

US History: Women, Politics and Citizenship Spring 2004- Bayview

Tuesday 6-8 pm
Lab Hours: 6-8pm Thursday

Professor Tanya Erzen
Barnard College

Course Description:

What is Citizenship? Who is a Citizen? How do race, class, gender and sexuality affect citizenship? How has citizenship been experienced by diverse populations in the US historically?

This course examines American concepts of citizenship with particular attention to its implications for women. It also examines women's involvement in social movements and politics to understand how women have challenged definitions of citizenship throughout history. While most ideas about women in politics take for granted that women have always been involved in movements for progressive social change, this course also examines women's participation in reactionary and conservative social movements.

We begin by considering definitions of citizenship and proceed to historical examples of exclusion from citizenship and US political life by focusing on the Suffrage, Anti-Suffrage, Abolitionist, Anti-Lynching, and Klan movements as well as the history of welfare. We next look at social movements of the 1960s and 1970s including Civil Rights and Black Power, Women's Liberation, the American Indian Movement, and the emergence of the New Right and Christian Right. The course ends with an examination of contemporary issues around immigration and globalization.

Course Requirements:

Readings:

All the articles will be distributed in a packet in class.

Assignments:

Written assignments for the course include:

In addition to engaged participation and thoughtful contribution to class you will complete two written responses to the readings over the course of the semester. In your papers, you should take a position on an issue raised by the readings and make an argument for your position. The essay is designed for you to express your own ideas about the readings, but I will also distribute questions in advance. Each critical memo should be 2-3 pages. You are also required to complete a midterm and final exam.

Attendance: I expect students to be active participants in their educations. This means that each student should come to class having carefully read the assigned readings and be prepared to discuss them. It is important and expected that you will be at every session. I will also give quizzes and other writing assignments as part of the lab on Thursday.

Grading: All assignments are marked down one-third of a letter grade for every late day.

Class participation and quizzes: 20%

Midterm: 25%

Final: 25%

Response Papers: 30% (15 points each)

A "C" represents fairly good work, an accurate but average comprehension of the material as demonstrated on particular assignments (73-76). A "B" represents really strong work, well above average (83-86). An "A" is truly exceptional, virtually flawless, clear, and complex expression and understanding of the material with excellent evidence (93-100). A "D" is given to below average

work, or work that has gaps or misunderstandings (63-66). An "F" is failing work--with very serious weaknesses (anything below 60; an F can range from 0 for work not done to 59).

Some suggestions and strategies:

Read each article carefully making sure you can summarize the main points. If there are any concepts in the readings that are unclear, please write them down since others probably had the same questions. At the start of each class we will list them on the board and collectively discuss them. Read each article critically: What do the authors assume or take for granted? Who is the imagined audience? Who is left out? At the Thursday lab, students from Barnard College and New York University will be available to discuss readings, assignments and papers.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

PART I: Definitions of Citizenship

January 27- Introduction and What are the rights of a Citizen?

Read in Class: The Bill of Rights and excerpts from the Constitution
Text from the US Patriot Act of 2001
David Cole, "National Security State"

February 3- Legal and Cultural Citizenship

Ian Haney Lopez, "White Lines" and "Racial Restrictions in the Law of Citizenship"
Rita Benmayor and Rosa Torruellas, "Education, Cultural Rights and Citizenship"

February 5th- LAB

Handout on Definitions of Citizenship
Work on first critical memo

PART II: Historical Exclusions to Citizenship in the 19th and 20th Centuries

February 10- Origins and Exclusions

Sara Evans, "The First American Woman"
Excerpts from the Iroquois Constitution
Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution
Mamie Locke, "From Three-Fifths to Zero: Implications of the Constitution for African American Women, 1787-1870"

February 12- LAB

***FIRST CRITICAL MEMO DUE**

February 17- Suffrage, Abolition, and the Early Women's Movement

"1848 Declaration of Sentiments"
Angela Davis, *Woman, Race and Class* pp. 30-98, 110-126, 137-148
19th Amendment to the Constitution
Sojourner Truth, "Ain't I A Woman?"

