

Government 109: Women's Lives Across the Twentieth Century

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Office hours: Wednesday, 8:45am – 10:45am

Class meetings:
Spring 2005: Monday and Wednesday 11:00 – 12:20; Zilkha 202

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Course Description

This course examines how major political events of the last century shaped women's lives. Using gender as a lens to examine the twentieth century, we will look at a variety of issues including women and work, feminist movements, and women and Islam. The texts for the course are a mixture of literature, history and social science. This class will primarily be discussion oriented and I expect students to participate on a regular basis. The course also allows students to pursue topics of particular interest through the final paper.

Course Requirements

The course requirements and grade distribution for the course are as follows:

15% - First short essay (3-4 pages)	Due to writing tutor February 11th Due to professor February 21st
20% - Second short essay (4-5 pages)	Due to writing tutor March 4th Due to professor March 28th
15% - Draft of final paper (10 pages)	Due to writing tutor and professor April 15th
30% - Final paper (10 pages)	Due to professor May 13th
5% - Presentation on final paper	
15% - Participation	

The participation grade consists of both in-class contributions to the discussion and a variety of small assignments throughout the course. I will keep track of how often each person speaks in class. This class requires you to write two shorter essays and one longer, final paper. The short essay assignments will be handed out 7 – 10 days prior to the due date and I will choose the topics. You will select the topic for your final paper, subject to my approval. A draft of this paper is due April 15th and the final version is due May 13th. We will spend the last two weeks of class hearing presentations from everyone on their research papers. I will pass out more information on both the presentations and the research paper later in the semester.

Obtaining Course Readings

The list of readings (see below) notes where each text can be obtained. I will also place hard copies of *all* readings on reserve at Olin. Many of the readings will also be available through electronic reserve.

Course Policies

Students are required to complete all readings and attend each class period prepared to talk about the readings. I expect you to have finished the entire set of readings listed for a particular week by the Monday class meeting unless otherwise specified the week before. **All assignments are due at 4pm in the Government Department office in the Public Affairs Center.** Extensions and incompletes will not be granted under any circumstances other than significant and verifiable personal emergencies (e.g., serious illness, death in family). Late work will be penalized one full grade per day.

All work that you submit must be your own. You must cite all sources used in completing the assignments using a standard form of citation. If you are unsure how to use proper citation form, please ask me or the writing tutor. Failure to use proper citation is plagiarism. You must adhere to all aspects of the honor code. Please write on each assignment: “No aid. No violation.” Please sign your name next to that statement.

Class Schedule

January 19
Introduction

January 24 – 26
Introduction and Theory

Readings: Wesleyan’s First Women (Women’s Studies Department website)

<http://www.wesleyan.edu/wmst/women.html>

Scott, Joan Wallach. 1999. "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," in Joan Wallach Scott, *Gender and the Politics of History*. New York: Columbia University Press. pp. 28 – 52 (Chapter 2).

Peterson, V. Spike and Anne Sisson Runyan. 1993. *Global Gender Issues*. Boulder: Westview Press. pp. 1 – 44 (Chapters 1 and 2).

January 31 – February 2
Across the 20th Century: Part I

Reading: De Bernières, Louis. 1994. *Corelli's Mandolin*. New York: Pantheon. Chapters 1 through 27 (pp. 1 – 188). Broad Street Books.

February 7
Across the 20th Century: Part II

Reading: De Bernières, Louis. 1994. *Corelli's Mandolin*. New York: Pantheon. Chapters 28 – 73 (pp. 188 – 437). Broad Street Books.

February 9
Library Visit

No reading. Class meets in the Develin room, second floor of Olin library.

February 14 – 16
Gaining the Right to Vote

Reading: Tong, Rosemarie Putnam. 1998. *Feminist Thought: A More Comprehensive Introduction*. Second Edition. Boulder & San Francisco: Westview Press. Chapter 1 "Liberal Feminism" (pp. 10 – 44). Broad Street Books.

