COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS:
For many students, studying southern women’s history is both a personal and an intellectual encounter. This course moves chronologically from colonial settlement to the present. In each era, the intersection of race and gender has produced unique challenges, actions, reactions, and opportunities for women. Reading material will reflect a variety of voices and genres, including memoirs, analytical monographs, position papers, autobiographies, and films. This course focuses on the agency of African American women from the colonial period to the present. At the same time, it highlights the challenges and successes of women’s interracial work in the South. Study materials include autobiography, history, letters, film, and essays. Feminist and womanist movements have traditionally depended on cooperative rather than competitive work. Thus the research component in this course will be a group poster presentation which will be entered in URCAS.

This course has been approved for the Gender Studies and Sexuality (formerly Women’s Studies) minor and counts towards the major and minor in History. Students can expect to improve their skills in critical reading, supportive discussion, and analytical writing.

BOOKS FOR PURCHASE:
- **Anne Moody**, Coming of Age in Mississippi (Dell, 1968)
- **Collier-Thomas & Franklin**, Sisters in the Struggle: African American Women in the Civil Rights-Black Power Movement (NYU, 2001)

Optional purchase: **Catherine Clinton**, ed., Half Sisters of History (Duke, 1994) and **Gail S. Murray**, ed., Throwing Off the Cloak of History: Southern White Women in the Civil Rights Movement (U Florida, 2004). Some essays from each of these collections have been assigned and all essays are well worth reading. Students may purchase the paperback or download the assigned essays from the Academic Volume.

All other assigned documents and essays will be found in the Academic Folder → History → Murray → Public → 349, B&W Women. It is your responsibility to download the readings and bring them to class.
COURSE ASSESSMENT:
- 3 Reading Quizes @ 75 points each = 225
- 3 Co-curricular Reports @ 25 each = 75
- Class Participation = 50
- Team Research Poster = 100
- Cumulative final exam = 100

550 possible points

Final grades will be assessed based on the percentage of points earned toward the total 450 possible. 92-100% = A, 90-92% = A-, 88-89% = B+, 83-87% = B, etc.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS
Purchased books noted with an *

Wednesday, January 14: Race and Class dynamics: a play on words

Friday, January 16: Southern Women and Intersectionality

I. COLONIAL & REVOLUTIONARY SOUTHERN WOMEN

Monday, January 19: MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY – no class

Wednesday, January 21: Appropriated Labor: Colonial Slavery & Free Women of Color
Academic Vol. Suzanne Lebsock, “No Obey”
Jane Landers, “Race & Infanticide”
“Laws on Slave Descent”

Friday, January 23: Colonial White Women: Class and Region
Kirsten Fischer, “False, Feigned, and Scandalous Words: Sexual Slander and Racial Ideology”

II. ANTEBELLUM & CIVIL WAR WOMEN

Monday, January 26: Education for Women

Wednesday, January 28: Dynamics within the slave household
Electronic resource Stephanie Camp, Closer to Freedom: Enslaved Women and Everyday Resistance in the Plantation South, Chapter 4
*Clinton, Half Sisters, White, “Female Slaves”

Friday, January 30: Poor white women and the construction of racial difference
Academic Vol, Victoria Bynum, Unruly Women, Ch. 4

Monday, Feb 2: Anti-slavery Voices – Black and White

Wednesday, Feb 4: White Women & the Civil War
Handout: excerpts from women’s diaries

Co-curricular opportunity: Vagina Monologues, Feb 5-7, Blount Aud.

Friday, Feb 6: READING QUIZ #1

Monday, February 9: Perils of Emancipation
*Clinton, Half Sisters, Clinton, “Bloody Terrain: Freedwomen, Sexuality, and Violence”

Wed, February 11: Slave Women & the Civil War
*Tera Hunter, To ’Joy My Freedom, Ch 1 & 2

Friday, February 13: Freed Women, Gender Roles, Labor
*Hunter, Freedom, Ch 4 & 5

Monday, February 16: Presentations 1 & 2 (topics prior to 1865)

III WOMEN in the JIM CROW SOUTH

Wednesday, February 18: Southern Whites and Emancipation: Daughters of the Confederacy
Academic Vol. Micki McElya, Clinging to Mammy, Ch.4


Friday, February 20: Race Women
*Glenda Gilmore, Gender & Jim Crow, Intro and Ch. 2

Monday, February 23 “Jane” Crow
*Gilmore, Gender & Jim Crow, Ch. 4 & 7

Wednesday, February 25: Challenge to Lynching
Academic Vol, Ida B. Wells, “A Red Record” and
*Murray, Throwing Off the Cloak, essay by Riehm, “Dorothy Tilly and the Fellowship of the Concerned”

Friday, February 27: Film: viewing “Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice”

