HISTORY 309, SPRING 2009
THE HISTORY OF WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES, 1877 - PRESENT

Elizabeth Reis, 320 Hendricks
Office Hours: Thursdays, 1:30-3:30p.m.
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HISTORY 309 is the second part of a two-quarter sequence on the history of women in the United States of America. We will study the diverse experiences and social roles of women from the period of Reconstruction to the present day. The following topics and themes will be discussed as we build our chronological framework: immigration; industrialization; female sexuality; women and the Depression; women, work, and the war; the "feminine mystique"; civil rights; feminism, and reproductive politics. The course will emphasize diversity and change among various social classes and races that comprise our history, and as such it satisfies the University's multicultural requirement.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class attendance in lectures is mandatory. Requirements include: a midterm exam (30%), an oral history project (40%), and a take home final exam (30%). You may earn extra credit by completing weekly summaries of the reading assignments. These weekly summaries (one page in length) should be submitted via Blackboard on Thursday by 9:00 p.m. of each week. They will not be graded, per se, but you will receive extra credit points as well as immeasurable educational benefits from keeping up with the reading. 😊

If you do these successfully each week, you can raise your grade by 1/3 of a grade (at the most) at the end of the quarter. It really helps! [I don’t give A+ and so if you already have an A, you’ll still have an A, even with the extra credit points. Think of it this way: doing the extra credits probably accounts for the fact that you have an A in the first place.]

You are expected to come to class on time and stay until the end. 😊 If you must leave early, please let me know before class that you’re going to do this, and sit near the door, so that you can leave unobtrusively. Please respect your classmates; this means you should be actively listening to the lectures and discussions, as opposed to reading the paper, writing notes to your friends, or texting. No computers are allowed in class unless you have a documented disability and need a computer to take notes.

Plagiarism: All work completed for this class must be your own. If you cheat (hand in your friend's work or copy directly from somewhere, etc.) you will (at the very least) fail the class and your name will be registered with the University. For guidelines and University rules on this very serious matter, see http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/

REQUIRED TEXTS - THE BOOKS ARE AT THE UO BOOKSTORE
Susan Ware, Modern American Women: A Documentary History (NY, 2002, 2nd ed.).
Leona Tamarkin, Dear Lizzie (Philadelphia, 2000)
Diane Gilliam Fisher, Kettle Bottom (Florence, MA, 2004)
Anne Moody, Coming of Age in Mississippi (NY, 1997, 2nd ed.)
Lauren Kessler, Stubborn Twig: Three Generations in the Life of a Japanese American Family (Corvallis, 2008, 2nd ed.)
Week 1 – March 31-April 2
Tuesday: African American Women in Post Civil-War America
Thursday: Lynching in the South/ Film - "Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice"
Read: *Modern American Women*, 11-17; 134-139

Week 2 – April 7-9
Tuesday: Women, Sweatshops, and Tenements in the East
Thursday: Women, Work, and Labor Radicalism
Read: Leona Tamarkin, *Dear Lizzie* [discussion on Thursday]
*Modern American Women*, 62-65

Week 3 – April 14-16
Tuesday: Asian Immigration in the West
Thursday: Boarding Schools/Native American Women (Film clip: “Where the Spirit Lives”)
Read: *Modern American Women*, 28-46

Week 4 – April 21-23
Tuesday: Library Presentation for Oral History Projects
Thursday: Mexican Immigrant Women and "Americanization"
Read: *Modern American Women*, 49-62
*Kettle Bottom*, Diane Fisher [discussion on Thursday]

Week 5 – April 28-30
Tuesday: Victorian Sexuality: Hysteria, Birth Control, Surgery, and the Vibrator
Thursday: Midterm Exam
Read: *Modern American Women*, 84-89
Read Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper” [read this for the midterm]

Week 6 – May 5-7 (QUESTIONS & BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE, May 7)
Tuesday: Women and Radicalism: Emma Goldman
Thursday: Women's Suffrage and Social Housekeeping/Film clip: "Iron Jawed Angels"
Read: *Modern American Women*, 74-84; 89-114
Kessler, *Stubborn Twig*, 3-106

Week 7 – May 12-14
Tuesday: Women, Families, and the Great Depression
Thursday: Women and Labor Unions/Film: “With Babies and Banners”
Read: *Modern American Women*, 143-149
Kessler, *Stubborn Twig*, 107-211
Start Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Part 1 (Childhood)

Week 8 – May 19-21
Tuesday: World War II: Guest Speaker: Lauren Kessler
Thursday: Film - "Rosie the Riveter"
Read: Finish Kessler, *Stubborn Twig*, 211-277 and be prepared to discuss with the author
Continue Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Part 2 (High School)
Week 9 – May 26-28

**ORAL HISTORY PAPERS DUE: TUESDAY, MAY 26**

**Tuesday:** What’s “Normal” about the 1950s?  
**Thursday:** Lesbians, Prostitutes, and Definitions of Deviance/ Film clip: “Forbidden Love”

**Read:** *Modern American Women*, 206-229; 233-267

Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Part 3 (College)

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Week 10 – June 2-4

**Tuesday:** Women and the "Great Awakening" of the 1960s and 1970s  
**Thursday:** Feminism and Reproductive Politics

**Read:** Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Part 4 (The Movement)

*Modern American Women*, 298-326

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**Final Exam:** Due by 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 9. If you finish writing your paper early, please drop it off at my office: 320 Hendricks.

No electronic copies will be accepted. Thank you!