Preliminary Syllabus

Assignments: Students will lead one to three discussion sessions, and have a choice of doing weekly abstracts on the assigned readings for the weeks in which they are not presenting, or developing a research proposal on a women’s history topic of their choice for the period between 1790 and 1900. Please use the alternative readings along with any articles that may have been assigned that week if you have already read the assigned book.

The goal of this course is threefold: 1) to help students to prepare for their written and oral examinations; 2) to deepen their knowledge of the ways in which women’s history has reshaped our understanding of American history; and 3) to bolster their research, writing and analytical skills.

One third of your grade will be based on classroom participation, and the remainder on the abstracts or proposal.

1. Introduction

2. The Legacy of the Revolution


3. Microhistory, Female Entrepreneurship and Crime


4. **Charity, “Sisterhood” and Class**


5. **Antebellum Social Reform**


-**AND-**


6. **Gender and Geography**


7. **Slavery and the Civil War**


-OR-


8. Race and Reform


9. Transnationalism and Empire


10. Transnationalism and Immigration

11. Gilded Age Gender, Class and Culture


-OR-


12. Suffrage and Memory


13. Political Culture and Reform


14. Conclusion and Discussion of Proposals