

**WOMEN AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN THE TWENTIETH-CENTURY U.S.**  
**HIS 365G, AMS 321, WGS 340**  
**Prof. Laurie Green Spring 2013**

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**Course Description**

This upper-division history course examines women's participation in well-known and lesser-known social movements during the twentieth century, more deeply than is possible in a U.S. history survey course. Throughout, we explore women's activism in movements that specifically targeted women's rights, such as the woman suffrage movement. However, we also consider women's participation in movements that do not outwardly appear to be movements about women's rights, such as the Civil Rights Movement.

In addition to exploring the scope and contours of women's activism, the course will place particular emphasis on four key themes: 1) how cultural understandings of gender may have shaped these movements, 2) tensions between ideas of women's rights that emphasized equality of the sexes and those that emphasized difference; 3) the question of whether you can write a universal history of women or need to write separate histories along lines such as race, class, region and/or sexual preference; 4) power relations not only between men and women but among women.

**Course Structure**

The course is not designed as a comprehensive survey of women's activism in the twentieth century, but instead offers a more in-depth exploration of several important movements. Therefore, the course is organized around five units, each of which will run for about three weeks.

This is primarily a lecture course, but we will also hold discussions and conduct work in small groups. Each unit will be comprised of several elements: lectures (both overview and more targeted lectures), discussions of readings, analysis of original historical documents, and a film screening and analysis.

Evaluation will be based on a scheduled multiple-choice quiz and in-class essay for each unit, a cumulative final essay exam, submission of other brief assignments, and attendance.

*Please note: I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus. All quiz and exam dates will stay the same.*

**Course Requirements and Evaluation**

Attendance	5%
On-time submission of assignments	5%
5 Lecture/Reading quizzes	4% each (20% total)
5 In-class essays	10% each (50% total)
Final exam (May 9, 9-12)	20%

**Required Books, for purchase at the University Co-Op Bookstore**

**All books are also available on reserve at the PCL**

Crow Dog, Mary. *Lakota Woman*. Reprint edition, Grove Press, 2011.

Moody, Anne. *Coming of Age in Mississippi*. 1968; reprint edition, Delta, 2004.

Orleck, Annelise. *Common Sense and a Little Fire: Women and Working-Class Politics in the United States, 1900-1965*. University of North Carolina Press, 1995.

Ruth Rosen. *The World Split Open: How the Modern Women's Movement Changed America*. Revised edition. Penguin, 2006.

Marjorie Spruill Wheeler, *One Woman, One Vote: Rediscovering the Women's Suffrage Movement*. NewSage Press, 1995.

**Other Required Readings:**

All other readings will be available to download from Blackboard (marked as BB in syllabus) or from an online database that can be accessed through the library website.

**Other Important Notes:**

**Attendance and promptness:**

ATTENDANCE: What we do in class is essential to your learning and participation in the course. Therefore, attendance is mandatory. If you have more than 2 unexcused absences, three points will be deducted from your final grade for each additional unexcused absence. For excused absences (medical or family emergencies, official U.T. business) you will need a written note. Religious holiday observances are considered excused absences.

PROMPTNESS: Late arrivals or early departures are disruptive in general and also hamper small group discussions. If you are late, you are responsible for finding out about missed announcements.

**Grades:**

Pluses and minuses will be used, as follows:

A+ = 98-100; A = 93-97; A- = 90-92

B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82

C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72

D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62

F = below 60

Grades ending in .5 or above will be rounded up; grades ending in .49 or below will not.

**Make-up Quizzes and Exams**

Make-up quizzes and exams will be given by the History Department proctor on Friday afternoons between 2 and 4:45. You must bring a photo i.d. If you missed the quiz or exam because one of the exceptions noted under the attendance policy you will not receive a point deduction. If you missed the quiz or exam for any other reason you will be docked one full grade.

**Blackboard** will be used extensively in this course. Please check announcements frequently. You will also find links for the syllabus, office hours, lecture outlines, important terms for the unit, assignments, selected short readings, and the Grade Center. I also use Blackboard to send emails. You are responsible for ensuring that the email account on record with the Registrar does not have a full mailbox.

