

## **HIST 154b**

**Spring 2007 m/w/th 12:10-1:00 pm**

**Golding 103**

**Office hours: W/Th 10-12 and by (email) appointment**

## **U.S. Women's History 1600-1865**

**Prof: Tona Hangen**

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### **course description**

This is an introductory course exploring the lives of women in North America from European settlement through the Civil War. Among our topics will be the "history of women's history;" the role of gender in the contact of Native American, African and European cultures; women in religion, including witchcraft; gendered patterns of labor inside and outside the home; the history of sexuality; changing possibilities for female education and expression in the colonial period through the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Whenever possible, we will consider these issues by listening to women's voices as captured in documents such as court records, church trials, poetry, captivity narratives, diaries, and fiction. Materials about black women, Native American women, and women from different classes and regions will encourage discussion of the interplay of race, class and gender in colonial and antebellum America.

The course is also designed to introduce you to conceptual questions about the methods, aims, successes and shortcomings of a gendered approach to history. A variety of projects will familiarize you with the kind of detective work involved in uncovering women's lives in this period, when documentation is often sketchy. These exercises, along with the class readings and discussions, will give you firsthand experience with the process of "doing" (women's) history: finding and interpreting documents and historical artifacts, building arguments, writing and refining good prose, and participating in lively and well-informed scholarly discussion with your colleagues. The class is designed to be accessible to those who have no prior experience with women's history as well as those who do.

### **reading list**

These books are available at the bookstore for your purchase, since we'll read them in their entirety (more or less). They will *not* be available on the course LATTE, so make sure you own these texts and bring them to class on the day we're discussing them. Any other readings will be posted as PDFs on LATTE and also will be placed on library reserve if Brandeis owns the book from which they are excerpted.

Ruth Barnes Moynihan, *Second to None: A Documentary History of American Women, Volume 1* (ISBN 978-0803281) - **S2N** on the syllabus

Sara Evans, *Born for Liberty: A History of Women in America* (ISBN 068-4834987) - **BFL** on the syllabus

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *A Midwife's Tale: the Life of Martha Ballard, Based on her Diary 1785-1812* (ISBN 067-8733760)

Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (ISBN 015-6443503)

Susanna Rowson, *Charlotte Temple* (ISBN 019-5042387)

Lisa Norling, *Captain Ahab Had a Wife: New England Women and Whalefishery, 1720-1870* (ISBN 080-7848700)

### **writing assignments**

Weekly readings and active participation in class discussions are the mainstay of the course, and will count heavily toward your final grade; I consider them essential since we will meet three times a week. You may be asked to submit occasional short (1-2 page) reading response papers, and there will be some pop quizzes given in class. Neither the response papers nor the quizzes will be "graded" but I will keep careful track of whether they are completed, which will be reflected in your class participation grade. In addition to your attendance and lively, informed participation, you will be asked to submit several papers:

- A 3-5 page essay, due Wed 2/13/08, in which you will create an imaginary document and use it to illuminate a particular issue of gender in 17<sup>th</sup> century America and to reflect on the advantages and deficits of existing sources on early American women (Essay #1).
- A 3-5 page essay, due Wed 3/12/08, discussing the lives of American women in the Revolutionary and/or early national periods, based on historical documents chosen from a list of primary sources (Essay #2).
- A 5-7 page essay, due Mon 3/31/08, describing the rise of the ideology of "separate spheres" in early 19<sup>th</sup> century America through an analysis of didactic literature (Essay #3).
- A 3-5 page, due Thurs 4/17/08, a writing assignment based on a short research project in an online database of women's primary source materials. Details to be given later (Essay #4).
- A 7-10 page research paper (Essay #5), due Friday 5/2/08, reconstructing the biography of an ordinary, even obscure, early American woman of your choice. This assignment will give you first-hand experience with the unique problems of uncovering the lives of women in the pre-industrial era and will allow you to reflect more generally about what constitutes pivotal or important events in women's lives. In preparation for this project, you will also submit some written materials in advance - these will be announced later, but may include a proposal, an annotated bibliography, a first draft, or an abstract.

