HIS 317L: Women in United States History

History 317L traces the development of women's history throughout the nation’s past from the colonial era to the rise of modern feminism since the mid-1960s. The lessons in this course combine a narrative account of women in general with a closer focus on representative and famous women at key points in the record of what women have accomplished. Important aspects of women’s history are addressed, such as women’s role in the American Revolution, the rise of the concept of separate spheres for women and men in the nineteenth century, the development of the woman’s suffrage movement, and various manifestations of modern feminism since the Second World War.

Prerequisites

None.

Course Organization

This course is divided into six learning modules containing a total of fourteen lessons that cover important periods or key figures in the history of women in the United States. Each lesson contains a reading guide and study questions. All lessons within a learning module must be completed before moving onto the next module. An instructor is available via a message center to provide feedback and respond to questions regarding assignments.

Topics include:

Module 1
Lesson 1: North American Women before 1765
Lesson 2: Women in American Revolution and Early Republic

Module 2
Lesson 3: A Woman of the Revolutionary Era: Mercy Warren
Lesson 4: Mercy Otis Warren and the New Nation

Module 3
Lesson 5: Women in the Age of Early Industrialization
Lesson 6: The Age of Moral Guardianship, 1837-1861
Lesson 7: Change and Continuity: Women in the Civil War

Module 4
Lesson 8: Women in the Age of Industrialization and Reform
Lesson 9: Women, the First World War, and the 1920s
Lesson 10: Eleanor Roosevelt: The Formative Years

Module 5
Lesson 11: American Women in Depression and War, 1929-1945
Lesson 12: Eleanor Roosevelt: First Lady and World Figure
Module 6
Lesson 13: Before Women’s Liberation
Lesson 14: Women in Modern America

Required Materials

The readings for this course come from the following texts:


Grading

The course consists of fourteen (14) instructor-graded assignments (a mix of short-answer questions and essays), a midterm exam, and a comprehensive final exam. Both exams must be taken in a proctored location, with arrangements to be made by the student.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor-Graded Assignments</th>
<th>50%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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In addition to earning the minimum number of points on assignments to receive a passing grade, students must earn score of at least 60% on the final exam in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

This course is independent study and is self-paced. Students have five (5) months upon registration in which to complete all coursework, plus an additional thirty days in which to take the final exam.

University Extension

For more information about University Extension courses and policies, please visit [www.utextension.org](http://www.utextension.org). Questions may be directed to our office at (512) 471-2900 or [uex@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:uex@austin.utexas.edu). Office hours are M – F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. CST.