**Readings** noted on the syllabus for a particular date should be completed *before* class time. Take notes on your readings. If you need help figuring out what to take notes on, contact us. If there is popular demand, we will hold a workshop on notetaking. No one is born knowing how to take good notes!

**Films** are required course material. In the unlikely scenario in which you would miss class on the day of the film, you can screen it at the Fine Arts Library, where it will be on reserve.

**In-class assignments:** Instructions, supplemental information, and occasional worksheets will all be posted on Blackboard under "Assignments."

**Quizzes and Essay Tests:**

- \* Quizzes will be based on the overview lecture and a portion of the reading for each unit.
- \* In-Class Essays will be based on what you have learned for the current unit only. They will not take the entire class. Subject to revision, they are planned for 30 minutes each.
- \* The final cumulative essay exam, scheduled on the exam date for this class, will test your thoughtful engagement with one of the four central themes noted at the beginning of this syllabus. Because you will know the themes from the start of the course, you can create a "portolio" of ideas and evidence which you can then draw on for your essay. THURSDAY MAY 9, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**Special accommodations** will be provided, upon request, for qualified students with learning disabilities. Contact the Dean of Students office at 471-6259 or [ssd@uts.cc.utexas.edu](mailto:ssd@uts.cc.utexas.edu) if you have need of accommodations for which you are not already certified. Inform me the early in the semester of your accommodations.

**Academic Integrity:** The University of Texas adheres strictly to guidelines regarding academic integrity, including cheating and plagiarism. *These guidelines extend to all material found on the worldwide web*, as well as to all print material. Penalties for violations may include loss of credit for the course and a report to the Student Judicial Services. Please familiarize yourself with the links on the following website. [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint\\_student.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php).

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**WEEK 1**

Jan. 15: Introduction to U.S. Women's History

Jan. 17: Themes and Structure of the Course

**UNIT 1: MULTIPLE FORMS OF WOMEN'S ACTIVISM  
IN THE PROGRESSIVE ERA (1890-1920)**

**WEEK 2**

Jan. 22: Overview Lecture: Women's Activism and Politics in the Progressive Era

Jan. 24: The Creation of Working-Class Feminism

READ: *Common Sense and a Little Fire*, Chapters 1-2

## QUIZ

### WEEK 3

Jan. 29: From Settlement Houses to Legislative Reform

READ: Documents (BB) for in-class assignment

Jan. 31: Black Women's Clubs and the Crusade Against Lynching

READ: Excerpt from Ida B. Wells, *The Red Record*

FILM: *Ida B. Wells, A Passion for Justice*

### WEEK 4

Feb. 5: Discussion of Film and In-Class Essay

## UNIT 2: THE STRUGGLE FOR THE NINETEENTH AMENDMENT

Feb. 7: Overview Lecture: The Movement for 'Woman Suffrage'

### WEEK 5

Feb. 12: Suffrage and the Progressive Era: Different Views

READ: In *Common Sense and a Little Fire*:

Ch. 3, "Working Women and the Struggle for Woman Suffrage"

In *One Woman, One Vote*:

Ch. 10, "Jane Addams, Progressivism, and Woman Suffrage"

Ch. 11, "Better Citizens Without the Ballot"

## QUIZ

### IN-CLASS WORK WITH DOCUMENTS

Feb. 14: Multiple Narratives of Woman Suffrage

READ: In *One Woman, One Vote*

Ch. 6, "How the West was Won"

Ch. 8, "African American Women and the Woman Suffrage Movement"

Ch. 17, "Minnie Fisher Cunningham's Back Door Lobby in Texas"

### WEEK 6

Feb. 19: The 'Final Push' for the Nineteenth Amendment

READ: In *One Woman, One Vote*:

Ch. 15, "Alice Paul and the Triumph of Militancy"

Ch. 16, "Carrie Chapman Catt, Strategist"

FILM: *Iron-Jawed Angels* (excerpts)

