

AMH 3931

American Women in the 19th Century

Fall 2019

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Keene-Flint 203

MWF | Period 5 (11:45 AM - 12:35 PM)
FLI 0105

Office Hours MW 3:00-5:00
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Course Summary

The nineteenth century was a fascinating time of flux for American women. Despite commonly acknowledged cultural rules limiting the public behavior of women, various individuals and groups challenged these dominant gender norms in all sorts of arenas. During this semester we will explore a ways in which women entered the public arena during this period. Lectures and discussion topics will range from activists and reformers, to novelists and orators, to slave owners and the enslaved, to seamstresses.

In addition to text and documents from the main textbook (*Through Women's Eyes*), we will be reading and discussing three novels written by American women.

Class Meetings and Preparation

This course will combine occasional traditional lectures with the intensive discussion of books, articles, and a range of primary sources. Students will also have the opportunity to present the products of modest primary research. Attendance is mandatory. More than two absences will result in automatic deductions from your final average. You are expected to attend all classes with *notes* on the assigned readings. You will have periodic open note quizzes on the assigned readings. You should also make every effort to be on time!

My goal is to create a lively, civil, class community, where students are engaging with each other as much as they are talking to me. Because of these core goals, *no computers or other electronic devices are allowed in class*. If you are the sort (many of us are) who feel compelled to sneak peaks at your phone every few minutes, please turn your phone off and hide it in a bag before class begins.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. Generally speaking, if planned (approved) events are going to require you to miss class, you will be given additional work.

Canvas Web Site

This class will make limited use of the class web site on Canvas.
I will link this syllabus and the three paper/presentation assignments on Canvas.
I will also create links to additional assigned readings.
And, finally, there will be a page with links to useful primary sources.
We will not use Canvas for class discussions or grades.

Readings for Purchase

The following books should be available in the bookstore and also on line. You should bring the assigned books to class whenever there is an assignment from the book. Please only acquire and read print copies of each book (no digital version, Kindle, etc.).

Dubois and Dumenil, *Through Women's Eyes*, 4th edition (2015). (or, see below)

This is an excellent textbook in American women's history, which combines a concise narrative with excellent documents and images. For many weeks you will be asked to read short sections of chapters as background for class discussions. I will also ask you to prepare specific documents for discussion for many days. So it is crucial that you take careful notes and bring the book on those days. Note that *Through Women's Eyes* (TWE) has gone through several editions. Some are only available in a large edition that spans all of U.S. History. The 2nd and 3rd editions of this book are fine if you can get them instead. For the assignments (below) I have listed the page numbers for Volume 4, but I have also added short descriptions of the assignments so you can (we hope) find the right pages for other volumes.

- **Hannah Foster, *The Coquette* (1797; Oxford 1987, Davidson, editor).** ISBN: 0195042395
This is a very popular novel published in 1797. You do not have to read Davidson's "Introduction," but I would like you read the version edited by Davidson (so that the page numbers are the same for everyone).
- **Harriett Wilson, *Our Nig* (1859; Dover 2005).** ISBN: 0486445615
This autobiographical novel is generally understood to be the first novel written by an African American. Please acquire this edition.
- **Willa Cather, *My Antonia* (1918; Vintage Classic, 2018).** ISBN: 0525562877.
This novel is described as one of the great novels in the history of American literature.
Please acquire this edition so we all have the same pagination.

Assignments

You will write three short (3-5 pp.) essays this semester. The first two will involve connecting a very small piece of research with the larger themes discussed in class. The third will be your response to the three novels. Each assignment will be discussed as the due date approaches.

You should not use any outside sources in preparing these papers. (No googling, no Wikipedia etc.)

In writing papers, be certain to give proper credit whenever you use words, phrases, ideas, arguments, and conclusions drawn from someone else's work. Failure to give credit by quoting and/or footnoting is PLAGIARISM and is unacceptable. Please review the University's honesty policy at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.htm>

In addition to these regulations on plagiarism, please understand that I will take *any* instance of cheating or intentional dishonesty very seriously. This would include any form of dishonesty on the most minor quiz or offering an untrue excuse for a missed class or late assignment.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure and meet with me during my office hours in the first week of class.

Grading

Class Participation, Presentations and Preparation (This grade will include periodic quizzes)	20%
Short Essays (20%, 20%, 20%)	60%
Final Examination (take home)	20%

Missed classes or persistent lateness will result in substantial grade reductions. For more information on the grading policy see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Participation Grades will Reflect

- Coming to class prepared to discuss readings.
- Active engagement in discussions (and when your classmates are presenting).
- Success on very simple 10 point (unannounced) reading quizzes, which measure preparation.
- Presentations in class.

Attendance and other Deductions

- After two absences, the final grade number will be for each additional unexcused absence.
- If a student is habitually late, this will result in a reduction off the final grade.
- Please do not text or use electronic devices during class! This will result in grade reductions.

Course Evaluations

Students in this class are participating in the pilot evaluation of the new course evaluation system called GatorEvals. The new evaluation system is designed to be more informative to instructors so that teaching effectiveness is enhanced and to be more seamlessly linked to UF's CANVAS learning management system. Students can complete their evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under

GatorEvals, or via https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_ufl.bluera.com_ufl_&d=DwIGaQ&c=sJ6xIWYx-zLMB3EPkvcnVg&r=1qtWVKU2uNohMAWR5pYYVu0F_ty9jxk4wL-DcSEfmKub76k8eaDIYyGQkZMpCQZ6&m=KCQMaruvDccGkQ95LBWWejChKpHp_d3olzGps63zo0Ao&s=2ry1lk1Sd2MT9xMTXgaRslOLmzE7-Mky8W2E_HUO3wQ&e= . Please note your other classes this semester may be

evaluated in the current GatorRater online evaluation system at
[<https://evaluations.ufl.edu><<https://evaluations.ufl.edu>]/<https://evaluations.ufl.edu><<https://evaluations.ufl.edu>> . Thank you for serving as a partner in this important effort.

