Course Description: This course provides a survey of the various ways that women and gender have shaped the history of the United States from colonization to the present. Particular attention will be focused on women’s political and social history and on the emergence and transformation of ideologies of gender—both masculinity and femininity—and how those ideologies have intersected with differences of race, class, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. Through readings and discussions of primary documents and secondary historical analysis, we will explore the questions of how U.S. women’s history has evolved, what new insights and issues it has brought to the traditional male-centered narrative of American history, and why all of this matters to twenty-first century students like you.

Required Texts & Course Readings:
Major Problems in American Women’s History: Documents & Essays
Harriet Jacobs, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl

In addition to the required texts you will have a few readings posted on the course Blackboard page. There are also a several readings listed that are accessible online through the links listed in the course schedule. Let me know if there are any problems with these links. For each unit you are expected to have the assigned readings completed by the class discussion days. The instructor may occasionally change the assigned readings for a unit
and any changes will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard prior to the beginning of each unit.

**Course Requirements:** All assignments (the reaction papers, midterm and final exams) must be completed!! Students who do not complete ALL of these assignments will receive a failing grade in the course regardless of their final average.

The Grading Scale is as follows:

\[
\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline
\text{Grade} & 100-93 & 79-78 & 62-60 \\
\hline
\text{Letter} & A- & C+ & D- \\
\hline
\text{Score} & 92-90 & 77-73 & >60 \\
\hline
\text{Grade} & 89-88 & 72-70 & \\
\hline
\text{Letter} & B+ & C- & \\
\hline
\text{Score} & 87-83 & 69-68 & \\
\hline
\text{Grade} & B- & D+ & \\
\hline
\text{Letter} & 82-80 & D & \\
\hline
\end{array}
\]

**Midterm:** 25% The midterm will be a take home essay of 5-7 pages. We will discuss the focus of this exam at a later date. No extensions will be given for the midterm, except in an extreme emergency.

**Final:** 30% The final exam will be an in-class, cumulative exam. We will discuss the format of the final exam at a later date. No make-ups will be given for the final, except in an extreme emergency.

**Class Participation & Attendance:** 20% Excessive unexcused absences will not be tolerated. **THREE** unexcused absences are allowed. You may not turn in a reaction paper if you have an unexcused absence on those days. If you are late to class and miss the circulation of the roll call sheet you will be considered absent—so do not be late to class!! More than three unexcused absences will seriously hurt your grade and can result in your removal from the class with a failing grade of “WA.”

At the end of every unit we will have a class discussion of the readings and lectures for that unit. General rules of conversational etiquette apply in our discussions. Please do not interrupt others, talk while others are talking, sleep, or otherwise disrupt the class conversation. It is strongly recommended that you do not miss class on class discussion days or your class participation grade will suffer.

If you have any concerns regarding where you stand in terms of your class participation I will be happy to meet with you.

**Reaction Papers:** 25% Reaction papers are informal writing exercises that offer you an opportunity to demonstrate that you have read the assignment and spent some time thinking critically about its content, relevance, and meaning. We will discuss how to compose a successful reaction paper in class before the first due date and guidelines will be posted on the course Blackboard page. Reaction papers must be 2-3 pages in length,
typed, double spaced, in Times New Roman 12-point font. They are due IN CLASS on the scheduled due dates. Please do not email the papers to me, hand in a hard copy. No late papers will be accepted unless you have an excused absence or prior arrangements have been made with me. In the case of excused absences, papers are due BEFORE the next class unless you have contacted me for an extension. Please note that while these response papers are informal writing exercises, they should still be coherent and you are expected to use proper grammar, spelling, and so forth.

Additional Expectations:

• **Plagiarism & Cheating:** All written work submitted in this class is subject to rules against plagiarism and cheating as per university policy. Copying anything from anywhere for your papers or your exams is considered cheating and will result in a grade of “F” for that assignment. A good working definition of “plagiarism” is:

  “Plagiarism—the use of another person’s ideas or wording without giving proper credit—results from the failure to document fully and accurately. Ideas and expressions of them are considered to belong to the individual who first puts them forward. Therefore, when you incorporate ideas or phrasing from any other author in your paper, whether you quote them directly or indirectly, you need to be honest and complete about indicating the source to avoid plagiarism. Whether intentional or unintentional, plagiarism can bring serious consequences, both academic, in the form of failure or expulsion, and legal, in the form of lawsuits. Plagiarism is a violation of the ethics of the academic community.” (William G. Campbell, Stephen V. Ballou, and Carole Slade, *Form and Style: Thesis, Reports, Term Papers*, 6th Edition (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1982), p. 52)

For more information on plagiarism and how to avoid it, go to: [http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html). If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism please ask me.

• TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND BEEPERS DURING CLASS AND PUT THEM AWAY !! NO TEXT MESSAGING DURING CLASS!! If I catch you texting you will be asked to leave class and marked absent for the day.
• Please do not eat in class. Drinking non-alcoholic beverages is fine.
• Deadlines are non-negotiable unless I change the dates in class. If you need an extension you must make arrangements with me prior to the due date. NO EXCEPTIONS.
• Contacting me: I hold regular office hours every Monday and Friday from 10:30 until noon. I can also meet on Wednesdays before or after class but you must make an appointment to meet with me on this day. I am generally not available on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but if those are the only days you have open I am happy to schedule a time to meet on those days as well. Email me or speak to me after class to set up an appointment. If at anytime you have concerns, questions,
comments, or thoughts you want to share please do not hesitate to get in touch with me especially if you are struggling with the readings, lectures, and assignments. I cannot help you improve your grade and class experience if you do not make the effort to contact me.