Feb. 21: Film Discussion and In-Class Essay

## UNIT 3: DEFINING AND PURSUING WOMEN'S EQUALITY

### WEEK 7

Feb. 26: Overview Lecture: Beyond Suffrage: Women's Activism and the Meaning of Equality, from the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment through the Great Depression"

Feb. 28: Women's Equality and the Federal Government

READ: In *One Woman, One Vote*:  
Ch. 19, "Across the Great Divide"  
In *Common Sense and a Little Fire*  
Ch. 4, "Knocking at the White House Door"

QUIZ

### **WEEK 8**

Mar. 5: The Birth Control Movement

READ: Documents (BB and WOMEN AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS WEBSITE)

Mar. 7: Organizing Working Women in the Great Depression

Articles re labor.

READ: Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, "Disorderly Women: Gender and Labor Militancy in the Appalachian South" from *Women's America* (BB)  
Elizabeth Faue, "'The Dynamo of Change': Gender and Solidarity in the American Labour Movement of the 1930s," *Gender & History* 1:2 (BB)

IN-CLASS WORK WITH DOCUMENTS: Mexican American Women and the 1938 San Antonio Pecan Shellers' Strike (Women and Social Movements Website)

*MARCH 8 IS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY*

### **SPRING BREAK**

### **WEEK 9**

Mar. 19: "Women's Auxiliaries"?

FILM: *With Babies and Banners*

Mar. 21: World War II: Were All Working Women 'Rosie the Riveters'?

READ: Valerie Matsumoto, 'Japanese American Women During World War II' From *Major Problems in American Women's History* (BB)  
Leisa D. Meyer, "The Regulation of Sexuality and Sexual Behavior in the Women's Army Corps During World War II," from *Major Problems in Women's History* (BB)

### **WEEK 10**

Mar. 26: Working with Documents from World War II and In-Class Essay

## **UNIT 4: WOMEN'S ACTIVISM IN THE POSTWAR 'DOLDRUMS': ANTINUCLEAR, LABOR AND CIVIL RIGHTS PROTEST**

Mar. 28: Overview Lecture: Women's Activism in the 'Doldrums'

### **WEEK 11**

Apr. 2: Preludes to the 1960s 'Freedom Now!' Movement

READ: *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Pts. 2-3  
(Lots of pages, but they go fast!)

QUIZ

Apr. 4: Women in the Civil Rights Protests of the 1950s

READ Documents  
FILM: *Eyes on the Prize*, Pt. II, "Fighting Back," Little Rock segment

### WEEK 12

Apr. 9: Women and the Bomb: The Early Cold War

READ: Dee Garrison, "'Our Skirts Gave Them Courage': The Civil Defense Protest Movement in New York City, 1955-1961," in *Not June Cleaver* (BB)  
Elaine Tyler May, "Explosive Issues: Sex, Women, and the Bomb," in *Homeward Bound* (BB)

IN-CLASS Documents

Apr. 11: In-Class Essay

## UNIT 5: FEMINISM AND WOMEN'S LIBERATION

### WEEK 13

Apr. 16: Overview Lecture: Framing the Women's Movement, 1960-1980

Apr. 18: Feminism and Women's Liberation

READ: *World Split Open*  
Ch. 3 "Limits of Liberalism";  
Ch. 4, "Leaving the Left"

QUIZ

FILM *Step By Step: Building a Feminist Movement*

### WEEK 14

Apr. 23: Parallels? Women's Liberation and Civil Rights

READ: *Coming of Age*, Pt. 4, "The Movement," 283-end  
IN CLASS: Documents

Apr. 25: The Personal is Political

READ: *World Split Open*:  
Divide up in group so that 1-2 people reach each chapter:  
Ch. 5, "Hidden Injuries of Sex";  
Ch. 6, "Passion and Politics";  
Ch. 8, "The Proliferation of Feminism"

### WEEK 15

Apr. 30 Many Voices of Feminism

READ: *Lakota Woman*, Ch. 1-5  
IN-CLASS: Documents

May 2: Many Voices of Feminism

READ: *Lakota Woman*, Ch. 6-11 (Rest of book is good! But optional)  
IN-CLASS ESSAY

**FINAL EXAM TIME: THURSDAY, MAY 9, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**