

HISTORY 384:
Women's Rights and Feminism
Spring 2016
2:00-3:15 TR in 231 CCC

Professor Kaminski
Office: 469 CCC
Phone: 4695
E-mail: tkaminsk@uwsp.edu
Office Hours: 1:00 T, 10:00 W, and by appointment

"But I ask no favors for my sex. I surrender not our claim to equality. All I ask of our brethren, is that they will take their feet from off our necks, and permit us to stand upright on that ground which God designed us to occupy." ~Sarah Grimké, 1837

This course--chronological, beginning with contact between Native Americans and European colonists in North America and ending with feminism's 1980s-1990s permutations--is designed to discover how American women have attempted to change their public and private roles, attempts that have at various times employed the rhetoric of equal rights, feminism, and liberation. We will explore ideology, politics, culture, and society to show when and how women identified themselves as unequal or oppressed and the various methods they devised to overcome that oppression. The course also examines how activists linked their concern for women's issues to other social and political issues (abolition, temperance, progressivism, etc.).

Learning history requires students to sharpen their reading, writing, and comprehension skills; all will be required throughout the semester. Upon completion of the course, students should have learned important trends, themes, and ideologies (as well as the always-important names and dates) for this topic of American history. Additionally, students should have acquired an understanding of the differences between primary and secondary sources and of historical analysis.

REQUIRED READINGS

Christine Stansell, *The Feminist Promise*
(text rental)

Anne M. Boylan, *Women's Rights in the United States: A History in Documents*
(purchase)

Jill Lepore, *The Secret History of Wonder Woman*
(purchase)

Additional documents are available on D2L.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance

This is required. I do not post (or in any way share) lecture notes and outlines or PowerPoint presentations. That information is available only during the class period. If you have to miss a class, make arrangements with another student to get notes.

More than three unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your final grade by a third of a letter grade.

The following are the only excused absences, which all require appropriate documentation: illness, the funeral of an immediate family member, attendance at a university-related function, and military service obligations.

Students who are habitually late and those who violate the policy on cell phone and electronic device usage will also be penalized a third of a letter grade off of their final grade.

Weather and/or transportation related problems do not count as excused absences; factor them into your unexcused absences.

It is your responsibility to keep track of your absences and punctuality. Since this policy is clearly stated on the syllabus, I do not provide any reminders or warnings throughout the semester.

2. Essay Exams (2 exams at 25% each)

There will be one 75-minute exam at midterm and one 75-minute exam during finals week. The exams cover the readings from Stansell, Boylan, D2L, and lecture material. A study guide will be posted on D2L approximately one week before each exam.

3. Book Essay (20%)

Everyone will write a 5-page essay on the Lepore book, due on Thursday, April 28. Instructions will be posted on D2L.

4. Research Essay (30%)

Everyone will research and write a 10-12 page examination of the life and ideas of an American woman involved with women's rights and/or feminism. It is due Tuesday, May 10. Assignment guidelines will be posted on D2L.

Due dates for all assignments are listed below, and they must be completed on those dates. Makeups and extensions require my prior approval. Late assignments will be penalized. Uncompleted exams and essays will result in a zero for the assignment and a failing grade for the course.

Grading criteria for exams and essays are roughly as follows:

A (90-100): demonstrates both a fine command of historical knowledge (ideas, names, places, dates, etc.) and an informed interpretation of that information.

B (80-89): demonstrates a command of historical knowledge but contains a weak interpretation.

C (70-79): demonstrates a command of historical knowledge but completely lacks an interpretation.

D (60-69): shows weakness of historical knowledge and lacks an interpretation.

F (59-1): shows inaccurate historical knowledge and lacks an interpretation, and/or is incomplete.

0: a portion or portions are plagiarized from internet or published sources and/or are copied from another student's work; the work has no historical or intellectual value.

Notes on Etiquette

1. While in class, all cell phones, pagers, etc. must be turned off and put away. Laptops may not be used in the classroom.
2. Arrive on time and remain in the classroom for the entire period.
3. If you send me an e-mail message, remember that it is an official form of communication and must conform to guidelines of polite and respectful behavior.

