

Gender in Nineteenth-Century America

Historian Susan Armitage writes, “Whether one is male or female is, for the most part, a biological fact. But the *roles, values, and behaviors* people assign to that fact are enormously varied across time.” Gender refers to concepts of manhood and womanhood that shape divisions of labor, family structure, social identity, rule of law, sexual mores, and political rights. Thus gender functions as a system of allocating responsibility and power. Gender is not only central to our sense of self as men or women; it also reflects our changing relationship to the larger society. Because gender differs across cultures, expresses power relations, and changes over time, the study of gender is vital to the field of history.

The United States in the nineteenth century saw dramatic change that reverberated through the lives of women and men. Industrialization, the rise of domestic sentimentalism, invasion and colonization of the West, the institution of slavery, the civil war and reconstruction, and urbanization transformed gender systems during this period. Letters, diaries, and oral histories, as well as scholarly works will provide a window on men’s and women’s lived experience. Popular literature, political cartoons, and American painting will reveal a discourse on gender that called forth American concerns about liberty and order, hierarchy and equality, individualism and community.

Required Texts:

Mark Carnes & Clyde Griffen, Eds. *Meanings for Manhood* (University of Chicago Press, 1990).

Linda Kerber & Jane Sherron DeHart, Eds. *Women’s America: Refocusing the Past* (Oxford University Press, 2004).

Coursepack: Required documents and journal articles, available online in Rhodes “Academic Departments,” History, Garceau, Public Folder, History 250 folder.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Regular participation in discussion: Come to class prepared; that is, having done the reading listed on your syllabus for that day. *Good discussion depends upon your preparation.* (25%)
- 2) A debate on Oct 25, for which you prepare to argue one side of the question, with supporting evidence from the assigned readings. This will be factored into your discussion grade.
- 3) A 7-8 page research paper based on archival sources, due Nov 1. Papers must be edited and proofread, doublespaced, Times 12 font, Chicago-style footnotes, and numbered pages. (25%)
- 4) A Works-in-Progress report on your research using primary sources, Oct 4 & 6; and a ten minute formal class presentation based on your final research paper, Nov 29, Dec 1 & 6. (25%)
- 5) A final essay exam based on major themes from course readings, lectures, and films. (25%)

COURSE OUTLINE

Aug 24 Introduction to the Course

Week 1: Gender in Native North America: The Seneca

Aug 29 Conceptualizing Gender

Reading: Mark Carnes, "Introduction," *Meanings for Manhood*, 1-7.

Jane Sherron DeHart & Linda Kerber, "Gender and the New Women's History," *Women's America*, 1-23.

Aug 31 Gender Systems in Transition: A Seneca Case Study

Reading: Mary Jemison, "Life Among the Seneca," *Coursepack*, 28-31.

Week 2: Gendered Exchanges and Colonization: Indians, Africans, and EuroAmericans

Sept 5 Timothy Shannon, "Dressing for Success on the Mohawk Frontier: Hendrick, William Johnson, and the Indian Fashion," *Coursepack*, 79-103.

Lucy Murphy, "Autonomy and the Economic Roles of Indian Women of the Fox-Wisconsin River Region, 1763-1832," *Coursepack*, 72-89.

Sept 7 Michael Lansing, "Plains Indian Women and Interracial Marriage in the Upper Missouri Trade, 1804-1868," *Coursepack*, 413-33.

MariJo Buhle, "New Orleans and Urban Slavery," and "Gens de Couleur Libre;" Western Frontiers: "Texas: The Challenges of Settlement," "New Mexico Women and Trading Networks," "Gertrudis Barcelo," and "California Missions," 115-24.

Book Review: Marie Jenkins Schwartz, *Birthing a Slave: Motherhood and Medicine in the Antebellum South* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2006).

Week 3: Masculinities and Class in the Early Republic

Sept. 12 Anthony Rotundo, "Boy Culture: Middle-Class Boyhood in Nineteenth-Century America," *Meanings for Manhood*, 15-36.

Donald Yacavone, "Abolitionists and the Language of Fraternal Love," *Meanings for Manhood*, 85-95.

Sept 14 Elliot Gorn, "Gouge and Bite, Pull Hair and Scratch: The Social Significance of Fighting in the Southern Backcountry" *Coursepack*, 220-36.

Week 4: Race and Gender in the Early Republic

Sept 19 Cornelia Hughes Dayton, "Taking the Trade: Abortion and Gender Relations in a New England Village," *Women's America*, 97-113.

Sharon Block, "Lines of Color, Sex, and Service: Sexual Coercion in the Early Republic," *Women's America*, 135-44.

Carroll Smith Rosenberg, "The Female World of Love and Ritual: Relations Between Women in Nineteenth-Century America," *Women's America*, 168-82.

Sept 21 James and Lois Horton, "Violence, Protest, and Identity: Black Manhood in Antebellum America," *Coursepack*, 102-12.

