

## Syllabus

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Office: W 3:00 – 4:00 or by appointment, Sci 267

## HIST 467: Women in the U.S. to 1890

(Section #14596, Fall 2007, W 16:10-18:55, HSS 151)

### Course Description

This course examines the history of the United States to 1890 through the analytical lens of gender and a focus on women. The concept of difference is essential: differences in experiences based on the ascription and enforcement of gender roles and differences within and between women (the intersections of gender with race, ethnicity, class, religion, region, sexual preference, etc.). We begin the class with a critical examination of gender, power and historical sources, as we consider Native American women's lives before, during and after European conquest. We expose the diverse and largely hidden histories of European women's daily lives in early America; women's struggles to expand their influence and roles in political, economic, legal, social and cultural worlds, and forced African migration and enslavement as a gendered experience. We examine the ways, in which the formation and activities of federal, state and local governments have impacted women's lives. We study the significant events in the early women's movement and nineteenth century feminisms and the tangled webs of slavery, anti-slavery and women's rights. Finally, we expand on the themes of gender and difference in the context of national expansion with a close reading of Albert Hurtado's *Intimate Frontiers*.

### Required Books

*Born for Liberty: A History of Women in America* by Sara M. Evans (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1997).

*Women's America: Refocusing the Past, Sixth Edition* edited by Linda K. Kerber and Jane Sherron De Hart (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004).

*Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* by Harriet Jacobs (Minneola, New York: Dover Thrift Editions, 2001).

*Intimate Frontiers: Sex, Gender and Culture in Old California* by Albert L. Hurtado (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1999).

### What are we going to do in-class?

Work together in small groups and pairs, listen attentively and take notes, discuss readings, analyze primary sources, watch films, complete short writing assignments and worksheets, read, evaluate multiple perspectives, and assess and reflect on how and what you're learning.

## Assignments and Grading:

- 60% Essays: There are 3 take-home essays (3 to 5 pages), each of which asks you to summarize, analyze and evaluate the material covered in-class and in our readings in common. Each essay is worth 20% of your overall grade in the class. You will receive detailed instructions and topics in advance.
- 20% Critical Review: In this assignment you have an opportunity to explore the world of e-history as you research a topic of your choice in women's history to 1890, choose two or three academic websites on the subject, and assess the advantages and disadvantages of conducting historical research on the web in a critical review essay (3 to 5 pages).
- 10% Participation & Preparation: You earn points for participation & preparation through brief informal writing assignments that you do either in-class or in preparation for class; helping to lead discussions as part of a group; analyzing primary source documents; and completing quick review exercises or quizzes.
- 10% Post-Test: During the last class meeting, you will be asked you to reflect on what you learned in this class by responding to several short-answer questions and writing a brief reflective essay.

## Due Dates, Late Assignments, Re-writes and Missed Work:

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date indicated in the Schedule or in class. It's your responsibility to know the due dates, even if you are absent. **Always come to class on time, even if your assignment is not done.** Please note that I am unable to accept submission of assignments via email – you will need to turn-in a hardcopy of all written assignments. It's your responsibility to plan ahead and leave time to accommodate technological and printing glitches. That said, you have a little flexibility:

Attached to this Syllabus is one free "Late/Re-Write Coupon." Use it to **turn-in one late assignment, up to one week late, with no penalty or to re-write one assignment and re-turn it within one week.** Otherwise, late work will be penalized 10% for each week that it's late. (So, if something is due at the beginning of class on Tues. the 2<sup>nd</sup> and you turn it in anytime after that, up until the beginning of class on Tues. the 9<sup>th</sup>, then it's within one week late = 10% penalty, assuming you already used your "Late/Re-Write Coupon." Please note: you will not be able to use the "Late/Re-Write Coupon" for in class assignments or the Final Exam.

Making up in-class exams or other work is very difficult. If you know you're not going to be in class on a particular day, then let me know immediately so that we can make arrangements in advance. Otherwise, I can't guarantee that you will be able to make it up.

## Ground Rules:

1. Respect yourself, your classmates, the instructor, the authors and anyone else that makes their way into our classroom. This class places a high value on a wide range of opinions. Inappropriate or offensive language or behavior will not be

- tolerated = you will be asked to leave the class immediately. Side conversations, passing notes or engaging in other distracting behavior is disrespectful. Please just step out of the classroom if you have non-class business to attend to.
2. Come to class, arrive on time and be prepared to work! Missing class, being late or leaving early is disrespectful. Besides, it will affect your grade. If you miss six or more class hours it will be hard to get a good grade and I may drop you from the class.
  3. If you do miss class, it's your responsibility to review the Schedule and contact another student or the instructor to get class notes and handouts and make-up what you missed. (But you cannot make-up participation exercises that occurred in-class during the day/s you missed.)
  4. We have very limited time together and in-class time is productive time focused on Women's History. Turn off your cell phones, pagers, etc. (In case of emergency, a sick child that may need to contact you or if you're a doctor on-call, for example, inform me ahead of time, keep your phone on vibrate and step out of the classroom before answering.) Put away your CD's, magazines and work from other classes. Save your social life for after class and catch-up on your sleep elsewhere.
  5. Please remember to use the restroom and get a drink of water before class, but if you need to step out briefly during class, just do it. You don't need to ask. Make yourself comfortable, otherwise it's hard to learn.

### **Academic Integrity:**

While I encourage you to study with other students in the class, your written work for this class must reflect original, independent work. In short:

Don't cheat, please! If you don't understand an assignment or if you are falling behind for any reason at all, please ask for help. I promise you that you are not stupid, nor are you the first or last to ask. Besides, if you are caught cheating, the consequences are severe. You will receive a zero for any assignment in which you copy (or provide copies for) or plagiarize another student, book, website, etc.. In addition, I reserve the right to drop you from this class permanently for any infringement.

Please note: "cheating," "plagiarism" and "academic dishonesty," are complicated to define. We'll talk and read more about it in class as well as practice citing sources, but ultimately it's your responsibility to understand what it means. **For San Francisco State's policies, look in the *University Bulletin* under "Policies and Regulations".** Please ask in advance, if you have any questions at all.