Course Description: This upper-division seminar uses contemporary documents and the work of historians to investigate the history of feminism in the United States from the late 18th century to the present. Beginning with the question, “What is feminism?,” students will trace agitation regarding the status and role of women, the various forms of that agitation or activism, and different ideological arguments—made at different times—for expanding the legal and customary rights of women. Since the experience of women in the United States has, as with men, been significantly influenced by race, class, and ethnicity, students will learn about the activism and the critique of these women and the inclusion or exclusion of those groups in movements often controlled by middle- and upper-class white women.

As a seminar, students are expected to do a lot reading and to discuss that reading in class. As a “writing flag,” students are also expected to improve their writing in five essays on assigned topics.

Required Reading:

- Course Packet, available at UT Copy Center after 1/27.

Grading:

- 60% of course grade based on weighted average of writing assignments.
- 40% of course grade based on class participation. Class participation is evaluated on basis of participation in class discussion and performance on in-class essays.

Class attendance: Regular attendance in class, excepting illness or family emergency, is expected and will be considered in the class participation grade.

Writing Assignments: 60% of course grade based on weighted average of writing assignments. All essays should be sent to me electronically in WORD documents.

1. One page (250 words) essay: “What is Feminism?” Due 1/27 (3% of writing grade)
2. 3-5 page essay: an overview of women’s antebellum public activism or on one aspect of antebellum women’s activism. Due 2/17 (12.5% of writing grade)
3. 5 page essay on feminist activism between the Civil War and 1920. Due 3/10. Revised essay due 3/13. (12.5%)
4. 9-10 page essay: “My Evaluation of Second Wave Feminism.” Due 4/28 (25%)
5. 2 page essay: “My Manifesto for the Third Wave of American Feminism.” Due 5/9 (7%)

Citations and Attribution:

Students are expected to use proper citation whenever using the words or the thoughts of others. You may use any of the major citation style sheets (MLA, Chicago, or APA), but I think you will find the APA style the easiest to use. The Undergraduate Writing Center provides guidelines for using APA in citations: http://uwc.utexas.edu/handouts
**Plagiarism:** Using the words or thoughts of another without attribution is plagiarism and will not be allowed in this class. Be sure to read “The Standard of Academic Integrity” posted on the Dean of Students website: [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php). Also, be sure to read “A Brief Guide to Avoiding Plagiarism,” posted online by UT’s LBJ School Writing Center: [http://www.utexas.edu/lbj/writing/plagiarism.pdf](http://www.utexas.edu/lbj/writing/plagiarism.pdf).

With this information, all students in this class are expected to avoid plagiarizing in their essays. Students who do plagiarize will receive an “F” in the class and will be referred to Student Judicial Services in the Dean of Students Office.

---

**Class Schedule**
(subject to minor changes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1/20 | Introduction  
Discussion: “A Day Without Feminism” by Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards |
| 1/27 | Women in Antebellum America, Gender Ideology, and Female Abolitionists  
Reading Assignments:  
Christine Stansell, *The Feminist Promise*, Introduction, chapters 1 & 2  
Barbara Welter, “The Cult of True Womanhood”  
Mary Wollstonecraft, “A Vindication of the Rights of Women” (excerpt)  
Sarah Grimke’s letter to Mary S. Parker  
Margaret Fuller, “Woman in the Nineteenth Century” (excerpt)  
**DUE:** One page essay, “What is Feminism?” |
| 2/3  | Antebellum Reformers Critique of Sex and Marriage  
Reading Assignments:  
Stansell, chapters 3 & 4  
Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions, Seneca Falls  
Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Address to the New York State Legislature, 1854 and 1860 |
| 2/10 | Female “Moral Reform” in the Nineteenth Century  
Reading Assignments:  
Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, “Beauty, the Beast, and the Militant Woman: A Case Study in Sex Roles and Social Stress in Jacksonian America”  
“Frances Willard Heralds ‘The Dawn of Woman’s Day’” (WCTU) |
| 2/17 | Post-bellum Woman Suffrage Movement  
Reading Assignments:  
Stansell, chapter 5  
Ellen DuBois, “The Radicalism of the Woman Suffrage Movement”  
Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, “African American Women and the Woman Suffrage Movement” |
DUE: 3-5 page essay on Antebellum Women’s Activism

2/24  Turn-of-the-Century Feminism
Reading Assignments:
  Emma Goldman, “The Traffic in Women”
  Nancy Cott, The Grounding of Modern Feminism, Introduction
  and ch. 1

3/3  Winning the Vote
Reading Assignments:
  Stansell, chapter 6
  Cott, Chapter 2
VIDEO: “One Woman, One Vote”

3/10  Margaret Sanger and the Birth Control Movement
Reading Assignments
  Linda Gordon, Three Stages in the History of Reproductive Freedom
VIDEO: “Margaret Sanger”

DUE: 5 page essay on Feminist Activism Between the Civil War and 1920
In-class peer review.

3/13  DUE: Revised essay

3/17  NO CLASS; SPRING BREAK
It would probably be a good idea to do some reading in Nancy Cott’s book over
Spring Break.

3/24  Post Suffrage Feminism
Reading Assignment:
  Start reading Betty Friedan, The Feminine Mystique
Cott, ch. 3, 4, 5, 6

3/31  Post War
Reading Assignments:
  Stansell, ch. 7
  Cott, ch. 7, 8.

4/17  Second Wave Feminism: Beginnings
Reading Assignments:
  Betty Friedan, The Feminine Mystique

4/14:  Second Wave Feminism: Women’s Rights and Women’s Liberation
Reading Assignments:
  Overview of Second Wave Feminism
  Simone DeBeauvoir, The Second Sex, excerpt
  Shulamith Firestone, “The Dialectic of Sex”
  Wendy Williams, “The Equality Crisis: Some Reflections on Culture, Courts, and Feminism”
  Judy Syers, “Why I Want a Wife”
  Patricia Mainardi, “The Politics of Housework”
  Dorothy Dinnerstein, “The Mermaid and the Minotaur,” excerpt
4/21 **Second Wave Feminism: Female Sexuality and Reproductive Rights**
Reading Assignments:
- Commentary on Adrienne Rich’s “Compulsory Heterosexuality....”
- Rosalind Petchesky, on Abortion Rights controversy

4/28 **Opposition, Challenge, Reconstructions**
Reading Assignments:
- Phyliss Schafley and Jerry Falwell on opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment
- Jennifer Baumbardner and Amy Richards, “Who’s Afraid of Katie Roiphe?”
- Bell Hooks, “Black Women: Shaping Feminist Theory”

**DUE:** 8-10 page essay: “My Evaluation of Second Wave Feminism”

5/5 **The Third Wave**
Reading Assignments:
- Jennifer Baumbardner and Amy Richards, “What is Activism?”
- Abra Fortune Chernik, “The Body Politic”
- Ellen Neuborne, “Imagine My Surprise”
- Veronica Chambers, “Betrayal Feminism”

5/9 **DUE:** 2 page essay: “My Manifesto for the Third Wave” or “The Future of Feminism”