

"I wish I were [fond of history]. I read it a little as a duty, but it tells me nothing that does not either vex or weary me. The quarrels of popes and kings, with wars or pestilences, in every page; the men all so good for nothing, and hardly any women at all—it is very tiresome...." Northanger Abbey (1803), Jane Austen

**American Women, American Womanhood:
Colonial Era through the Civil War**
(HIUS 156)

Prof. Rebecca Jo Plant
Fall 2012

T/TR 9:30-10:50 p.m. in Warren Lecture Hall 2205
Prof. Plant's office: HSS 4062
Office hours: Tuesdays, noon-2 p.m.
Email: rjp@ucsd.edu

Course description: This course examines the history of American women from colonial times through Reconstruction. We will explore women's changing status and experiences from a range of perspectives — political, economic, legal, social and cultural. Major areas of inquiry will include: the strategies that women pursued in attempting to attain political power; their roles as producers and consumers in an evolving economy; cultural attitudes toward female sexuality and motherhood; and the relationship between gender ideologies and divisions based on race and class.
Requirements

Course requirements: A two-page document analysis (15%), a short essay (25%), a midterm (25%), and a final examination (35%). The midterm will consist of a series of short answer questions. The final will have identifications, short answer questions, and two essay questions. Answers to the identifications should be roughly two sentences and should identify the person, event, or term and briefly explain its significance. Short answer questions require a paragraph-long response. Essay responses should be roughly five-paragraphs.

Policy regarding late papers: I will accept late papers without penalty only if an extension is requested by email at least seven days in advance of the due date. Otherwise, a letter grade will be deducted for each day beyond the due date.

Grading scale: 97-100 A+ 94-96 A 90-93 A- 87-89 B+ 84-86 B 80-83 B- 77-79 C+ 74-76 C 70-73 C- Etc. Grading for this class will not be on a scale.

Academic integrity: I take the issue of academic integrity very seriously, and I will report suspected cases of cheating or plagiarism. Indeed, as a UCSD professor, if I suspect evidence of cheating or plagiarism in my class, I am required by the Office of the Academic Integrity Coordinator to file a report. (See the "Instructors'

Responsibility” and “Students’ Responsibility” sections of the University’s Academic Integrity Statement.) Please do not make me take this step.

The problem of plagiarism has become more pervasive since the rise of the internet. Obviously, purchasing a paper or taking a paper (or any part of paper) off of a website violates the principles of academic integrity. But plagiarism is not limited to these flagrant examples. Any time you take a sentence, or even a phrase, from another person's work without using quotation marks and providing proper attribution, you are plagiarizing. When you write a paper, the best way to avoid plagiarism is to do all the necessary reading, including on-line reading, in advance. Once you begin to write, you should not go on-line again until the paper is done. If you have any questions as to what is or is not plagiarism, please review the attached MLA statement. If you still have questions, please contact me.

Books

- Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *Good Wives: Image and Reality in the Lives of Women in Northern New England, 1650-1750*, New York: Random House, 1991 (orig. 1980)
- Hannah W. Foster, *The Coquette* (1797), ed. Cathy N. Davidson, New York: Oxford University Press, 1986
- Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1861), ed. L. Maria Child, New York: Dover Publications, 2001
- Kathryn Kish Sklar, *Women’s Rights Emerges within the Anti-Slavery Movement, 1830-1870: A Short History with Documents*, Boston: Bedford/St. Martin, 2000
- Drew Faust, *Mothers of Invention: Women of the Slaveholding South in the American Civil War*, New York: Vintage, 1997 (orig. 1996)

Weekly Schedule

9/27 Introduction

Week 1: Women’s Status in the British Colonies

10/2 The Gendered Order of Colonial New England

10/4 The Gendered (Dis)order of the Chesapeake

Ulrich, *Goodwives*, 3-10, 35-50, 68-86, 106-25, 146-63

Walsh, “Till Death Do Us Part”

Week 2: “Heathens” and “Disorderly” Women

10/9 Native Americans and Anglo-American Colonists: Contact and Conflict

10/11 Dissenters and Witches

Reis,

Ulrich, *Goodwives*, 89-105, 167-83, 202-35

Week 3: Gender, Society and Politics in the Eighteenth Century

10/16 Women and the Social Change in the Eighteenth Century

10/18 Women and the American Revolution

WRITING ASSSIGNMENT #1 DUE

Dayton, "Taking the Trade"

Norton, "Eighteenth-Century American Women in Peace and War"

Week 4: Post-Revolutionary Era

10/23 A Revolution for Women?

10/25 The Rise of the Novel

Foster, *The Coquette*

Week 5: Biological Reproduction and Women's Lives

10/30 Pregnancy and Childbirth

11/1 MIDTERM

Lewis and Lockridge

Week 6: Gender, Race and Labor in Antebellum American

11/6 The Cherokee and Indian Removal

11/8 11/20 Plantation Slavery as Gender System

Perdue, "Cherokee Women and the Trail of Tears"

Hershberger, "Mobilizing Women, Anticipating Abolition"

Gerda Lerner, "The Lady and the Mill Girl"

Dublin, "Women, Work and Protest in the Early Lowell Mills" [access at

http://invention.smithsonian.org/centerpieces/whole_cloth/u2ei/u2materials/dublin.html]

Larcom, excerpt from *New England Girlhood* [access at Project Gutenberg, www.gutenberg.org]

Week 7: Domestic Ideology and Social Realities

11/13 True Women and Moral Mothers

11/15 Women and Wage Labor in the North

Lewis, "Mother's Love"

Farragher and Stansell, "Women and Their Families on the Overland Trail" [access at http://www.swanet.org/twitter/overland_trail.pdf]

Sigourney, *Letters to Mothers*, preface, letters 1, 5, 9 [access at Internet Archive, archive.org]

Stansell, "Women, Children, and the Uses of the Streets"

Week 8: The Female Slave Narrative

11/20 Harriet Jacobs and Women's History

Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (pages TBA)

11/22 THANKSGIVING

Week 9: Woman's Rights and Suffrage

11/27 Women and the Anti-Slavery Cause

11/29 The Woman's Rights Movement

Sklar, 1-76, docs. 3-5, 7, 14, 16, 31, 34, 39-43, 49-54

WRITING ASSSIGNMENT #2 DUE

Week 10: The Civil War and Its Aftermath

12/4 Wartime Sacrifices

12/6 Postwar Disappointments

Faust, *Mothers of Invention*, 3-79, 234-254

12/13, 8-11 a.m. FINAL