General thoughts on papers: historical prose is an exercise in communication as well as a matter of substance. This means that writing counts: your thoughts need to be expressed in clear, polished, grammatical prose. Your essays should be submitted as clean hard copy, fully cited, *carefully proofread*, with a title and numbered pages. You may use any citation style, as long as you are consistent in its use and provide full references. For assistance with citing sources, consult the "Citing Your Sources" resources on the Brandeis library homepage, or your copy of Diana Hacker, *A Writer's Reference*.

### **grading and course business**

Attend class faithfully and be prepared for our discussions. Please become familiar with the course LATTE page; I make extensive use of this online platform in this course and will update that page frequently. Excessive, unexcused absences or frequent unpreparedness will result in a failing grade for class participation. Also, be aware that I take paper deadlines very seriously. All written work needs to be submitted when due. Computer problems are not an acceptable reason for late work.

#### Your grade will be determined this way:

Attendance and participation	25% (may include pop quizzes and/or short response papers)
Essay #1 - imaginary document	10%
Essay #2 - "new" American	10%
Essay #3 - "spheres"	15%
Essay #4 - web assignment	15%
Essay #5 - biography	25%
	<hr/> 100%

## last words

- If you have a documented disability on record with Brandeis University, and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this course, please consult with me immediately at the outset of the course.
- All work submitted for this course must be your own; plagiarism is intolerable (and easily avoidable) and will be referred to the student judicial system.

## syllabus/ course outline – see LATTE page for details and updates.

#	date	topic	reading	what's due
1	W 1/16	The Pocahontas Problem	(in-class documents & discussion)	
2	Th 1/17	The Why & How of women's history	Kate Haulman, "Defining 'American Women's History'" (PDF) Joan Wallach Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Analysis" (PDF)	
	M 1/21	<i>No class: MLK Holiday</i>		
3	W 1/23	Women in American Prehistory	Lyle Koehler, "Earth Mothers, Warriors, Horticulturists, Artists and Chiefs: Women among the Mississippian and Mississippian-Oneota Peoples, AD 1000-1750" (PDF) BFL Ch 1 (7-19)	
4	Th 1/24	<i>No class today</i>		
5	M 1/28	Women in Encounter and Contact	S2N First Americans (15-24, 29-38) Helen Rountree, "Powhatan Indian Women: the People John Smith Barely Saw" (PDF)	
6	W 1/30	Building Colonies, Migrant Women in the New World	BFL Ch 2 (21-34) S2N Building Colonies (45-57)	Pocahontas Q (short RP)
7	Th 1/31	Demography & Destiny	Lorena Walsh, "'Till Death Do Us Part': Marriage and Family in c17 Maryland" (PDF) S2N (67-69, 71-74)	
8	M 2/4	Puritan Women: Ideal and Reality	S2N (58-67, 70-71, 82-88) Jane Kamensky, "The Misgovernment of Woman's Tongue" (PDF)	
9	W 2/6	Witches and their Accusers	Documents re: Elizabeth Goodman and Bridget Bishop (PDF) John Demos, "The Characteristics of Accused Witches" (PDF)	
10	Th 2/7	War, Race, and Violence on 17 <sup>th</sup> century frontiers	Nancy Shoemaker, "Kateri Tekakwitha's Tortuous Path to Sainthood" (PDF) S2N (90-93)	Witches Q (short RP)
11	M 2/11	18 <sup>th</sup> century America	BFL Ch 2 (34-43) S2N (100-104)	
12	W 2/13	Servants and Slaves in the 18 <sup>th</sup> century South	S2N (104-106, 109-114) Carole Shammas, "The Work of Enslaved Women on Virginia Plantations" (PDF)	Essay #1 - (imaginary c17 doc)
13	Th 2/14	Colonial Women's Work	Elizabeth Drinker's Work (PDF) S2N (115-122) Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, <i>A Midwife's Tale</i> , Introduction & Ch. 2 (Sept 1788)	
	2/18-22	<i>No classes, Univ. holiday</i>		

