POLITICAL SCIENCE 255
Women’s Studies 255
The American Women’s Movement
Section XX
Course date & time, Course Location
Fall 20XX Syllabus

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Course Description:

A course on women’s involvement in American politics from the early nineteenth century to the present, studied through the lens of race and gender relations. The course discusses the intersecting construction of race and gender from slavery to contemporary issues, beginning with a theoretical discussion of the concepts themselves, moving through American history from the 1830’s to the present by highlighting specific decades and moments:

1. The Concepts of Race and Gender in the United States
2. Slavery and the early nineteenth-century women’s rights movement
3. Final push for the suffrage amendment
4. World War II to the 1950’s
5. The Civil Rights’ Movement and the emergence of “second wave” feminism
6. Title VII and sexual harassment; Title IX, gender and sports

This class does not have any prerequisite or co-requisite requirements.

Required Texts and Course Materials:

- Eleanor Flexner: Century of Struggle: The Women’s Rights Movement in the United States
- Paula Giddings: When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America
- Stephanie Coontz: A Strange Stirring: The Feminine Mystique and American Women at the Dawn of the 1960’s

Other items may be added as appropriate
Additional required readings noted in the syllabus can be found on electronic reserves through the UNR Knowledge Center. All books are available at the UNR Bookstore.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

This course satisfies Silver Core Learning Objective 10, Diversity and Equity. The learning objective requires students to develop a set of cognitive, affective, and behavioral skills and characteristics that support effective and appropriate attentiveness to and analysis of diversity and equity. This is achieved through history of the construction of racialized gender in American history from the 19th century through the early 20th century. This is achieved through the independent research projects undertaken by students on a variety of issues characterizing gender through the lens of race, religion, and ethnicity in US History.

This is achieved through the various writing components of this course.

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Select an apply appropriate methods of inquiry to analyze complex questions about gender difference and/or equity
- Articulate an awareness of some of the central historical and present diversity issues addressed in the course, including race, ethnicity, gender, social class, religion, sexual identity, ability, national origin, or other identities
- Analyze and interpret information about cultural differences, cultural rules, and gender biases in racial, religious, and ethnic groups within the United States
- Analyze ways in which the history of cultural groups in the United States differ and how such differences position them in relation to one another
- Articulate ways in which social identities such as race, class, and gender intersect in order to influence individual life experiences and/or perspectives
- Integrate, synthesize, and apply knowledge of issues of gender and sexuality in both focused and broad interdisciplinary contexts.

Class Policies and Procedures:

- Students with disabilities: Please see me to make appropriate accommodations. Please refer to disability services section below for more information.
- Zero tolerance for plagiarism or cheating. All written words must be your own. Using the internet, previously published, or another student’s words instead of
your own will result in failing the assignment, which is tantamount to failing the class. Please see the academic dishonesty section below.

- No open laptops in class unless you require one to take notes and request permission to use it. You will be asked to sit at the front of the class if you’re required a laptop for notes. No phones, no texting, no tweeting, no facebook, no earbuds during class time.

**Description of Assignments:**

There are no graded weekly assignments for this class. Instead, your grade will be dependent on your participation and attendance in class. That is 30% of your total grade! 10% is reserved for the occasional reading quizzes. In addition, 30% will be allocated for the midterm exam. Lastly, the remaining 30% of your grade is dependent on your performance on the final exam or final paper.

If a final paper is selected, separate assignment instructions will be provided.

**Grading Criteria:**

The breakdown of your grade is based on the following:

**Attendance: 30%** 1 point for every class attended. Excused absences must be arranged ahead of time with Professor Ring. Unexpected legitimate illnesses, such as contagious viruses, flus and more serious ailments may be excused: check with Professor Ring when you return to class. A dentist or doctor’s appointment is not a legitimate illness. Athletes may be excused for scheduled intercollegiate away competitions if verified by the coach and the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics.