**Disability Accomodation:**
A student with a disability that qualifies for accommodations should contact Sarah Mead Smith, Director of Disability Services, at 865-2990 (Academic Resource Center, Room 405, Monroe Hall). A student wishing to receive test accommodations (e.g., extended test time) should provide the instructor with an official Accommodation form from Disability Services in advance of the test date.

**Class Schedule:**

**January**
12/M: Course Introduction

**Unit 1: Rise & Growth of Women’s History**
- Major Problems, Ch. 1
14/W: Lecture
16/F: Class Discussion

19/M: **NO CLASS,** Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

**Unit 2: Indigenous Women and Colonization**
- Major Problems, Ch. 2
- Blackboard: Richter, *Facing East from Indian Country,* Ch. 3 pp. 69-90
21/W: Lecture
23/F: Class Discussion, **Reaction Paper 1 Due**

**Unit 3: Gender and Society in the Colonial Era**
- Major Problems, Ch. 3 & 4
26/M: Lecture
28/W: Lecture
30/F: Lecture

**February**
2/M: Class Discussion, **Reaction Paper 2 Due**

**Unit 4: Women in the Age of Revolution & Early National Period**
- Major Problems, Ch. 5 & 6
4/W: Lecture
6/F: Film, *A Midwife’s Tale*
9/M: Lecture
11/W: Lecture
13/F: Class Discussion, Reaction Paper 3 Due

Unit 5: The Great Divide: Regional Perspectives on Gender in the Antebellum Era/ Women in the Civil War
- Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*
- Blackboard: Barbara Welter, “The Cult of True Womanhood, 1820-1860”
- Major Problems, Chs. 7 & 8

16/M: Lecture
18/W: Lecture
20/F: Lecture
23/M: Happy Mardi Gras! NO CLASS
25/W: Lecture
27/F: Class Discussion, Midterm Due

March:
Unit 6: Pedestal, Platform, Farm & Factory: Varieties of Female Activism in the late 19th Century
- Blackboard: Tera Hunter, “Reconstruction and the Meanings of Freedom” and “ ‘Washing Amazons’ and Organized Protests” from *To ‘Joy My Freedom*
- Blackboard: Jo Anne Preston, “Domestic Ideology, School Reformers, and Female Teachers: Schoolteaching Becomes Women’s Work in Nineteenth-Century New England”
- Major Problems, Ch. 9 & 10 {selections}

2/M: Lecture
4/W: Lecture
6/F: Class Discussion, Reaction Paper 4 Due

Unit 7: Protest & Progress?: The “Search for Order” in the Early Twentieth Century
- Blackboard: Laura Wexler, “What a Woman Can Do With a Camera” from *Tender Violence*
- Blackboard: Alecia Long, *The Great Southern Babylon* {selections}
- Major Problems, Ch. 11

9/M: Lecture
11/W: Lecture
13/F: Class Discussion, Reaction Paper 5 Due
Unit 8: Victories & Struggles at Home & Abroad: Women in Prosperity, Depression, & War

- Blackboard: Kathy Peiss, “Promoting the Made-Up Woman,” from *Hope in a Jar*
- Blackboard: Annelise Orleck, “‘We Are that Mythical Thing Called the Public’: Militant Housewives during the Great Depression” from *Unequal Sisters*
- Blackboard: Angela Y. Davis, “I Used to Be Your Sweet Mama,” from *Blues Legacies and Black Feminism*
- Major Problems, Ch. 12 & 13

M/16: Lecture
W/18: Lecture
F/ 20: Lecture
M/23: Class Discussion, Reaction Paper 6 Due
W/25-F/27: NO CLASS

Unit 9: Identity, Power, & Politics: Liberations in the Post War Era

- Blackboard: Sara Evans, *Personal Politics* {selections}
- Blackboard: “The Redstockings Manifesto”
- Blackboard: Anne Koedt, “The Myth of the Vaginal Orgasm” and Germaine Greer, “The Female Eunuch”
- Blackboard: Radicalesbians, “The Woman Identified Woman”
- Major Problems, Ch. 14 & 15

M/30: Lecture

April
W/1: Lecture
F/3: Lecture
MWF/6-10: NO CLASS, Easter Holidays
M/13: Lecture
W/15: Class Discussion, Reaction Paper 7 Due

Unit 10: Girls Gone Wild: Feminism & Beyond

- Blackboard: Susan Faludi, selections from *Backlash*
- Blackboard: Katy Read, “The Problem that Stays the Same,” from *Brain, Child*
- Blackboard: “We’re at War, Sweetheart,” from *The Terror Dream*
- Major Problems, Ch. 16

F/17: Lecture
M/20: Lecture
W/22: Lecture
F/24: Special Focus Lecture on Women and the Iraq/Afghanistan Wars
M/27: Class Discussion, Reaction Paper 8 Due
W/29: EXAM REVIEW