Lawrence Levine, "Some Go Up and Some Go Down: The Animal Trickster and the Construction of African-American Manliness," *Coursepack*, 189-94.

Week 5: Religious Doctrines and Female Subordination: Gentiles and Mormons

Sept 26 Barbara Welter, "The Cult of True Womanhood," *Coursepack*, 146-60.

Caroline Gilman, "The Deferential Wife" (1838) *Coursepack*, 205-07.

Sept 28 Ann Eliza Young, *Wife No. 19, or The Story of a Life in Bondage* (1875)
http://www.ebershoff.com/pdfs/Wife_No_19_Ann_Eliza_Young.pdf
[read the whole book].

Week 6: Discussion of Research Challenges

Oct 3 Works-in-Progress reports

Oct 5 Works-in-Progress reports

Week 7: Cherokee Men and Women at Mid-Century

Oct 10 Theda Perdue, "Women, Men, and American Indian Policy: The Cherokee Response to 'Civilization,'" *Coursepack*, 90-114.

Theda Perdue, "Cherokee Women and The Trail of Tears," *Coursepack*, 527-40.

Book Review: Grant Foreman, Ed., *A Traveler in Indian Territory: The Journal of Ethan Allen Hitchcock, Later Major General in the United States Army* (1930).

Oct 12 Professor Garceau at Western History Association Conference, Oakland, CA.

Week 8 Reform Fervor: From Abolitionism to Seneca Falls

Oct 17 Fall Break

Oct 19 Film: "Not For Ourselves Alone: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony," Part I. Class meets in Barret 34.

Sarah and Angelina Grimke, "The Connection Between Religious Faith, Abolition, and Women's Rights," *Women's America*, 193-97.

Week 9: Gendered Rights and Responsibilities in a Democratic Republic

Oct 24 Catharine Beecher, "System and Order," *Coursepack*, 210-13.

Stephanie McCurry, "Women's Work: The Gender Division of Labor in Yeoman Households of South Carolina," *Women's America*, 145-52.

Keziah Kendall, "What I Have Suffered, I Cannot Tell," *Women's America*, 198-99.

"Declaration of Sentiments"(1848) *Women's America*, 214-16.

Political Cartoons on Woman Suffrage, *Coursepack*.

"Married Women's Property Acts, New York, 1848, 1860," *Women's America*, 217.

Oct 26 John Starrett Hughes, "The Madness of Separate Spheres: Insanity and Masculinity in Victorian Alabama," *Meanings for Manhood*, 67-78.

Mark Carnes, "Middle-Class Men and the Solace of Fraternal Ritual," *Meanings for Manhood*, 37-66.

Week 10: Civil War and Reconstruction

Oct 31 Images of Men and Women in Nineteenth-Century Painting [slide lecture].

Nov 2 Drew Gilpin Faust, "Enemies in Our Households: Confederate Women and Slavery," *Women's America*, 220-32.

Tera Hunter, "Reconstruction and the Meanings of Freedom," *Women's America*, 235-46.

Book Review: Lauren Cook Burgess, *An Uncommon Soldier: The Civil War Letters of Sarah Wakeman, 153rd Regiment, NY Volunteers, 1862-64* (Oxford, 1994).

Week 11: Masculinities in Late Nineteenth-Century Urban America

- Nov 7 Anthony Rotundo, "Passionate Manhood: A Changing Standard of Masculinity," *Coursepack*, 232-46.
Theodore Roosevelt, "The Strenuous Life," *Coursepack*, 298-300.
Judy Hilkey, "Manhood is Everything: The Masculinization and Democratization of Success," *Coursepack*, 113-22.
- Nov 9 Ida B. Wells, "Race Woman," *Coursepack*, 306-10.
Gail Bederman, "Civilization, the Decline of Middle-Class Manliness, and Ida B. Wells's Anti-Lynching Campaign, 1892-94," *Coursepack*, 207-39.

Week 12: Race and Gender in the Late Nineteenth-Century West

- Nov 14 Rose Marie Stremlau, "Rape Narratives on the Northern Paiute Frontier: Sarah Winnemucca, Sexual Sovereignty, and Economic Autonomy," *Coursepack*, 37-60.
Joy Kasson, "American Indian Performers in Wild West Shows," *Coursepack*, 161-219.
- Nov 16 Mary Murphy, "Making Men in the West: The Coming of Age of Miles Cavanaugh and Martin Frank Dunham," *Coursepack*, 133-47.
Teddy Blue Abbott, "We Pointed Them North," *Coursepack*, selected excerpts.
Book Review: Katherine M. Osburne, *Southern Ute Women: Autonomy and Assimilation on the Reservation, 1887-1934*.

Weeks 13-14: Research Presentations

Nov 21 Student Presentations of Research

Nov 23-27: Thanksgiving Break

Nov 28 Student Presentations of Research

Nov 30 Student Presentations of Research

Dec 5 Student Presentations of Research

Dec 7 Synthesis and Reflection

Date TBA **Final Exam**