Preliminary: Final Syllabus will be posted by Jan. 16
This gives you a “sense” of the course & required texts

Winter 2012
HISTORY 263: U.S. Women’s History

Instructor: Dr. Mara Dodge
Use PLATO e-mail only

Office Hours: TBA (Usually Tues. & Wed. approx.12-3:00)

Course Description: This course explores all of American women’s history from the
colonial period to the present. There is a daunting amount of material to cover in just 7
weeks so be prepared for a heavy reading load. The course provides an excellent overview/
review of all of U.S. history with a special emphasis on women’s experiences and
contributions.

Major themes include: changing ideas about women’s “proper place” in society; the history
of the women’s rights movement; women’s role in social reform; changing ideas about
sexuality, family, and reproduction; images of beauty and the “feminine ideal”; women and
work; and movements for civil and legal rights.

The course emphasizes the diversity of women’s experiences. We explore the unique
experiences of specific European ethnic/ immigrant groups (ex. Irish, Italian, etc.) as well as
the experiences of African-American, Native American, Asian-American, Latina, Jewish,
Muslim, and lesbian women. The course makes extensive use of primary source materials.

Note: Westfield State University assumes that a student will need to spend 14-18
hours a week to complete a 3 credit, on-line course in 7 weeks. These hours include
all weekly course work and may include such activities as: textbook readings and
assignments, watching videos, viewing Powerpoints, listening to podcasts, taking quizzes
and exams, conducting research, writing essays/papers, posting to class discussion boards,
and completing any other assigned weekly activities.

Required Texts:

   This is a very easy-to-read and engaging narrative that many students greatly enjoy.

2. Ellen Skinner, Women and the National Experience: Sources in American History,
   Make sure to order the correct edition (2011). This is a collection of primary sources or first hand
   accounts by women.

3. On-Line Readings posted in each week’s Plato folder
   In addition, there will be Powerpoints and Videos posted for each week.
Assignments/ Grading:

Will consist of weekly assignments, including on-line discussions, quizzes, midterm, final, and most likely 2 essays (3-4 pages) based on assigned readings.

PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS

WEEK #1  Native American Women, Colonial Women, American Revolution, & the Early Republic (1607-1820)

View Powerpoints:
Watch Video Clips:

On-Line Readings,

Native American Women: General Historical Overview
History of Sexuality in America: European vs. Native American Views
The Celebration of Difference: Berdache Among Native Americans
History of Native American Lesbians or “Two Spirited” Women
Phyllis Wheatley Poem, 1773
Abigail Adams’ Letters to John Adams 1776

History of Women in America, Ch. 1-3 and 5 (pp. 2-39 and 64-75)

WEEK #2:  Slave Women, Women & Abolition, 1st Women’s Movement, Lowell Factory Workers, & Civil War (1800-65)

View Powerpoints:
Watch Video Clips:

History of Women in America, Ch. 4, 6, 7, 8 (pp. 40-63 and 76-155)

Women & the National Experience: TBA

On-Line Readings, TBA
WEEK #3: 19th Century Women’s Movement, the West, European Immigrant Women in the Cities, and Victorian Sexuality, 1865-1910

*History of Women in America*, Ch. 10-12 (pp. 156-217)

*Women & the National Experience*: TBA

*On-Line Readings*, TBA

WEEK #4: Women in Progressive Era, Women Workers & Union Activists, Winning the Vote, 1890-1920

*History of Women in America*, Ch. 12-14 (pp. 192-265) and Ch. 15: Alice Paul section only, pp. 278-84

*Women & the National Experience*: TBA

WEEK #5: Women 1920-50: Flappers, Birth Control, Great Depression, New Deal, and WWII

*History of Women in America*, Ch. 16-17 (pp. 285-322)

*Women & the National Experience*: TBA


*History of Women in America*, Ch. 18-19 (pp. 323-73)

*Women & the National Experience*: TBA

WEEK #7: Women 1970-2010

*Women & the National Experience*: TBA

*On-Line Readings*, TBA