, and Mercy Otis Warren.)
M, Feb 3

READ: *Unequal Sisters*, “Cherokee Women and the Trail of Tears”

W, Feb 5

READ: *Unequal Sisters*, “Distress and Discord in Virginia Slave Families...”
Listen to: *On Being* with Prof. Tiya Miles. In Sakai “Resources,” “Podcast” folder.

Review Vilet Lester Slave letter: http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/scriptorium/lester/

F, Feb 7

READ: *The Murder of Helen Jewett*

M, Feb 10

READ: *The Murder of Helen Jewett*

W, Feb 12

READ: *The Murder of Helen Jewett*

F, Feb 14

READ: *In Her Own Right, The Life of Elizabeth Cady Stanton* pp 14-61 On Sakai Reserves

Read: Declaration of Sentiments: http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/senecafalls.asp

M, Feb 17

READ: Christine Stansell, “Women, Children, and the Uses of the Streets: Class and Gender Conflict in New York City, 1850-1860”

W, Feb 19

“Prostitutes Register” and Blackwell’s Island register.

F, Feb 21

READ: *Unequal Sisters*, “To Catch the Vision of Freedom: Reconstruction Southern Black Women’s Political History, 1865-1880”

READ: Sakai Resources Weblinks: Vilet Lester rare slave letter
M, Feb 24

One Woman, One Vote: “Ourselves and Our Daughters Forever” : Women and the Constitution, 1781-1876

W, Feb 26

One Woman, One Vote:” The Seneca Falls Convention...”

F, Feb 28

One Woman, One Vote: “How the West Was Won for Woman Suffrage”

M, Mar 3

One Woman, One Vote: “Frances Willard and Woman's Christian Temperance Union’s Conversion to Woman Suffrage”

W, Mar 5

One Woman, One Vote: African American Women and the Woman Suffrage Movement”

F, Mar 7

One Woman, One Vote: ”Better Citizens Without the Ballot”

M, Mar 10

One Woman, One Vote: Ida B. wells-Barnett and the Alpha Suffrage Club of Chicago”

W, Mar 12

One Woman, One Vote: “Carrie Chapman Catt, Strategist”

F, Mar 14

One Woman, One Vote: “Armageddon in Tennessee”

M, W, F: Mar 17, 19, 21-SPRING BREAK

M, Mar 24—MID-TERM EXAM

W, Mar 26


F, Mar 28

READ: Unequal Sisters, “Star Struck”
M, Mar 31

READ: *Unequal Sisters*, “Japanese American Women during World War II”

W, Apr 2


F, Apr 4

Lecture: A Condensed history of crafting Teaching as a Woman's profession.

Education: Catharine Beecher Reading tba

Mary Lyon, reading from Solomon

“Where Coeds were Co-educated: Normal Schools in Wisconsin, 1870-1920”

Christine Ogren

Brown v Board of Education compared to ERA

M, Apr 7

Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*, excerpt on Sakai in “Resources”

W, Apr 9

*Moving the Mountain*-Intro and Chapter 1-on Library e-reserve

F, Apr 11

*Moving the Mountain*-discussion of contemporary context of issues from Chapter 1

M, Apr 14

*Moving the Mountain*-Intro and Chapter 2-on Library e-reserve

W, Apr 16

*Moving the Mountain*-discussion of contemporary context of issues from Chapter 2

F, Apr 18

Combachee River Collective, reading on Sakai “Resources”

M, Apr 21

READ: *Sears* case, “Gender Practices and Employment: The *Sears* Case and the Issue of Choice”
W, Apr 23

READ: Bernice Sandler “Too Strong for a Woman”

Lecture: Title IX, is it the female version of Brown vs the Board

F, Apr 25

Billie Jean King and the Battle of the Sexes. Link to short video on Sakai in “Resources”

M, Apr 28

Sylvia Hewlett *A Lesser Life* pp 1-47, on Library e-reserve

W, Apr 30

Susan Falludi *Backlash*, (on Sylvia Hewlett)pp312-318

F, May 2

Discussion of the debate presented by Hewlett and Falludi.

M, May 5

Prep for the Final Exam