Monday, March 2: Rural White Women & Labor Organizing
Academic Vol, Jacqueline Hall, “Disorderly Women”
Wednesday, March 4: **READING QUIZ #2**

Friday, March 6: Class will not meet. Mid-term grades submitted

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**Co-Curricular Opportunity: ACS Women’s and Gender Studies Conference**

Program to be distributed

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Monday, March 9: **Southern Suffrage Movement, Black and White**


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Wednesday, March 11: **Southern Suffrage Movement, Black and White**

* Gilmore, Chapter 8

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Friday, March 13: **Presentation #3** (women’s clubs or sororities)

**** SPRING BREAK ****

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Monday, March 23: **Black Club Women and Racial Uplift**

*Handouts*

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Wednesday, March 25: **The Great Depression: Tenant Farm Families**

“Let Us Now Praise Famous Men” and view the photographs at [http://xroads.virginia.edu/~UG97/fsa/letus.html](http://xroads.virginia.edu/~UG97/fsa/letus.html)

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Friday, March 27: **WW II: Rosie the Riveter, Black and White**

Film Viewing: “The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter”

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Monday, March 30: **Reading Quiz #3**

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**IV. CIVIL RIGHTS and BEYOND**

Wednesday, April 1: **Race in the post-War South**

*Ann Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Part One

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Friday, April 3: **1950s Civil Rights**

*Moody, Part Two


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Monday, April 6: **1950s Civil Rights – Two White Views**

*Murray, Throwing Off the Cloak*, essays by Fosl, “Anne Braden and the Protective Custody of Southern White Women” and Miller, “Little Rock Central”

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Wednesday, April 8: **Integrating Southern Colleges**

*Collier-Thomas, *Sisters in the Struggle*, “Heirs to a Legacy of Struggle”: Charlayne Hunter Gault
**EASTER BREAK**

Monday, April 13: Civil Rights Leaders
*Collier-Thomas, Sisters in the Struggle, Crawford, “African American Women in the Freedom Democratic Party”
Fleming, “Black Women and Black Power: Ruby Doris Smith Robinson”
Matthews, “No One Ever Asks What a Man’s Role Is”

Wednesday, April 15: Presentation #4 (history of MIFA)

Friday, April 17: Feminism ideology – What White Women Wanted
Academic Vol, Sara Evans, “Black Power: Catalyst for Feminism” and Jane DeHart, “Second -Wave Feminism(s) and the South,”

Monday, April 20: Feminism ideology – What Black Women Wanted
Handouts: Writings by bell hooks, Andre Lourde, Barbara Smith

View on your own time: “Killing Me Softly, 3” – on reserve in Media Center

Wednesday, April 22: Presentation #5: Bodies and the Media

Friday, April 24: Presentation #6: Bodies and Rap Music

Monday, April 27: Race and gender in today’s marketplace
* White, ed, Telling Histories. White, “My History in History,”
Barbara Ransby, “Dancing on the Edges of History”

Wednesday, April 29: Race and gender in today’s marketplace cont

Friday, May 1: Honors Convocation and Undergraduate Research Symposium. ALL Poster presentations.

Final Exam: Take home exams due Friday, May 6 at 5:00 pm

CLASSROOM POLICIES and EXPECTATIONS:

- Attendance and active discussion of the daily assignments is expected and counts 50 points toward final grade (10%). Absences automatically impact your participation grade. If you miss class because of an official college event, you must arrange to make up the work before your absence.

- In addition to attendance, your participation grade is determined by active involvement in classroom discussions. Read the assignment before the class meets, highlight your book and
make margin notes, formulate questions that arise, try to relate the reading to previous discussions, become an active reader.

- Students will be required to attend three campus/community events and submit a brief description of the experience. These include but are not limited to
  
  - January 25, “Treemonisha,” Opera Memphis, 2:00 p.m
  - February 5, 6, 7, “The Vagina Monologues”
  - January 29 – February 15, “The Colored Museum” Hattiloo Theatre
  - February 18, Ann Valk, author of Radical Sisters
  - March 6-7, ACS Women’s & Gender Studies Symposium
  - Jan 30-April 5, “Freedom’s Sisters” exhibit at the National Civil Rights Museum

- Papers are due in class on the date assigned, and late papers will be penalized one letter grade per calendar day late. No papers will be accepted more than 1 week late. Co-curricular reports are due within a week of the event. You must complete all assignments in order to pass the course.

- Reading quizzes can be made up only at the discretion of the instructor. Arrangements should be made before the test date.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY** is absolutely essential to the cooperative spirit of this class. Any lying, cheating, or plagiarism will immediately be referred to the Honor Council. Failure to follow instructions for proper citation of sources in written work will result in additional points loss. Blatant errors will result in a failed assignment.

**DISABILITIES** will be accommodated according to the guidelines specified by the Disabilities Services Officer. Students should present this material in writing at the beginning of the semester.