

**History 328**  
**Women in American History to 1865**

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McIver 225  
MWF 10-10:50

**Course Description:**

This course surveys the dramatic changes in women's experiences in the United States from the colonial period to 1865. It investigates a diverse group of women ranging from Native Americans, slaves, and factory workers, to free African Americans, and middle-class whites. Questions that we will address include: To what degree have women's experiences differed according to race and class? How have women participated in shaping their own history? What was the relationship between ideologies of gender, class, and race and women's lived experiences? How does attention to gender and women change our understanding of conquest, slavery, capitalism, westward expansion, and the Civil War?

**Required Texts:**

(available at UNCG bookstore and Addams bookstore on Tate St.)

Kathryn Kish Sklar and Thomas Dublin, eds., *Women and Power in American History: Volume One to 1880*. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson Education, Inc., 2002.  
Nancy F. Cott, et. al., eds., *Root of Bitterness: Documents of the Social History of American Women*. Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1996.  
Octavia Butler, *Kindred*. Doubleday, 1979; rep, Boston: Beacon Press, 2004.  
Lauren Cook Burgess, ed., *An Uncommon Soldier: The Civil War Letters of Sarah Rosetta Wakeman, alias Pvt. Lyons Wakeman, 153<sup>rd</sup> Regiments, New York State Volunteers, 1862-1864*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996.

Additional readings available on electronic reserve at Jackson Library (listed in syllabus as E-reserve).

**Attendance Policy:**

Attendance is mandatory because this class will be highly interactive and depends on your participation. Our time together will include discussion, in-class writing, and hands-on work with historical sources. Make sure to sign the attendance list every day because more than two unexcused absences will affect your grade.

If you are absent, I expect you to contact me to inform me of the situation and arrange to obtain any handouts or assignments that you missed. All of the assignments that are distributed during your absence must be completed on-time.

### **E-mail Policy and Blackboard:**

E-mail is the best way to reach me. I always confirm receipt of messages and try to respond quickly. If you do not receive a response from me within 48 hours, you should assume that I did not receive your message and try again. If you do not receive confirmation of your message, it means that I did not receive it and you will not be credited for any information that you communicated.

I will use e-mail to contact you, so it is *imperative* that you check your UNCG email account regularly. Note that I will be sending class e-mails only to UNCG accounts and that it is no longer possible to have your UNCG e-mail forwarded to your private accounts.

The course will have a blackboard website, which will have copies of the syllabus, handouts, and assignments.

### **Course Requirements:**

Participation and Small Assignments (20%): This grade will be based on the quality of your participation in large and small groups and your completion of small in-class and take-home assignments.

Unit Essays (4 x 20% each): You will write four essays, which will require you to bring together readings, films, and lectures and to provide your own interpretations. One will be based on the movie *Pocahontas* and another will be based on the novel *Kindred*. All of the essays will require you to synthesize and interpret major themes of the course and to incorporate a wide range of sources to demonstrate that you have kept up with the lectures, readings, films, and discussions.

### **Grades:**

I use the following grading scale: 93 and above A, 90-92 A-, 88-89 B+, 83-87 B, 80-82, B-, 78-79 C+, 73-77 C, 70-72 C-, 68-69 D+, 63-67 D, 60-62 D-, 59 and below F.

### **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of others without giving them credit. If something you write implies that you are the originator of words or ideas, they must be

your own. If you use someone else's exact words they must be enclosed in quotation marks and be followed by a citation. If you put someone else's ideas into your own words, you must give that person credit. Anyone who commits plagiarism will be penalized severely and could automatically fail the course.