Women in American History--50:512:220

TTh 9:30a-10:50

Armitage Building, Room 220

Final Exam: May TBD

Dr. Catherine D’Ignazio
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Office Hours: Tues, Thurs 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 before the founding of the country to the present. The goals of this course are three-fold: 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 3-5 page history paper chosen from the following list of topics: 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

Tu, Sept. 1

Introduction to Class

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

Th, Sept. 3


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

Tu, Sept. 8

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


Th, Sept. 10

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

Tu, Sept 15

READ: Unequal Sisters, “Cherokee Women and the Trail of Tears”
READ: *Unequal Sisters*, “Distress and Discord in Virginia Slave Families...”

Th, Sept. 17

READ: Vilet Lester Slave letter:  
http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/les...torium/lester/

Tu, Sept. 22

READ: *The Murder of Helen Jewett*

Th, Sept. 24

READ: *The Murder of Helen Jewett*

Tu, Sept. 29

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

Th, Oct. 1


Review in class: “Prostitutes Register” and Blackwell’s Island register.

Tu, Oct. 6

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

Th, Oct. 8

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

Tu, Oct. 13

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

Th, Oct. 15

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

Tu, Oct. 20

*One Woman, One Vote*: “Frances Willard and Woman’s Christian Temperance Union’s Conversion to Woman Suffrage”
Th, Oct. 22

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

Tu, Oct. 27

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

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

Th, Oct. 29

One Woman, One Vote: “Carrie Chapman Catt

One Woman, One Vote: “Armageddon in Tennessee”, Strategist

Tu, Nov. 3

Prepare for the Mid-term exam, and discuss final paper.

Th, Nov. 5—MID-TERM EXAM

Tu, Nov. 10


Th, Nov. 12

READ: Unequal Sisters, “Star Struck”

Tu, Nov. 17


Listen to: Book Notes Interview of Leslie Chang, Beyond the Narrow Gates: http://www.booknotes.org/Watch/151353-1/Leslie+Chang.aspx

Th, Nov. 19

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

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

Tu, Nov. 24

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

Combachee River Collective, reading on Sakai “Resources”
Th, Nov. 26- NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING

Tu, Dec. 1


READ: Bernice Sandler “Too Strong for a Woman”

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

Th, Dec. 3

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

Tu, Dec. 8

Susan Falludi Backlash, (on Sylvia Hewlett) pp312

Discussion of the debate presented by Hewlett and Falludi -318

Th., Dec. 10 Prep for the Final Exam

FINAL EXAM, DATE-TBD