February 19- LAB

Quiz on Suffrage

February 24 - Crusades for Justice

Ida B. Wells "Crusade for Justice The Autobiography of Ida B. Wells"
Ida B. Wells, "A Red Record: Tabulated Statistics and Alleged Cases of Lynchings in the United States, 1892-1894"

Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, *Revolt Against Chivalry: Jessie Daniel Ames and the Women's Campaign Against Lynching*, chapters 5&6
FILM: Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice

- February 26- LAB**
Analyze Primary Source documents:
Philip Dray, *At the Hands of Person's Unknown: The Lynching of Black America*
James Allen, *Without Sanctuary: Lynching Photography in America*
- March 2- Crusades for Injustice**
Kathleen Blee, "Women in the 1920s Ku Klux Klan"
Nancy MacClean, "White Women and Klan Violence in the 1920s: Agency, Complicity and the Politics of Women's History"
Manuela Thurner, "Better Citizens Without the Ballot: American Anti-Suffrage Women"
- March 4- LAB**
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON 1923 PRIMARY SOURCE HANDOUT
- March 9- Social Citizenship and the History of Welfare**
Linda Gordon, *Pitied but Not Entitled: Single Mothers and the History of Welfare*, chapters 1-3, conclusion
Teresa Amott, "Black Women and AFDC: Making Entitlement out of Necessity"
Linda Gordon and Nancy Fraser, "Contract v. Charity: Why is there no Social Citizenship in the United States?"
- March 11- MIDTERM REVIEW**
- NO CLASS MARCH 16TH AND 18TH**
- March 23- MIDTERM**
- March 25- MIDTERM ESSAYS**

PART III: Citizen Activists: The Social Movements of the 1960s and 1970s

- March 30- From Civil Rights to Black Power**
Stewart Burns, "We Shall All Be Free"
James H. Cone, "Martin Luther King"
Martin Luther King, "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"
- April 1- LAB**
WORK ON SECOND CRITICAL MEMO
- April 6- From Civil Rights to Black Power CONTINUED**
Michael Eric Dyson, "Malcolm X"
Malcolm X, "The Ballot or the Bullet"
Robin D.G Kelley, "We Changed the World" in *To Make Our World Anew*
Cornel West, "The Paradox of the Afro-American Rebellion"
George Jackson, *Soledad Brother*, excerpts
FILM: Eyes on the Prize- A Nation of Law
- April 8- LAB**
Discussion of Primary Sources:

10 point platform of Black Panthers and speeches by MLK and Malcolm X

April 13- Identity Politics and Citizenship: Women's Liberation Movement and the Sexual Revolution

Susan Brownmiller, "In Our Time: Memoir of a Revolution"

Stewart Burns, "Sisterhood is Powerful"

Alice Echols, "Nothing Distant About It: Women's Liberation and Sixties Radicalism"

April 15- LAB

Primary Documents from the Women's Movement

***SECOND CRITICAL MEMO DUE**

April 20- Sovereignty and Citizenship: The American Indian Movement and the FBI Response

Ward Churchill, *Agents of Repression* pp.103-177

Mary Crow Dog, *Lakota Woman*, excerpts

April 22- LAB

FILM: *Incident at Oglala*

Part IV: Contemporary Challenges to Citizenship

April 27- The Rise of Conservatism

Susan Marshall, "Rattle on the Right: Bridge Labor in Anti-Feminist Organizations"

Kathleen Blee, "Reading Racism: Women in the Modern Hate Movement"

Serge Kovalski, "Women in Militias"

Tanya Erzen, "Liberated Through Submission?"

April 29- LAB

May 4- Sweatshops, Immigrant Rights and Global Citizenship

Grace Chang, *Disposable Domestic: Immigrant Workers in the New Economy*

Eyal Press, "Barbies Betrayal: The Toy Industry's Broken Workers"

Julie Su, "El Monte Thai Garment Workers: Slave Sweatshops"

FILM: Global Village or Global Pillage?

May 6- LAB

Final Exam Review

May 11- FINAL EXAM