

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

HIST 4233 Modern American Women's History

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Prerequisite: junior standing and HIST 2763 United States History II

Effective Catalog: 2019-20

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Surveys the diversity of women's experiences in America since 1880. An examination of women's expected and changing roles in the domestic setting, the effect of industrialization on women's economic activities and status, and women's involvement in political and social struggles, including but not limited to those for women's civil and personal rights.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the diversity and interconnectedness of women's experiences and roles during American history after 1880 in a gendered context.
2. Support verbally and in writing the economic, family, religious, and political roles played by women in America after 1880.
3. Compare and contrast the lives of American women in regional, socioeconomic, racial and ethnic contexts since 1880.
4. Explain the end of First Wave Feminism, the right to vote, and women's subsequent struggles for political, economic, and personal equality.
5. Evaluate women's role in original conservation movement and later environmental movements.
6. Evaluate women's contributions during the Depression, and in World Wars I and II.
7. Analyze the impact of Second-Wave Feminism on women's lives in America.
8. Predict the outcome of Third Wave Feminism and the end of essentialism in exploring the lives of women in U.S. history.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will draw conclusions and solve problems relating to women's history.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate effectively in a variety of formats and for a variety of audiences in diverse settings.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures than their own.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. The role of female wage labor in the Gilded Age and women of the leisure classes.
- B. How the private sphere of influence for women, and the public sphere of influence for men became the accepted societal convention.
- C. Role of women in an expanding nation; western settlers, immigrants and social crusaders.
- D. The beginnings of feminism.
- E. Women and the Suffrage Movement, seventy years of activism, winning the vote and the passage of the 19th amendment.
- F. Women in World War I.
- G. The emergence of the "New Women;" women in the 1920s, and the beginnings of the Birth Control Movement
- H. Diversity of women's experiences in the Depression.
- I. Women in World War II.
- J. Fifties society; the resurgence of family culture and traditional gender roles, the feminine mystique, women civil rights crusaders.
- K. Sixties feminism (Second Wave), and the ideas and practices of women's liberation; non-violent protest, consciousness raising.
- L. Diversity, race, and feminism.
- M. Changing public policy and awakening public consciousness about issues that impact women; equality in the work place, birth control, rape, domestic violence.
- N. Conservative backlash; the rise of anti-feminism.
- O. The impact and legacy of American feminism.