HIST 4650: Women and Gender in the US West
Spring 2016
T/TH 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm
Old Main117

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Course Description

This course will examine the interconnected histories of women in the US West, exploring how gender, race, and class shaped their experiences. Moving from pre-contact through the mid twentieth century, students will explore how colonialism and migrations impacted the lives of diverse groups of women, including but not limited to their family lives, how they made a living, and the types of communities they built.

Upon completion of this class students will develop:

- **historical knowledge**: exploring questions of change over time, about the ways that gender shaped systems of power and cultural experience in the West

- **historical thinking**: comparing the ways that class, race and ethnicity shaped the lives of women in the West in different ways.

- **historical skills**: building critical thinking skills through analysis of a variety of texts, including historical documents and visual materials and employing those insights to construct historical arguments

You will be required to read the assigned readings, attend video showings, and come to class prepared to integrate what you have learned in discussions. Attending class is very important! What we discuss will not be easy to "look-up" in a textbook or on a website. It is your responsibility to participate in creating a dynamic and respectful intellectual climate by coming to class on time, prepared, and ready to discuss the assigned readings.

Please note: Plagiarism policy

Plagiarism is a serious offense and will not be tolerated. According to USU policy, plagiarism is: "representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes using materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the sale of term papers or other academic materials." Please see the USU academic affairs website for a description of penalties (which are severe) and for more information. URL:
http://www.usu.edu/studentservices/studentcode/article6.cfm
Required Books:

- Additional readings are posted on Canvas. These pdf files and websites are indicated on the syllabus by “**”.

Assignments and Grading:

1. **Term Paper**, (100 points) 1700-2000 words. (roughly 7-8 pages, double spaced) (due April 12)
2. **Mid term** (100 points) (March 3)
3. **Canvas discussion questions** (50 points -- 10 points for each)
4. **Final** (100 points) (May 5)

Reading Assignment Schedule

**Why Study Women and Gender in the West? Methodological and Theoretical Questions**

**January 12: Introductions and Expectations**

**January 14: Whose West? Women and Gender in US Western History**

- Susan Lee Johnson, "A Memory Sweet to Soldiers": The Significance of Gender in the History of the "American West."
- Antonia Castañeda, "Women of Color and the Rewriting of Western History, the Discourse, Politics, and Decolonization of History."

**January 19: Confronting Nostalgia: Women and Gender in Western Popular Culture**

- Rayna Green, “The Pocahontas Perplex: The Image of Indian Women in American Culture."
  [http://www.salon.com/2012/10/10/little_house_on_the_prairie_tea_party_manifesto/](http://www.salon.com/2012/10/10/little_house_on_the_prairie_tea_party_manifesto/)

**Gender, Race and Colonialism**

**January 21: Native American Diversity, Land, Culture, and Gender**

January 26: A Pueblo Example -- Discussion


Post your response to Canvas discussion question

January 28: Native American Women and the Colonial Economy

- *Choices and Chances*, Chapter 2: Contact Between Natives and Newcomers, 26-47.
- Sylvia Van Kirk, “The Role of Native American Women in Fur Trade Society.” *

February 2: Spanish Colonial Societies – New Mexico and California

- “Testimonio of Apolinaria Lorenzana”*
- “Testimonio of Teresa de la Guerra”*

Post your response to Canvas discussion question

February 4: Surviving Dispossession: American Indian Women in the 19th Century

- *Choices and Chances*, Chapter 4: Native American Women, 73-103.
- “Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins.”*
- “Cherokee Women Petition, 1817.”*

February 9: Women and US settler societies

- The Personal Writings of Eliza Roxcy Snow, “A Growling, Grumbling, Devilish, Sickly Time.”*

February 11: Women and US settler societies, part 2

- “Willianna Hickman.”*
- “Homesteading on the Plains: the Ava Speese Day Story.”*
- “Annette White-Parks, “Beyond Stereotypes: Chinese Pioneer Women.”*
- “Elinor Prewitt Stewart.”*

February 16th: No Class – Follow Monday Class Schedule

Gender, Sexuality, and Industrialization

February 18: The Uneven Impact of the Gold Rush

- *Choices and Chances*, Chapter 6: Women and Mining, 125-144.
- Luzena Stanley Wilson, '49er.”*
February 23: Discussion: Frontier Sexualities

- Peter Boag, “Sexuality, Gender, and Identity in Great Plains History and Myth.”*
- Albert L. Hurtado, “When Strangers Met: Sex and Gender on Three Frontiers.”*
- Peggy Pascoe, “Engendering Miscegenation.”*

Post your response to Canvas discussion question

February 25: Gender and the Industrialization of the Family Farm


March 1: Mid Term Review

March 3: Mid Term

March 8-10: No Class -- Spring Break

March 15: Discussion: *My Ántonia*

you should have finished reading *My Ántonia* by today
Post your response to Canvas discussion question

March 17: Film: *A Jury of Her Peers*

**Gender, Politics and Reform in the West**

March 22: Women and turn-of-the-century Social Movements

- *Choices and Chances*, Chapter 8: Women and Politics, 170-204.

March 24: Reservation Life – class discussion

  (You should have finished reading by Pretty-Shield by now)

Post your response to Canvas discussion question

**Twentieth Century Migrations**

March 29: El Norte -- Mexican Women and Migration


March 31: African American Migrations

- Barbara Y. Welke, “Rights of Passage: Gendered-Rights Consciousness and the Quest for Freedom, San Francisco, California, 1850-1870.”*
April 5: The Great Depression and the Dust Bowl

- *Choices and Chances*, Chapter 10, Women and the Great Depression, 238-270.
- Caroline Henderson, “Dust to Eat.”*

April 7: World War II

- Valerie Matsumoto, “Japanese American Women During World War II.”*

The Post War West

April 12: Gender, Race and Suburbia

- Eric Avila, “Nobody but a Bunch of Mothers: Fighting the Highwaymen during Feminism’s Second Wave.”*
- Film: *Chavez Ravine: A Los Angeles Story*

Term paper due

April 14: Women in Postwar US Western Politics, part 1:

- All Our Problems Stem from the Same Sex Based Myths”: Gloria Steinem Delineates American Gender Myths during ERA Hearings.” [http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/7025]*
- Michelle Nickerson, "Women, Domesticity, and Postwar Conservatism." *

April 19: Women and Western Politics, part 2

- Wilma Mankiller, “Returning the Balance.” *
- *The Combahee River Collective Statement*

April 21: Women and the US-Mexican Borderlands in the late 20th Century

- “The Border” (personal stories Rosario Valdez, Adelita Sandoval, and Pedro P.) *

April 26: Final Exam Review

April 28th: class cancelled – professional conference

Final Exam: Thursday, May 5, 1:30-3:20

No rescheduling – earlier or later -- unless you have a conflict with a USU sponsored event, and you have discussed this with me prior to the exam date. Please make your summer plans accordingly!