CLASS MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

PRESCRIPTIONS FOR WOMEN

1. W August 21 Introductions
2. F August 23 Rules and Prescriptions

3. M August 26 *DISCUSS: Barbara Welter*
 Read: [Barbara Welter, "The Cult of True Womanhood: 1820-1860,"](#)
 American Quarterly 18 (Summer, 1966): 151-174. See link on Canvas

4. W August 28 Fiction and Prescription
5. F August 30 Discuss: *The Coquette*
 Read: Hannah Foster, *The Coquette*. You do not have to read Davidson's
 Introduction, but I would like you read the version edited by Davidson (so
 that the page numbers are the same for everyone).

M September 2 LABOR DAY

WHAT IS A REPUBLICAN MOTHER?

6. W September 4 *Politics and Gender during War*
 Read: TWE: 98-112, 134-9, 146-7.
 Chapter 3: *Mothers and Daughters in the Revolution*, (a) from beginning to
 "Revolutionary Legacies"; (b) "Visual Sources" section; (c) Document by
 Benjamin Rush.
7. F September 6 *Remember the Ladies?*
 Read: [Letters from Abigail and John Adams](#)

THE NEW NATION

8. M September 9 *Race and the War's Legacies*
 Read: Read: TWE, 104-7, 140-4. [first part repeats earlier assignment]
 Chapter 3, (a) sections on Native American women, and on African American
 women (about 6 pages); (b) Documents by Phillis Wheatley.
9. W September 11 *Domesticity*
 Read: TWE, 154-63.
 First part of Chapter 4.
10. F September 13 *Lowell Girls*
 Read: TWE, 163-171.
 Section of Chapter 4 on labor, including labor at Lowell.

DECODING PRESCRIPTION

11. M September 16 Presentations

12. W September 18 Presentations
13. F September 20 Presentations
Essay #1 Due in Class

GENDER AND SLAVERY

14. M September 23 *The Institution of Slavery*
Read: TWE, 172-187.
End of Chapter 4, various topics on slavery.
15. W September 25 *Resisting Slavery: Two Accounts*
Read: TWE, 193-200.
Chapter 4, two documents on slavery.
16. F September 27 *Abolitionism and Gender*
Read: TWE, 233-238.
Chapter 5, section on abolitionism.

REFORMING WOMEN

17. M September 30 *Varieties of Reform*
Read: TWE, 238-43 (also review pages on abolitionism).
Chapter 5, section on Women's Rights and reform.
18. W October 2 *Seneca Falls*
Read: TWE, Appendix A1-A3.
Seneca Falls, "Declaration of Sentiments." In the Appendix.
F October 4 Homecoming

HARRIET WILSON, NOVELIST

19. M October 7 An African American Novel
20. W October 9 *Discuss: Our Nig - I*
Read: Wilson, *Our Nig*
21. F October 11 *Discuss: Our Nig - II*

WOMEN IN PUBLIC

22. M October 14 *Women in the street*
Read: Christine Stansell, "Women, Children, and the Uses of the Streets: Class and Gender Conflict in New York City, 1850-1860," *Feminist Studies* Vol. 8, No. 2 (Summer, 1982), pp. 309-335. Linked to Canvas
23. W October 16 *Women and Wartime*
Read: Read: TWE, 279-286.
24. F October 18 *Anna E. Dickinson in Public*

PRESENTATIONS: IN SEARCH OF WOMEN IN PUBLIC

- M October 21 No Class
25. W October 23 Presentations
26. F October 25 Presentations
Essay #2 Due in Class

IN SEARCH OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS

27. M October 28 *Suffrage and Reform*
Read: TWE, 282-294; 353-357; A14, A24-26.

- Chapter 6, first section through Ida B. Wells.
28. W October 30 *Race and Reconstruction*
 Read: TWE, 292-297; 314-318.
 Chapter 6: (a) short section on race and Reconstruction; (b) Document from Ida B. Wells,
29. F November 1 No class: Gallman out of town
30. M November 4 *Working Women*
 Read: TWE, 294-302, 319-324.
 Chapter 6 (a) Short section on Working Women ; (b) Document, “The Woman Who Toils.”
31. W November 6 *Gender and the Constitution*
 Read: TWE, A4, A5, A6.
 Three Supreme Court cases in the Appendix.
- F November 8 No Class: Gallman out of town

WILLA CATHER’S AMERICA

- M November 11 VETERAN’S DAY
32. W November 13 *Immigration, Displacement and Cultural Difference*
 Read: TWE, 344-363, 376-379
 Chapter 7, (a) first 20 pages, much on migration; (b) Document “American Indian Stories.”
33. F November 15 Willa Cather, *My Antonia*
34. M November 18 Willa Cather, *My Antonia*
35. W November 20 *Discussion: Novelists and Gender History*
Essay #3 Due in Class
36. F November 22 *Jane Addams and the Settlement House Movement*
 Read: TWE, 368-70, 281-286.
 Chapter 7: (a) short section on Settlement Houses; (b) Document by Jane Addams.

THE END OF THE CENTURY

37. M November 25 *Picturing Women at the end of the Century*
 W November 27 Thanksgiving
 F November 29 Thanksgiving
38. M December 2 *Conclusions*
 39. W December 4 *Prepare for Take home*

December 10 Take Home due at 12:30 (exam period)