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14	M 2/25	Nantucket: Part 1	Lisa Norling, <i>Captain Ahab Had a Wife</i> , Ch 1-2	
15	W 2/27	Revolutionary Era	BFL Ch 3	
16	Th 2/28	Documenting women in the Revolutionary period	S2N (155-180)	New Bedford Q (short RP)
17	M 3/3	"After the Storm"	S2N (184-195, 202-204)	
18	W 3/5	Seeing the history in the ordinary	Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, <i>A Midwife's Tale</i> , Ch 4-5, 8, and 10	
19	Th 3/6	Discussion Day	Bring <i>Midwife's Tale</i> , <i>Ahab's Wife</i> , and S2N to class with you Begin reading Susanna Rowson, <i>Charlotte Temple</i> for next time	
20	M 3/10	An American Novel	Susanna Rowson, <i>Charlotte Temple</i> (entire)	
21	W 3/12	Opening the West	No reading; we will view a documentary on Sacagawea	Essay #2 - Rev period
22	Th 3/13	Home and Marketplace	S2N (207-217, 226-238)	
23	M 3/17	Women's Sphere 1	BFL Ch 4 (67-92) Cott, excerpt from <i>Bonds of Womanhood</i> (PDF)	
24	W 3/19	Women's Sphere 2	Caroll Smith-Rosenberg, "The Female World of Love and Ritual" (PDF) Molly McGarry, "Female Worlds: CSR's 'Female World' 25 Years On" (PDF)	
25	Th 3/20	Catherine Beecher says... Intro to didactic literature	S2N (239-244, 247-251) Catharine Beecher, "A Christian Home," Ch 1 of <i>American Woman's Home</i> (see link to Project Gutenberg e-text on the course LATTE page)	Female World Q (short RP)
26	M 3/24	Women fire the Reform & Religion furnace	Lisa Norling, <i>Captain Ahab Had a Wife</i> , Ch. 3 S2N (256-262, 267-281)	
27	W 3/26	Expanding Horizons (for whom?)	S2N (286-292, 313-319, 323-327) Also begin the reading for next time as it's more than usual	
28	Th 3/27	Nantucket: Part 2	Lisa Norling, <i>Captain Ahab Had a Wife</i> , Ch. 4-6 and conclusion	
29	M 3/31	Women's experiences in Utopian communities	Documents re: Shaker, Mormon, and Oneida women (PDF)	Essay #3 - Didactic literature
30	W 4/2	Slave Women's Lives and how we know about them	S2N (293-308, 320-322) Thelma Jennings, "The Sexual Exploitation of African American Slave Women" (PDF)	
31	Th 4/3	Escaping to Freedom	Harriet Jacobs, <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i> (entire)	
32	M 4/7	Free Women of Color	S2N (308-313) Shirley Yee, "Free Black Women in the Abolitionist Movement," and Loren Schweningen, "Free Women of Color in the South" (PDF)	Jacobs Q (Short RP)
33	W 4/9	Uprooted: Native American Women	S2N (331-334, 342-359)	
34	Th 4/10	Cherokee Women, a case study	Cherokee Women's Petitions 1817, 1818 and 1821 (PDF) Wilma Mankiller, "Reflections on Removal, 1993" (PDF) Theda Purdue, "Cherokee Women and the Trail of Tears" (PDF)	

#	date	topic	reading	what's due
35	M 4/14	Spanish-American Women	Ramon Gutierrez, excerpt, <i>When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Went Away</i> (PDF) New Mexico & California documents (PDF) S2N (362-364)	
36	W 4/16	Immigrant Experiences	S2N (364-368, 372-376) One additional reading TBA	
37	Th 4/17	Westering Anglo-European women	S2N (369-372, 376-386) Susan Lee Johnson, " 'Domestic' Life in the Diggings: The Southern Mines in the California Gold Rush" (PDF)	Essay #4 - Database research
	4/21-25	<i>No classes, Univ. holiday</i>		
38	M 4/28	At Mid-19 <sup>th</sup> Century: Discussion Day	BFL Ch. 5 Drew Gilpin Faust, <i>This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War</i> (PDF excerpt)	
39	W 4/30	Did we solve the Pocahontas problem?	No assigned reading: bring your "How-To" page to class	
	Fri 5/2			Essay #5 - Biography