

syllabus

HIST 4397 – American Feminism to 1890

Spring 2022

Dr. Mary Linehan

Contact: Because of ADA accommodations, I do not live in Texas anymore. But, I believe in being super responsive to my students. If you do not receive a reply in 24 hours complain, loudly. It is best that you use canvas messaging and not uttyler email (less competition from junk mail). I also can be reached by phone at 419-205-7422 (voice mail). Feel free to text too, but include your name. I get an unbelievable amount of anonymous texts!!!

How to do well in this class

1. Read everything that is required. This includes the text, the syllabus, the intros to the modules, the instructions to the essays in the getting started module, the comments that are returned with every essay, and the group messages I send the class. I am really trying to help. All of the above is **required reading**.
2. Remember that history is not now. The US in 1619 or 1865 or 1985 is not the US we have today. People believed and acted differently in the past.
3. You are allowed to skip four essays and will be offered about fifty points extra credit. Accordingly, no late assignments or make-ups will be allowed.

Scary Thoughts

With covid in the Spring of 2020, Hurricane Laura in the Fall of 2020, the grid collapse in the Spring of 2021, and 15% of my students reporting covid last semester, I am at a loss for words. Should something come up this spring, I reserve the right to update the schedule and requirements below. But, that couldn't happen again. Could it? Please be careful out there and stay in touch!!!

If you do test positive, please report your case the the university. You don't know if your case will be mild or if you will be a long hauler. If you don't report to UTT, you don't qualify for any extensions or accommodations.

Basics

1. Read the syllabus, read the module introductions, read the essay instructions, read the comments that will be included on every returned essay, read the book (!), and read every message sent to the class. You will be responsible for all this information. If there is a video posted for a particular week, that is also a required part of the instruction in this course.
2. There will be a 50-point essay due every Sunday (beginning 1/16)
3. Each student will complete 10 (and only 10) of the quizzes. Weeks 1, 2, 4, and 6 are required.
4. Each essay is worth 50 points, so there are 500 points available. You will need to earn 450 for an A, 400 for a B, and 350 for a C.
5. All the instructions for the essays are included in the "Essay Instructions" in the "getting Started" module. The instructions are the same for all of the essays. Unless specified otherwise in the module intro.
6. There will be extra credit, but you will need to look for it (in plain sight).
7. I am a very hands-on professor and I will be communicating with you a lot. Read!!!

Required Texts

Block, et al, *Major Problems in American Women's History*, 5th edition.

We will read Block every week and you will write your essays from this book. The same book will be used in part two of the course in the fall.

You must have the book in your possession by 1/23. I am too old to hear how Amazon sent your book to the wrong address.

There are four weeks, mostly at the end of the semester, when articles from J-STOR will be assigned.

Objectives

- Students will describe the impact of women on American civic life and world affairs.

- Students will describe the changing roles of gender, race, class, religion, and sexuality since 1492
- Students will explain the problems of economic growth and the associated issues of unequal distribution of wealth in the creation of a “Benevolent Empire” and “Maternal Commonwealth”
- Students will evaluate Feminist policies and reforms in the areas of sexism, racism, poverty, and violence..
- Students will describe how US feminists influenced domestic and global politics

Course Outline

There will be an essay due each Sunday. The instructions are posted in the modules and will remain the same for all of the quizzes. You may skip 4 quizzes. You may not skip weeks 1,2,4,or 6. These chapters are not more significant than the others. They just coincide with dates faculty need to report attendance or grades.

The outline below indicates the weekly topic and required reading. To find the assignment go to the weekly module introduction. For the instructions on how to prepare your essay, see “essay instructions” in the “getting started” module. Remember, starting 1/30, essays that do not follow the instructions will receive zero points.

January 16: Week 1 – No readings, What is Feminism, CANNOT SKIP

January 24: Census Day

January 23: Week 2 – Chapter 1, Doing Women’s History, CANNOT SKIP

January 30: Week 3 – Chapter 2, Contact and Conquest

February 6: Week 4 – Chapter 3, Economic Roles in Early America – CANNOT SKIP

February 13: Week 5 – Chapter 4, The Private Side of Life

February 20: Week 6 – articles from J-STOR, Witchcraft – CANNOT SKIP

February 28: Week 7 – chapter 5, Revolutionary Women

March 6: Week 8 – Chapter 6, Sexuality, Rights, Activism

March 13: Spring Break – CANNOT SKIP!

March 20: Week 9 – Articles from J-STOR, Benevolent Empire

March 27: Week 10 – Chapter 7, Antebellum Race and Slavery

March 28: Last Day to Drop Without Failing

April 3: Week 11 – Chapter 8, The Civil War

April 10: Week 12 – Chapter 9, The Trans-Mississippi West

April 17: Week 13 – J-STOR articles, Victorian Morality

April 24: Week 14 – J-STOR articles, Maternal Commonwealth

Methodology

If you have not taken History for a while, the writing methodology for History takes time to develop. That's why I encourage rough drafts. Be patient with yourself, but be proactive. Read the comments on every essay, ask questions, read the intro to each module, look at the first few model essays, submit rough drafts. I promise it gets much easier. Often, the best essays in class are NOT written by History majors.

Rough Drafts

I encourage, and am happy to read, rough drafts. I view this as an essential (though not required) aspect of improving your skills in History. I also strongly believe individualized instruction and, in a large class, this is as close as we can come. Rough drafts are due by 10am on Thursdays. I can't predict your grade, but I can tell you if you have interpreted the question correctly, if your answer is complete, or if you overlooked something key. Often, just doing drafts for the first couple of essays gives you the practice and confidence you need to soar to As on all the future essays.

Extra Credit

I sometimes throw out little 5-point bonuses to see who is paying attention. You will find them if you read everything you are required to read and frequently check the Discussion Board. Please note, no politicking and Miss America type answers will get credit. You need to make a choice and defend that choice, but nobody really cares if you

pick A or B. For example, in 2020, I asked if Mayor Pete (at 37) was too young to be President. All you needed to do was answer yes or no and why. You don't get credit for saying Pete is a bad choice compared to Bernie or you will never vote for a Democrat. No one cares.

Communication

One last thing about communication. It is very important to me and I want to answer your messages. However, you need to be careful to **change the subject line of a canvas message to your own name**. If you just reply or use something common (like first essay) your message will be added to a thread. Canvas only tells us the first person alphabetically to respond to the thread and ALL their messages will be placed ahead of the second person's. I become very confused by this and am not always able to tell there are new messages from different students. Also, if all messages have your name in the subject line it is a million times easy to find what you send in and to be responsive.

Historians of Tyler

Some of you still may remember Facebook? I run a Facebook group called Historians of Tyler (this week, look for 2 cute puppies), which I encourage you to join. Most of the members are UT History alums and local historians. I am trying to forge connections and relationships that will be useful to your professional life. I also try to post things (and encourage you to do so) that will spark conversation about history. We are in a "quiet phase" right now, so your contributions are especially welcome. This is a way for you to stay connected so I can write you an amazing letter of recommendation that shows I know you (much better than a generic lor). Finally, as you may know, the field of History is not as well-known and appreciated as other Liberal Arts majors (even though we get the highest salaries). I use the things you submit to HOTTIES (Historians of Tyler) to brag on you with the administration and remind them that our graduates are all employed and doing amazing things in the world. Please check us out!!!!