

History 407
Gender in the U.S. and Canadian West
Spring 2011

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Office Hours: M&F 9:30-10:30 am
Wed: 1:30-2:30 pm & by appointment

Course Goals: This class will explore several questions in the history of women in the North American West: what is the importance of national borders to women's lives? what were popular conceptions and representations of western women and how have those perceptions shaped women's place in society? how have the factors of class, race, and ethnicity influenced economic and social opportunities for western women? how have western women represented themselves and been represented in literature and art?

Required Readings:

All books are available at the MSU Bookstore.

Sarah Carter, *The Importance of Being Monogamous: Marriage and Nation Building in Western Canada to 1915*

Susan Bernardin et al., *Trading Gazes: Euro-American Women Photographers and Native North Americans, 1880-1940*

Edith Eudora Kohl, *Land of the Burnt Thigh*

Margaret Bell, *When Montana and I Were Young: A Frontier Childhood*

Joy Kogawa, *Obasan*

Vicki Ruiz, *Cannery Women, Cannery Lives*

Class Procedure: The class will be a combination of lecture and discussion. While specific days may be designated as times to discuss readings, comments and participation are encouraged every day. The success of this class depends on your full participation. Attendance is required and preparation is absolutely necessary. I will put a premium on preparation, thoughtfulness, and helpfulness--on contributions to the scholarly community that are based on cooperation rather than competitive individualism. I expect that all sincere contributions will be treated with respect. One of the goals of this class is to increase your self-confidence in expressing yourself verbally. To do that we must encourage familiarity with each other and open, good-humored, and generous exchange in the classroom.

Electronic Free Zone

To ensure all of our good humor, but especially mine, please turn off cell phones before you come to class. You will not be permitted to use your laptop or any electronic device in class. Please bring a notebook in which to take class notes.

Plagiarism

Paraphrasing or quoting another’s work without citing the source is a form of academic misconduct. Even inadvertent or unintentional misuse or appropriation of another's work (such as relying heavily on source material that is not expressly acknowledged) is considered plagiarism. If you have any questions about using and citing sources, you are expected to ask for clarification.

Academic Misconduct

Section 420 of the Student Conduct Code describes academic misconduct as including but not limited to plagiarism, cheating, multiple submissions, or facilitating others’ misconduct. Possible sanctions for academic misconduct range from an oral reprimand to expulsion from the university.

Assignments: Your grade in this class is based upon two in-class exams, two papers, and class participation, which may include impromptu short writing exercises. Each component is worth 20% of your grade. All assignments must be completed in order to pass the class.

Evaluation: Final grades will be assigned using the + and - system. Cliff-hanging final grades will be decided by considering the student's degree of improvement during the term.

History 407 Spring 2011 Schedule of Holidays, Reading Assignments, and Papers
Reading assignments are listed for the day on which we will discuss that text or portion of the text.

Week 1:

W 1/12
F 1/14

Week 2:

M 1/17 **No Class: Martin Luther King Day**
W 1/19
F 1/21 **Reading: Carter, ch. 1**

Week 3:

M 1/24 **Reading: Carter, ch. 2**
W 1/26
F 1/28 **Reading: Carter, ch. 3**

Week 4:

M 1/31 **Reading: Carter, ch. 4**
W 2/2
F 2/4 **Reading: Carter, chs. 5 & 6**

Week 5:

M 2/7 **Reading: Carter, ch. 7**

W 2/9
F 2/11 **FIRST PAPER DUE IN CLASS**

Week 6:
M 2/14
W 2/16 **Reading: Kohl, pp. ix-98**
F 2/18 **Reading: Kohl, pp. 98-198**

Week 7:
M 2/21 **No Class: Presidents' Day**
W 2/23 **Reading: Kohl, 199-296**
F 2/25

Week 8:
M 2/28 **Reading: Bell, pp. ix-67**
W 3/2
F 3/4 **Reading: Bell, pp. 68-167**

Week 9:
M 3/7 **Reading: Bell, pp. 168-251**
W 3/9 **EXAM NO. 1**
F 3/11

Week 10: **SPRING BREAK**

Week 11:
M 3/21
W 3/23 **Reading: Bernardin, pp. 1-31 & 187-192**
F 3/25

Week 12:
M 3/28 **Reading: Bernardin, ch 1**
W 3/30 **Reading: Bernardin, chs. 2 OR 3**
F 4/1 **Reading: Bernardin, ch 4**

Week 13:
M 4/4 **SECOND PAPER DUE IN CLASS**
W 4/6
F 4/8 **Reading: Kogawa, pp. 1-126**

Week 14:
M 4/11 **Reading: Kogawa, pp. 127-247**
W 4/13
F 4/15 **Reading: Ruiz, pp. xiii-57**

Week 15:
M 4/18
W 4/20 **Reading: Ruiz, pp. 69-123**
F 4/22 **No Class: University Day**

Week 16:

M 4/25

W 4/27

F 4/29

EXAM NO. 2

Wrap-up