Van Voris, Jacqueline. 1996. *Carrie Chapman Catt: A Public Life*. New York: The Feminist Press. Chapters 1 – 16; (skim chapters 1 – 5). Broad Street Books.

February 21 – 23

Women's Suffrage Outside the United States

Reading: Pateman, Carole. 1994. "Three Questions about Womanhood Suffrage," in Caroline Daley and Melanie Nolan (eds.) *Suffrage and Beyond: International Feminist Perspectives*, New York: New York University Press, pp. 331 – 348.

Holton, Sandra Stanley. 1990. " 'In sorrowful wrath': suffrage militancy and the romantic feminism of Emmeline Pankhurst," in Harold L. Smith (ed.) *British Feminism in the Twentieth Century*, Amherst: The University of Massachusetts Press, pp. 7-24.

February 28 – March 2

**World War II: Women at Work
Rosie the Riveter**

The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter (in-class video).

Readings: Gluck, Sherna Berger. 1987. *Rosie the Riveter Revisted: Women, The War, and Social Change*. Boston: Twayne Publishers.
Chapters 1 and 12 (pp. 2 – 18; pp. 258 – 270).
On-line reserve.

Tong, Rosemarie Putnam. 1998. *Feminist Thought: A More Comprehensive Introduction*. Second Edition. Boulder & San Francisco: Westview Press.
Chapter 3 "Marxist and Socialist Feminism (pp. 94 – 129).
Broad Street Books.

SPRING BREAK!!!

March 21 – 23

World War II

Reading: Yoshimi, Yoshiaki. 1995. *Comfort Women: Sexual Slavery in the Japanese Military During World War II*. New York: Columbia University Press. (pp. 1 – 76, pp. 98- 152).
Broad Street Books.

Owings, Alison. 1993. *Frauen: German Women Recall the Third Reich*. New Jersey: Rutgers University Press.
Frau Martha Brixius: The Ambivalence of Avoidance
Frau Regina Frankenfeld: "I Am Never Dishonest"
On-line reserve.

March 28 – 30

The 1950s: Happy Homemakers?

Reading: Friedan, Betty. 2001 (originally 1963). *The Feminine Mystique*. New York: W. W. Norton & Co.
Chapters 1 – 5, Chapter 7, Epilogue (pp. 15 – 125; pp. 150 – 182; pp. 379 – 396).
Broad Street Books.

Recommended: Introductory material. Chapters 8 – 14.

April 4 - 6

Radical Feminism and the Women's Movement in the United States

Readings: Tong, Rosemarie Putnam. 1998. *Feminist Thought: A More Comprehensive Introduction*. Second Edition. Boulder & San Francisco: Westview Press.
Chapter 2 "Radical Feminism: Libertarian and Cultural Perspectives" (pp. 45 – 93).
Broad Street Books.

Echols, Alice. 1989. *Daring to Be Bad: Radical Feminism in America, 1967 – 1975*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
Chapter 4 "Varieties of Radical Feminism – Redstockings, Cell 16, The Feminists, New York Radical Feminists" (pp. 139 – 203).
On-line reserve.

April 11

Multicultural and Global Feminism

Readings: hooks, bell. 1991 (originally 1981). *Ain't I A Woman: black women and feminism*. Boston: South End Press.
Introduction.
On-line reserve.

Tong, Rosemarie Putnam. 1998. *Feminist Thought: A More Comprehensive Introduction*. Second Edition. Boulder & San Francisco: Westview Press.
Chapter 7 “Multicultural and Global Feminism” (pp. 212 – 245).
Broad Street Books.

April 13, 18

Women and Islam: Veiling

Readings: Göle, Nilüfer. 1996. *The Forbidden Modern: Civilization and Veiling*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.
Chapter 4 (pp. 83 – 130).
On-line reserve.

Ahmed, Leila. 1992. *Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
Chapter 8 (pp. 144 – 168).
On-line reserve.

Covered (in-class video).

April 20, April 25, April 27, May 2
Student Presentations