

Themes in American Women's History: "The New Woman"

HST 389-9547 | WMS 389-9548
Fall 2009, CSI/CUNY
Th 6:30- 9:50PM 2N/108

Professor Catherine Lavender, PhD
Office hours (2N-203): Th 4:00-6:00, & by appt.
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About the Course:

This course examines the discipline of women's history by tracing the historiographical and methodological debates surrounding the history of the "New Woman" in the field of American women's history. We will address a variety of topics ranging through political, labor, cultural, and social histories in order to gain a deeper understanding of American women's history generally and the historical period from the 1880s to the 1940s specifically.

Course Requirements:

All students are required to attend class meetings, take part in discussions, and submit all written work on time; late papers will not be accepted without prior arrangement with the professor. As per CSI-CUNY regulations, no student with more than two unexcused absences will receive credit for the course. Finally, plagiarism and other forms of intellectual dishonesty or sloth will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade for the assignment and/or course. For information about CUNY's policies on academic dishonesty, refer to www1.cuny.edu/portal_ur/content/2004/policies/image/policy.pdf.

Assignments:

- Assignments, Exercises & Quizzes (ongoing) (50% of course grade total)
- Class Participation/Attendance (10% of course grade)
- Annotated Bibliography, due 10/29/09 (10% of course grade)
- Final Paper, due 12/17/09 (30% of course grade)

Contacting the Professor:

My contact information and office hours are listed above. Course materials may be downloaded via www.library.csi.cuny.edu/dept/history/lavender/389/.

Texts:

The books below have been ordered for purchase at the College Bookstore.

HST/WMS 389 Course Reader (CR)

Holly Pyne Connor, *Off the Pedestal: New Women in the Art of Homer, Chase, and Sargent* (Newark: Rutgers University Press, 2006).

Martha H. Patterson, ed., *The American New Woman Revisited: A Reader, 1894-1930* (Newark: Rutgers University Press, 2008).

Sandra E. Adickes, *To Be Young Was Very Heaven: Women in New York before the First World War* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2000).

- Th 10/8
Reading: **The New Woman and Immigration**
 “VI: The New Woman and Immigration” (CR)
 Mary Chapman, “A ‘Revolution in Ink’: Sui Sin Far and Chinese Reform Discourse” (2008)
 Florencemae Waldron, “The Battle over Female (In)Dependence: Women in New England *Quebécois* Migrant Communities, 1870-1930” (2005)
 Ljiljana Coklin, “Between the Orient and the Ghetto: A Modern Immigrant Woman in Anzia Yezierska’s *Salome of the Tenements*” (2006)
- Th 10/15
Reading: **The New Woman and Intermarriage**
 “VII: The New Woman and Intermarriage” (CR)
 Margaret D. Jacobs, “The Eastmans and the Luhans: Interracial Marriage between White Women and Native American Men, 1875–1935” (2002)
 Maureen E. Reed, “Mixed Messages: Pablita Velarde, Kay Bennett, and the Changing Meaning of Anglo-Indian Intermarriage in Twentieth-Century New Mexico” (2005)
 Jane Hwang Degenhardt, “Situating the Essential Alien: Sui Sin Far’s Depiction of Chinese-white Marriage and the Exclusionary Logic of Citizenship” (2008)
 Adickes, “Ch. 8, The New Woman in Love”
- Th 10/22
Reading: **The New Woman, Motherhood, and The Family**
 “VIII: The New Woman, Motherhood, and The Family” (CR)
 Elizabeth Freeman, “The Whole(y) Family: Economies of Kinship in the Progressive Era” (2004)
 Dana Seitler, “Unnatural Selection: Mothers, Eugenic Feminism, and Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s Regeneration Narratives” (2003)
 Patterson, “III: Temperance, Social Purity, and Maternalism”
 Adickes, “Ch. 7, The Great Movements: Birth Control”
- Th 10/29
Reading: **The New Woman and Sexuality – ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE**
 “IX: The New Woman and Sexuality” (CR)
 Lillian Faderman, “Acting ‘Woman’ and Thinking ‘Man’: The Ploys of Famous Female Inverts” (1999)
 Leslie A. Taylor, “‘I Made Up My Mind to Get It’: The American Trial of *The Well of Loneliness*, New York City, 1928–1929” (2001)
 Connor, “The Manly New Woman”
 Patterson, “VII: Prohibition and Sexuality”
- Th 11/5
Reading: **The New Woman and Her Body**
 “X: The New Woman and Her Body” (CR)
 Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *The Yellow Wall Paper* (1892)
 David G. Schuster, “Personalizing Illness and Modernity: S. Weir Mitchell, Literary Women, and Neurasthenia, 1870–1914” (2005)
 Susan Tomlinson, “‘Curiously Without Body’: The Hidden Language of Zona Gale’s *Faint Perfume*” (2006)
 Martha H. Verbrugge, “Recreating the Body: Women’s Physical Education and the Science of Sex Differences in America, 1900-1940” (1997)
 Patterson, “IX: Evolution, Birth Control, and Eugenics”

- Th 11/12 **The New Woman at Work and On Strike**
 Reading: “XI: The New Woman at Work” (CR)
 Daniel Opler, "Monkey Business In Union Square: A Cultural Analysis of the
 Klein's-Ohrbach's Strikes of 1934-5" (2002)
 Jean Marie Lutes, "Sob Sisterhood Revisited" (2003)
 Patterson, "V: Work and the Labor Movement"
 Adickes, "Ch. 6, The Great Movements: Economic Justice"
- Th 11/19 **The New Woman On/In Film**
 Reading: “XII: The New Woman On/In Film” (CR)
 Jennifer Parchesky, "Women in the Driver’s Seat: The Auto-Erotics of Early
 Women’s Films" (2006)
 Brett L. Abrams, "Latitude in Mass-Produced Culture’s Capital: New Women and
 Other Players in Hollywood, 1920–1941" (2004)
 Marsha Orgeron, "Making *It* in Hollywood: Clara Bow, Fandom, and Consumer
 Culture" (2003)
 Patterson, "VIII: Consumer Culture, Leisure Culture, and Technology"
- Th 11/26 CSI Closed – No Class Meeting
- Th 12/3 **The New Woman and Cultural Production**
 Reading: “XIII: The New Woman and Cultural Production (Behind the Scenes)” (CR)
 Carol J. Oja, "Women Patrons and Activists For Modernist Music: New York in
 the 1920s" (1997)
 Eric Rauchway, "A Gentlemen's Club in a Woman's Sphere: How Dorothy
 Whitney Straight Created the *New Republic*" (1999)
 Adickes, "Ch. 9, Arts and Letters"
- Th 12/10 **The New Woman Abroad**
 Reading: “XIV: The New Woman Abroad” (CR)
 Cheryl M. Cassidy, “Bringing the ‘New Woman’ to the Mission Site: Louise
 Manning Hodgkins and *The Heathen Woman’s Friend*” (2006)
 Motoe Sasaki, "American New Women Encountering China: the Politics of
 Temporality and Paradoxes of Imperialism, 1898–1927" (2009)
 Patterson, "VI: World War I and Its Aftermath"
- Th 12/17 ***FINAL PAPER DUE***