INSTITUTIONAL SYLLABUS

(Check One)

___X_New Course (OR) Date of Last Review

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_____Substantive Change in Existing Course

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I. Course Title: History of American Women

II. Course Number: HIST 320

III. Credit Hours: 3

IV. Prerequisites: None

V. Catalog Description: This course is designed to examine the role of women in American History with special emphasis on how the story of women is told by historians over time. It examines not only the lives of many famous white women, but also the experience of women from various ethnicities and economic backgrounds. In addressing how Americans construct their understanding of women’s lives in the U.S., the course will also reassess how focusing on women’s lives might alter one’s understanding of the broader patterns and interpretations of American History.

VI. Curricular Relationships: This course is part of the elective block of U.S. History courses taken by History/Government majors and for students majoring in secondary licensure.

VII. Student Learning Outcomes: Students will

- acquire and demonstrate an understanding of the role of culturally diverse women in American society and the experiences of women historically. (A variety of women’s groups will be studied: Native American, African-American, immigrants, Hispanics, and Anglo women will all be categories of analysis, as well as women of various economic and geographic background.)
- acquire and demonstrate an understanding of how source material impacts the writing of history, and how the broadening of accepted sources has allowed for the inclusion of women in the story of American History.
- define key terms related to the historical genre of women’s history, and shall demonstrate an understanding of the interplay of major trends through essay questions on written exams.
• demonstrate a command of the historical method by constructing monographic papers using primary and secondary sources.

VI. Content Outline: The course is divided into thirds: the first covers women in America from the advent of written history through the early stages of industrialization. The second will cover from the industrial revolution through the suffrage movement and the 1920s. The third will include an examination of women from the 1920s to the present day with special emphasis on the changing role of women in society.

IX. Course Procedures: There will be three exams, one paper of about 12 pages, and two papers of about five pages, and several outside assignments and quizzes, plus a participation grade for the discussions. The fictional character paper, which involves research on a hypothetical woman in history, is worth 200 points. Each exam and the other papers are worth 100 points, and the outside assignments and participation grade worth 100 points, for a total of 800 points.
Grading Scale: A: 720-800  C: 560-639  F: 0-479
B: 640-719  D: 480-559

X. Required/Recommended Readings:
  Linda K. Kerber and Jane Sherron De Hart, *Women’s America, Refocusing the Past.*

XI Any Issues Unique to this Course:

XII Additional Issues of the Department's Choosing: