

American Women's Movements
Women's Studies 510
TTH 1:30-3:18
Central Classroom Building 0354
Autumn Quarter 2007

Professor: Dr. Wendy G. Smooth
Office Location: 286E University Hall
Email: smooth.1@osu.edu
Office Phone: 247-8449
Office Hours: 3:30- 4:30 or by appointment

This course examines the structures, origins and ideologies of both women-centered social movements and those social movements in which women played pivotal, though often unacknowledged roles in the U.S. Central to this course is studying how gender dynamics are both questioned and reinforced within social movements. We will survey a range of movements beginning with women's 19th century quests for suffrage and the activities of the women's club movement. We will explore a number of 20th century movements including the Civil Rights Movement, the Black Power Movement, and the Chicana Movement. Finally, we will discuss a number of ongoing movements particularly the modern Women's Rights Movement, the disability rights movement and the emerging activism of 21st century U.S. women. We will grapple with the status of the women's movement today as well as the emergence of counter movements. Throughout this course, we will keenly focus on the differences among women in an effort to understand how the intersections of gender, race, class, sexuality, age, and ability influence women's participation and activism.

In this course we will operate at two levels 1. We will seek to uncover the involvement of women in major social movements that have shaped the course of history 2. We will seek to understand the basic theories of social movements and how gender analysis enhances the study of social movements

Required Texts

Sara Evans Born for Liberty: A History of Women in America. Free Press 1997

Betty Collier Thomas and V.P. Franklin Sisters in the Struggle NYU Press 2001

Benita Roth Separate Roads to Feminism Cambridge University Press 2004

Copy packet available at the Student Book Exchange (SBX)

Course Requirements and Grading

Grading

Your final grade will be based on three response papers, a midterm and final examination, a final project and class participation. Your grades will be computed as follows:

Response Papers (3 total)	20%	1st Paper Due by October 11th
Take Home Midterm Examination	25%	Due Tuesday Oct 23rd in Class
Final Project	20%	Due Tuesday, November 29th
Take Home Final Examination	25%	Due Wednesday, December 5th by 5:00 pm
Class Participation	10%	

Response Papers

Students are required to write 3 short response papers over the course of the semester. The papers should be 2-3 double spaced, typed pages. The first response paper must be completed by **Thursday, October 11th**. In the response papers, students are required to discuss the readings for the day. Students should not summarize the readings, but instead provide critical thoughts on the subject supported by the readings. Papers should be turned in at the beginning of class. Students writing response papers for that week will be asked to share their thoughts in class. No late papers will be accepted.

Examinations

There will be two take home essay exams which will cover the readings, lectures, class discussions and other course materials. Each exam will count towards 25% of your final grade for the course. There will be no make up exams. Late exams will be reduced by one letter grade for each day it is late.

Final Project

You will perform an organizational scan of women's organizations in an effort to establish the current status of the Women's Movement. Details of the final project are found at the end of the syllabus

Class Participation

The success of this course is dependent upon all members actively participating. Occasionally, I will lecture in this class, but this class is primarily based on discussion. You are expected to complete the assigned readings **before** coming to class. You are also expected to attend **all classes**. Reading a daily newspaper will keep you apprised of current events, which will often be used as examples in class discussions. To enhance classroom discussions, students are encouraged to bring newspaper clippings to class to share.

In Class Assignments

Throughout the course we will engage in small group activities that are related to the course materials and you will be evaluated based on your participation. Given the nature of these activities, there is no way to make-up missed class activities. Pop quizzes will periodically be given in class. These quizzes will be given at the beginning of class. There will be no make-up quizzes; however your lowest quiz score will be dropped. These in class assignments and quizzes will count towards your participation grade.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism

Students are expected to maintain complete academic integrity. Please become familiar with the departmental statement on plagiarism:

As defined by University Rule 3335-31-02, plagiarism is “the representation of another’s works or ideas as one’s own; it includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrasing of another person’s work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person’s ideas.” Plagiarism is one of the most serious offenses that can be committed in an academic community; as such, it is the obligation of this department and its instructors to report all cases of suspected plagiarism to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. After the report is filed, a hearing takes place and if the student is found guilty, the possible punishment ranges from failing the class to suspension or expulsion from the university. Although the existence of the Internet makes it relatively easy to plagiarize, it also makes it even easier for instructors to find evidence of plagiarism. It is obvious to most teachers when a student turns in works that is not his or her own and plagiarism search engines make documenting the offense very simple. You should always cite your sources (I can help you with this if you are unfamiliar with proper styles of documentation). Always ask questions **before** you turn in an assignment if you are uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism. Always see your TA or professor if you are having difficulty with an assignment. To preserve the integrity of OSU as an institution of higher learning, to maintain your own integrity, and to avoid jeopardizing your future, **DO NOT PLAGIARIZE!**

University Documented Disabilities

Students with a university- documented disability certified by the Office of Disability Services should discuss with me any special accommodations needed for the course. Please make me aware of your needs as soon as possible. The Office for Disability Services, located in 150 Pomerene Hall, offers services for students with documented disabilities. Contact the ODS at 2-3307292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all class meetings and class presentations arriving on time. You should be aware that unexcused absences and excessive tardiness will be reflected in your final grade. With more than two absences, you automatically forfeit the possibility of earning an “A” for the course.

Class Schedule

Week 1 September 20th

Thursday, September 20th **Introductions/Housekeeping/What is a social movement?**

Week 2 September 25th & 27th **Examining Theories of Social Movements**

Tuesday, September 25th

Doug McAdam “The Classical Model of Social Movements Examined”
“Resource Mobilization: A Deficient Alternative”

Thursday, September 27th

Doug McAdam “The Political Process Model”

Verta Taylor “Gender and Social Movements: Gender Processes in Women’s Self Help Movements”

Week 3 October 2nd & 4th **The Suffrage Movement and the Quest for Women’s Rights**

Tuesday, October 2nd

Born for Liberty Chapters 3-5

Ellen Carol Dubois “Taking the Law into their own hands: Voting Women During Reconstruction”

Thursday, October 4th

Born for Liberty Chapters 6-7 (1865-1920)

Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions

Nancy McGlen and Karen O’Conner “The Struggle for Political Rights” from *Women, Politics and American Society*

Week 4 October 9th & 11th **Women and the Civil Rights Movement**

Tuesday October 9th

Sisters in the Struggle “Behind the Scenes View of a Behind the Scenes Organizer: The Roots of Ella Baker’s Political Passions Barbara Ransby

Sisters in the Struggle “ ‘We Wanted the Voice of a Woman to be Heard’: Black Women and the 1963 March on Washington” Dorothy I. Height

Thursday October 11th

Sisters in the Struggle “African American Women in the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party” Vicki Crawford

Belinda Robnett “African American Women in the Civil Rights Movement, 1954-1965: Gender, Leadership and Micromobilization” *The American Journal of Sociology*, v. 10; n6 (May, 1996).

Week 5 October 16th & 18th Women and Revolution

Tuesday October 16th

Sisters in the Struggle “No One Ever Asks a Man His Role in the Revolution” Tracy Matthews

Margo V. Perkins “Inside Our Dangerous Ranks”: The Autobiography of Elaine Brown and the Black Panther Party from *Still Lifting Still Climbing: African American Women’s Activism*

Thursday, Oct 18th

Sisters in the Struggle “Black Women and Black Power: The Case of Ruby Doris Smith Robinson and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee” Cynthia Griggs Fleming

Dionne Espinoza “Revolutionary Sisters: Women’s Solidarity and Collective Identification Among Chicana Brown Berets” from *AZTLAN: Journal of Chicano Studies* Spring 2001.

Pick Up Midterm Exam

*******Tuesday, October 23rd Midterm Exam Due in Class*******

Week 6 October 23rd & 25th The Modern Women’s Movement: Women’s Liberation and Women’s Equal Rights Movements

Tuesday, October 23rd

Lynn Ford “Two Paths to Equality”

Myra Marx Ferree and Beth B. Hess “ Reemergence of a Feminist Movement, 1963-1972” in *Controversy and Coalition The New Feminist Movement Across Four Decades of Change*

Thursday, October 25th

Evans: Chapters 11-13

Separate Roads to Feminism Chapter Two “The “Fourth World” Is Born”

Week 7 Oct 30th & Nov 1st Not Without Critique: The Women's Movement Continued

Tuesday, October 30th

Leslie R. Wolfe and Jennifer Tucker: "Feminism Lives: Building a Multicultural Women's Movement in the United States"

Esther Ngan-Ling Chow "The Feminist Movement: Where are all the Asian American Women?"

