Readings in Gender and Society in the U.S.

*Preliminary Syllabus*

*Please note: Some of the readings may be changed in the final version*

**Assignments:** Students will choose **ONE** book per week to read for class discussion. Alternatives will be assigned for those who have already read the assigned books. Students will also lead one or more class discussions, and write a 10-15 page proposal for a research project that will deal with some aspect of gender in American political, social, cultural or economic history. The proposal topics will be discussed in-mid-semester; the full proposals are due at the end of the semester.

The goal of this course is threefold: 1) to help students to prepare for their written and oral examinations; 2) to provide an overview of the ways in which historians have applied a gendered lens to American history; and 3) to bolster students’ research, writing and analytical skills.

1. **Introduction**

2. **The Social Construction of Gender**


3. **Political Culture**


   -or-

4. *Philanthropy and Civil Society*


5. *Manifest Destiny, Borderlands and the West*


Two to three page précis of proposal topic due, to be submitted to Professor McCarthy.

6. *The Civil War*


-or-


7. *Microhistory*


-or-


8. *Money and Space*


-or-

9. Transnationalism and Foreign Policy


-or-


10. Gender and Public Policy


-or-


11. The New Deal


-or-


12. Civil Rights, Political Culture and Race


-or-


13. The 1950s and Beyond

-or-


14. **Conclusion and Discussion of Full Proposals**

*Full draft of final proposal due May 19th*