

College of Eastern Utah

**HIST 2800
Women in America
Syllabus
Spring 2008**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Susan Rhoades Neel

OFFICE: CBB 243

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OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays & Tuesdays, 11:30-1:00 pm in CBB 243

Wednesdays, 4:00-5:00 pm in the Writing Lab (CBB 208)

Thursdays, 1:00-2:00 pm in CBB 243

And by appointment

COURSE WEB SITE: <http://www.srnteach.us>

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: Sara Evans, *Born for Liberty: A History of Women in America* (copies provided by the instructor)

HIST 2800 is an elective intended for all students. The course will discuss the changes in American history from the colonial period to the present through the lives of American women. We will take a biographical approach and use the lives of 12 women, some ordinary, some famous, some infamous, to explore women's changing roles in American society.

The course objective is to gain a basic understanding of:

1. the changing nature of women's legal and civic rights and the ways in which women have exercised power in the public and private arenas of American life.
2. how the concepts of womanhood and female sexuality have changed over time
3. the history of courtship, marriage, childbearing, and family life in America

Students are required to attend all class sessions. Students with more than 3 unexcused absences will receive a grade of "F" in the course.

The required textbook for this course is Sara M. Evans, *Born for Liberty: A History of Women in America*. The instructor will loan copies to students or students may purchase copies through Amazon.com. Additional required materials, including readings, websites, and films are listed in the Course Schedule. All materials will be

provided to students at no charge.

Students will be required to complete the following assignments:

1. Weekly Learning Journal. Students will be required to keep a Weekly Learning Journal. The instructor will distribute the materials for the journal to students during the first week of the semester.

Twice during the semester students will turn in their Learning Journals for preliminary assessment. Completed Learning Journals will be turned in for final grading at the end of the semester.

LEARNING JOURNAL ASSESSMENT #1 DUE: Thursday, January 31

LEARNING JOURNAL ASSESSMENT #2 DUE: Thursday, March 27

LEARNING JOURNAL FINAL ASSESSMENT DUE: Friday, April 25

Detailed instructions for the Weekly Learning Journal are available on the course web site.

The Weekly Learning Journal is worth 30% of the final course grade.

2. Biographical Sketches. Students will be required to prepare 2 biographical sketches and present their findings to the class. Students will select the subjects for their biographical sketches in consultation with the instructor. Students may choose from a variety of formats for their sketches; a traditional written paper, a PowerPoint or Keynote presentation, a QuickTime or Media Player movie, or a web site.

Detailed instructions for completing the Biographical Sketches are available on the course web site.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH #1 DUE: Tuesday, February 26

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH #2 DUE: Tuesday, April 22

Biographical Sketches are each worth 15% of the final course grade.

Students are required to complete a midterm exam and a final exam using WebCT. Each exam will consist of multiple choice, true/false, matching, and short answer questions. Students must take the exams in the Testing Center on the scheduled date. No early or late exams will be given. Exams are open book.

Exams will cover required reading and films, as well as class lectures.

MIDTERM EXAM: Thursday, February 28

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, April 24

Each exam is worth 25% of the final course grade.

SCHEDULE

Week 1: What is Women's History?

(Jan. 8 & 10)

READ: *Born for Liberty*, "Introduction"

Week 2. Pocahontus

(January 15 & 17)

READ: *Born for Liberty* (Chp. 1)

READ: selected children's books on Pocahontus (we will look at books from the instructor's collection in class, but bring your own if you have any to share with the class)

WATCH: Nova: "Pocahontas Revealed" (shown in class)

Week 3. Martha Ballard

(January 22 & 24)

READ: *Born for Liberty* (Chp. 2)

VISIT: Digital History, "The History of Private Life" at

http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/historyonline/private_life.cfm (read the essays on "Childbirth in Early America," "Courtship in Early America," and "Death in Early America")

VISIT: DoHistory, "A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard" at

<http://dohistory.org/book/index.html> and read the chapter entitled "[DECEMBER 1793](#) "Birth 50. Birth 51"

Week 4. Abigail Adams

(January 29 & 31)

READ: *Born for Liberty* (Chp. 3)

READ: Joan Hoff, "The Negative Impact of the American Revolution on White Women," (handout)

READ: Mary Beth Norton, "The Positive Impact of the American Revolution of White Women," (handout)

WATCH: "John and Abigail Adams" (selections shown in class)

WEEKLY LEARNING JOURNAL ASSESSMENT # 1 DUE: Thursday, January 31

Bring your journals to class

Week 5: Helen Jewett

(February 5 & 7)

READ: *Born for Liberty* (Chp. 4)

READ: Nancy F. Cott, "Passionlessness: An Interpretation of Victorian Sexual Ideology, 1790-1850" (handout)

WATCH: "New York" (selections shown in class)

Week 6: Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton

(February 12 & 14)

READ: *Born for Liberty* (Chp. 5)

WATCH: “Not for Ourselves Alone: The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony” (selections shown in class)

VISIT: Website to accompany the film, “Not for Ourselves Alone: The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony” at <http://www.pbs.org/stantonanthony/> (read, watch and listen to the popup section entitled, “Explore the Women’s Movement”)

Week 7: Sojourner Truth

(February 19 & 21)

READ: Nell Irvin Painter, “Soul Murder and Slavery” (handout)

READ: selections from *Narrative of Sojourner Truth, a Northern Slave* at <http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/truth/1850/1850.html#12>; (read the brief sections entitled, “Her Standing with Her New Master and Mistress,” “Isabella’s Marriage,” “A Slaveholder’s Promise,” and “The Matthias Delusion”)

Week 8: CLASS PRESENTATIONS AND MIDTERM EXAM

(February 26 & 28)

Week 9: Victoria Woodhull

(March 4 & 6)

