

**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

Tel. 413-572-5620  
Office: Bates 104

**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:**

1. Carol Hymowitz and Michaela Weissman, ***A History of Women in America*** (1978)  
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, Combined Volume, 3/E*** (2011) ISBN-10: 0205743153 ISBN-13: 9780205743155 Pearson  
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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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: 19<sup>th</sup> 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*

**WEEK #6: Women 1950-70: Suburbia, Modern Women's Movement, & Civil Rights**

*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