Separate Roads to Feminism Chapter 4 "We Called Ourselves Feministas"

Thursday, November 1st

Separate Roads to Feminism

Chapter 1 "The Emergence and Development of Racial/Ethnic Feminisms in the 1960s and 1970s"

Chapter 3 "The Vanguard Center"

Chapter 5 "Organizing One's Own: The Competitive Social Movement Sector and the Rise of Organizationally Distinct Feminist Movements"

Week 8 November 6th & 8th The Women's Movement Inside Organizations

Tuesday, November 6th

"Organizational Mobilizations, Institutional Access and Institutional Change" Debra Minkoff

Suzanne Staggenborg "The Consequences of Professionalization and Formalization in the Pro-Choice Movement"

Susanne Beechey "When Feminism is Your Job: Age and Power in Women's Policy Organizations"

Thursday, November 8th

Sisters in the Struggle "The Civil Rights-Black Power Legacy: Black Women Elected Officials at the Local, State and National Levels" Linda Faye Williams

Week 9 November 13th & 15th Women and Countermovements

Tuesday, November 13th

Kathleen Blee "The Place of Women"

Rebecca E. Klatch, "Women of the New Right in the United States: Family, Feminism and Politics"

Thursday, November 15th

Jean Hardisty “Kitchen Table Backlash The Anti-Feminist Women’s Movement” in *The Public Eye* v10, n2 (Summer 1996).

Week 10 November 20th & 22nd Women Continuously in Movement

Tuesday, November 20th

Jenny Morris “Impairment and Disability: Constructing an Ethics of Care That Promotes Human Rights” *Hypatia*..Fall 2001 v 16(4).

“Sharon Groch “Free Spaces: Creating Oppositional Consciousness In the Disability Rights Movement” In *Oppositional Consciousness: The Subjective Roots of Social Protest* eds Jane Mansbridge and Aldon Morris

Thursday, November 22nd **Thanksgiving Class Will Not Meet***

Week 11 November 27th & 29th

Course Wrap Up and Future of the Women’s Movement

Final Project due Thursday, November 29th

Pick Up Final Exam

Final Examination due Wednesday, December 5th

Final Project: Organizational Scan and Analysis of Women's Organizations

Since the 1970s, we have experienced a dramatic growth in the number and scope of organizations that address issues impacting women's lives as an outgrowth of the Women's Movement. In this final paper, you will identify and research a minimum of 15 women's or women-centered groups organized under similar causes/issues (i.e. reproductive rights; welfare rights; women's health; art and performance) or share an identity base (i.e. lesbian organizers; race-based organizers; age-based organizers). You will perform an audit of each organization, which will include researching and reviewing each organization analyzing their goals, actions and target audience. Your audit of each organization should include the following:

A clear description of the goals of each organization and including a discussion of how the organization addresses women's issues as well as how the organization defines women's issues. You should also include a discussion of the groups' general purposes or missions.

Include an analysis of the groups' activities. Do they engage in mainstream politics or protest politics? Describe the strategies of the organizations. What were their major projects over the last two years? How do they promote their issues?

Identify the groups' target audience. Are they predominantly interested in rural women's issues, young women, retired women, women of color, etc...? Determine if the groups are national in scope or more local based. Determine whether groups have a membership base. How do they attract new members and/or maintain their membership base?

Where do the groups fall on the political spectrum, do they tend to be more liberal or conservative? How do you know this – justify your assessment of the group.

This project constitutes 25% of your final grade for the course, so given its weight in relation to other aspects of the course, so I suggest you take it very seriously. You should be able to cover the materials in 10-12 pages. The final project is due on **Thursday, November 29th**.

Project Proposal: Due no later than **Thursday, October 11th**. In 2-3 pages, the proposal should describe your plan of action to complete the research. Your project proposal should consist of a preliminary list of the organizations you intend to analyze.

Notes to Help You Prepare Response Papers

Here are some questions that you may find helpful in addressing the readings and preparing your response papers. You may find that these questions may not apply to all the readings. You are not required to answer all the questions in your paper, but they are provided to give you some guidance in preparing your paper.

1. What are the authors' central theses? What are they trying to convey to the readers? What are the most important ideas presented in the readings? Why do the authors think these ideas are important? Are the ideas presented in the readings new (i.e. Have we seen these ideas in other readings)?
2. What do these readings contribute to our understanding of issues of gender, race, class, ethnicity, religion, ability as they relate to women's lives?
3. What assumptions about women are made in the readings? Why do you think the authors hold these views? Do you agree or disagree with the authors' views? What issues challenged the way you think about the topic?
4. Do you find any particular bias in the readings? What, if anything is missing in the readings?
5. How do the readings compliment one another? What message are the readings conveying about women and social movements? How do these readings compare to what we have read previously in the course?