READ: *Born for Liberty* (Chp. 6)

READ: Victoria Woodhull, “The Scare-Crows of Sexual Slavery” (handout)

READ: selected newspaper articles on the Beecher-Tilden scandal (handout)

WATCH: “America’s Victoria” (selections shown in class)

Week 10: Lizzie Borden

(March 11 & 13)

READ: *Born for Liberty* (Chp. 7)

VISIT: “Famous Trials: The Trial of Lizzie Borden, 1893” at

<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/LizzieBorden/bordenhome.html> (we will look at selected trial transcripts in class, but you might want to look at some of the photos and maps of the crime scene before class)

Week 11: SPRING BREAK

(March 17-20)

Week 12: Margaret Sanger

(March 25 & 27)

READ: *Born for Liberty* (Chp. 8)

READ: Nancy Wolloch, “Contraceptive Politics” (handout)

READ: Margaret Sanger, *What Every Girl Should Know* (1922); read selections at <http://digital.lib.msu.edu/collections/index.cfm?TitleID=130>

WEEKLY LEARNING JOURNAL ASSESSMENT #2: Thursday, March 17

Bring your journals to class

Week 13: Eleanor Roosevelt

(April 1 & 3)

READ: *Born for Liberty* (Chps. 9 & 10)

WATCH: “Eleanor Roosevelt” (selections shown in class)

LISTEN: selections from Doris Kearns Goodwin, *No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front During World War II* (cd provided by instructor)

Week 14: Marilyn Monroe

(April 8 & 10)

READ: *Born for Liberty* (Chp. 11)

WATCH: “Gentlemen Prefer Blondes,” “Bus Stop,” and “The Misfits” (students should rent these films and watch them before class; excerpts will be shown in class)

Week 15: Fannie Lou Hamer

(April 15 & 17)

READ: *Born for Liberty* (Chps. 12 & 13)

LISTEN: NPR, “Remembering Jim Crow: An Audio Documentary” (cd provided by instructor)

WATCH: “Eyes on the Prize” (selections shown in class)

Week 16: CLASS PRESENTATIONS AND FINAL EXAM

(April 22 & 24)

This schedule is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion. Changes will be announced to students in class and/or via e-mail.

GRADING

Grades will be based on the instructor’s assessment of student performance on the required assignments and exams.

Grades will be distributed as follows:

30% = Weekly Learning Journal

20% = Midterm Exam

20% = Final Exam

30% = Biographical Sketches

The grading scale is as follows:

A 93 – 100%

A- 90 – 92%

B+ 87 – 89%

B	83 – 86%
B-	80 – 82%
C+	77 – 79%
C	73 – 76%
C-	70 – 72%
D+	67- 69%
D	60 – 66%
F	0 - 59%

COURSE POLICIES

A. Attendance. Attendance is required. Students with more than 3 unexcused absences will receive a grade of “F” for the course.

B. Communication. Students are encouraged to visit the instructor during her regularly scheduled office. Students who are not able to visit during these hours are welcome to schedule an appointment for another time. If you schedule an appointment but are not able to make it, please call or e-mail in advance to cancel.

Students are also welcome to contact the instructor via the WebCT e-mail system. The instructor cannot discuss course work or course grades with students except through the WebCT e-mail system. To access the WebCT e-mail system, log on to WebCT, enter the HIST 2800 course and click on the MAIL icon.

The instructor makes every effort to respond to e-mail from students within 24 hours during the week and within 48 hours during the weekends. Students are expected to make timely responses to e-mail inquiries from the instructor. Please include the course and section number in the subject line of your e-mails.

C. Late Materials. All assignments and exams must be turned in at the beginning of class on the scheduled due date. Papers submitted after the deadline will be deducted one-third of a grade for each day they are late.

D. Missing/Rescheduling Exams. Exams must be taken at the scheduled time. In cases of extreme personal or family emergency, students who provide a written excuse and/or documentation may reschedule the exam at the instructor’s convenience.

E. Withdrawals/Incompletes. During weeks 3-13 of the semester, students may withdraw from this course with the approval of the instructor and the student’s advisor. The instructor will approve withdrawals only if the student provides evidence of extenuating circumstances such as personal illness or injury, death in the immediate family, or a change in work schedule to secure, maintain or change employment.

Students who have completed a least 75% of the course requirements but are unable to finish the remaining requirements due to documented illness or family emergency may request an incomplete (I) grade. Incomplete grades are granted at the discretion of the

instructor.

F. Academic honesty policy. All assignments, projects, and exams required for this course must be the work of the student who submits them. Students who submit plagiarized, falsified, or copied work will receive no credit for the assignment, project or exam. Students who have submitted plagiarized, falsified, or copied work will not be given an opportunity to redo the assignment, project, or exam.

The instructor will report all violations of the academic honesty policy to the Dean of Students in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined under “Student Rights and Responsibilities” in the CEU College Catalog.

G. Courtesy in class and online. It is expected that students will treat their fellow classmates and the instructor with courtesy during class, at meetings, and in all online communications. Courtesy includes using polite and civil language, being quiet and attentive when others are talking, and maintaining an environment conducive to learning.

Use of rude or offensive language and disruptive or hostile behavior will not be tolerated. Students who engage in such behavior will be asked to leave the classroom and may be subject to disciplinary action under the CEU “Student Rights and Responsibilities.”

Students should turn off or mute their cell phones before class begins. Text messaging during class is not permitted.

H. Accommodation. Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. If you are a student with a disability or special need, please contact the CEU Disability Resource Center immediately to arrange for accommodations that can assist you with this course. The Disability Resource Center is located in the SAC Building, Room 118. You may also contact the office by phone at 435.613.5670 or by e-mail at DisabilityCenter@ceu.edu.