Please review this link for additional information on rights and responsibilities:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rightsandresponsibilities.aspx>

LECTURES AND READINGS

Week 1: Jan. 25-29

Tues.: Introduction

Thurs.: Customs and Laws in North America

Reading: Boylan, Ch. 1

Week 2: Feb. 1-5

Tues.: The American Revolution

Readings: Stansell, Introduction, pp. 1-11; Boylan, pp. 41-56

Thurs.: Revolution's Aftermath

Readings: Stansell, pp. 11-26; Boylan, pp. 56-67

Week 3: Feb. 8-12

Tues.: Abolition

Readings: Stansell, Ch. 2; Boylan, pp. 69-79; D2L document: Pastoral Letter of the Massachusetts Congregationalist Clergy

Thurs.: The Search for Perfection: Margaret Fuller, Politics, and Transcendentalism

Reading: Stansell, pp. 53-68

Week 4: Feb. 15-19

Tues.: Seneca Falls

Readings: Stansell, pp. 68-73; Boylan, pp. 80-87

Thurs.: Religion, Fashion, and Sexuality

Reading: D2L: Correspondence Between Gerrit Smith and Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Week 5: Feb. 22-26

Tues: Antebellum Woman's Rights

Readings: Stansell, pp. 74-77; Boylan, pp. 87-95

Thurs.: War, Race, and Equality

Reading: Stansell, pp. 81-84; Boylan, pp. 96-103

Week 6: Feb. 29-March 4

Tues.: The Debate over Rights and the Kansas Campaign

Reading: Stansell, pp. 84-100, Boylan, pp. 105-117

Thurs.: Voting: The New Departure

Readings: Stansell, pp. 100-112; Boylan, pp. 117-124; D2L: Tennie C. Claflin, "Constitutional Equality a Right of Woman"

Week 7: March 7-11

Tues.: Temperance, Religion, and the Family

Readings: Stansell, pp. 112-118; D2L: Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper"

Thurs.: The Creation of NAWSA and The New Woman of the 20th Century

Readings: Stansell, pp. 121-124, 149-152; Boylan, pp. 124-128; D2L: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, "The Woman's Bible"; begin reading Lepore, *The Secret History of Wonder Woman*

Week 8: March 14-18

Tues.: Race, Suffrage, and Conservative Opposition

Readings: Stansell, pp. 124-146; Boylan, pp. 139-142; D2L: Grover Cleveland, "Would Woman Suffrage be Unwise?"

Thurs. March 17: Exam #1

Spring Break: March 21-25**Week 9: March 28-April 1**

Feminism and a Renewed Suffrage Movement

Readings: Stansell, pp. 153-165; Boylan, pp. 128-139, Ch. 5

Week 10: April 4-8

Winning Suffrage

Readings: Stansell, pp. 165-176; Boylan, pp. 139, 141-143; D2L: Suffrage Militant Alice Paul Goes to Jail

Week 11: April 11-15

Tues.: The National Woman's Party and Feminism

Readings: Stansell, 179-181; Boylan, pp. 158-179; D2L: Crystal Eastman, "Creating a Feminist Lifestyle"

Thurs.: The Great Depression and World War II

Readings: Boylan, pp. 180-195; D2L: Emily Blair, "Discouraged Feminists"

Week 12: April 18-22

Tues.: The Problem That Has No Name

Readings: Stansell, pp. 181-198; Boylan, pp. 195-203; D2L: Betty Friedan, "The Feminine Mystique"

Thurs.: Creating a Liberal Women's Movement

Readings: Stansell, pp. 198-217, 275--309; Boylan, pp. 203-212, 231-236, 238-241

Week 13: April 25-29

Tues.: The Emergence of Radical Feminism

Readings: Stansell, pp. 221-236; Boylan, pp. 212-231

Thurs.: Personal Politics and Street Theater

Reading: Stansell, 236-272

April 28: Lepore book essay due by 5:00 p.m.

Week 14: May 2-6

Tues.: The Politics of Reproduction and Sexuality

Readings: Stansell, pp. 313-338, 343-351; Boylan, pp. 236-238

Thurs.: The ERA and Beyond

Readings: Stansell, pp. 338-343; Boylan, pp. 241-253

Week 15: May 9-13

Global Feminism

Readings: Stansell, ch. 11; Boylan, pp. 254-257

May 10: Research essay due by 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 19 at 8:00-9:15 a.m.: Exam #2

Note: Lecture topics are subject to change without notice.