**Midterm: 30%**

**Term Paper or Final: 30%**

**Occasional reading quizzes and class participation:** 10%

All grading will be on a 0-100 scale. The following correspond to the approximate letter grades in my class:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-93.99</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>87-89.99</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>84-86.99</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>80-83.99</td>
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<td>77-79.99</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>67-69.99</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<td>64-66.99</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-63.99</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<td>&lt;60</td>
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Late assignments will be graded down 1/3 of a letter grade for a maximum of a week late.
Course Calendar / Topics and Readings:

Part I: Early Women’s Rights Movement to the Suffrage Amendment

Weeks 1 and 2:
Introduction, Construction and Deconstruction of Race in American Slavery
Flexner: 3-22,
e-reserve: hooks: 15-49
Film: Black Is…Black Ain’t or Race: The Power of an Illusion

Week 2:
Race and Sex in Slavery: The Grimke Sisters of Carolina
Flexner 41-70
Giddings, 15-32

Week 3:
Anti-Slavery to Women’s Rights: 1840 World Anti-Slavery Convention and the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention
Flexner, 71-102
Giddings, 33-55
e-reserve: Buhle, The Concise History of Women’s Suffrage

Week 4:
Sojourner Truth and Frederick Douglass
Flexner, 145-196
Giddings, 57-92
e-reserve: Buhle, The Speeches of Sojourner Truth

Week 5:
Old Moderates, Young Radicals and Feminism in the New Century
Flexner, 222-231
Giddings, 159-170

Week 6:
The Suffrage Amendment
Flexner, 256-345
Film: Iron Jawed Angels

Week 7:
Midterm October 13

Part II: Work, War, and The Feminine Mystique
The Equal Rights Amendment, Work, and The Great Depression

Week 8:
Giddings, 231-258 (1940’s and 50’s)
Film: Rosie the Riveter
Weeks 9, 10:
*The 1950’s and the Feminine Mystique*
  e-reserve: Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*
  Coontz, *A Strange Stirring* (whole book)
  Film: TV show episode of *Madmen*

Part III: Civil Rights, Title VII and Title IX
Week 11:
*The Civil Rights Movement*
  Reading: Giddings, 259-324
  Film: *Race: The Power of an Illusion: The House We Live In*

Weeks 12, 13:
*Title VII and Sexual Harassment: Anita Hill and Clarence Thomas*
  e-reserve: Toni Morrison, *Race-ing Justice, En-gendering Power*,
  selections by Morrison, Marable, Painter, McKay, Crenshaw
  Film: PBS, *Anita Hill vs. Clarence Thomas: Rush to Judgment*
  Film: Frontline, *Clarence Thomas and Anita Hill: Public Hearing, Private Pain*

Weeks 14, 15:
*Title IX, Gender, Sports and Sex Segregation*
  e-reserves McDonagh and Pappano, *Playing With the Boys*, Chapters 1-3

Final Exam/Term Papers Due

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Cheating, plagiarism or otherwise obtaining grades under false pretenses" constitute academic dishonesty according to the code of this university. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and penalties can include canceling a student's enrollment without a grade, giving an F for the course or for the assignment. For more details, see the University of Nevada, Reno General Catalog and the Office of Student Conduct ([http://www.unr.edu/student-conduct/policies/university-policies-and-guidelines/academic-standards/policy](http://www.unr.edu/student-conduct/policies/university-policies-and-guidelines/academic-standards/policy))

**Disability Services:**

Any student with a disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me and the Disability Resource Center as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations. You can refer to the Disability Resource Center website at [http://www.unr.edu/drc](http://www.unr.edu/drc).
**Academic Success Services:**

Your student fees cover usage of the Tutoring Center (784-6801 or www.unr.edu/tutoring-center) and University Writing Center (784-6030 or http://www.unr.edu/writing-center). These centers support your classroom learning; it is your responsibility to take advantage of their services. Keep in mind that seeking help outside of class is the sign of a responsible and successful student.

**Audio and Video Recording:**

Surreptitious or covert video-taping of class or unauthorized audio recording of class is prohibited by law and by Board of Regents policy. This class may be videotaped or audio recorded only with the written permission of the instructor. In order to accommodate students with disabilities, some students may have been given permission to record class lectures and discussions. Therefore, students should understand that their comments during class may be recorded.