

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
5210 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913 3649
479 788 7000

General Syllabus

HIST 42233 Early American Women's History

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Prerequisite: HIST 21103 United States History I and junior standing.

Effective Catalog: 2019 - 2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

An examination of the economic, family and political roles and contributions of native, colonial, slave, immigrant and frontier women in early American history through the Civil War.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the diversity and interconnectedness of women's experiences and roles during American history through the Civil War in a gendered context.
2. Support verbally and in writing the economic, family, religious, and political roles played by women in America through the Civil War.
3. Compare and contrast the lives of native, colonial, slave, immigrant, and frontier women in early American history.
4. Explain the origins of First Wave Feminism as a political movement and the beginnings of the women's rights movement.
5. Analyze the impact of female activism on the first half of U.S. history especially with regard to abolition, temperance, suffrage, social housekeeping, and the nascent environmental movement.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will draw conclusions and solve problems.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate effectively in a variety of formats and for a variety of audiences in diverse settings.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures than their own.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Roles of Native women prior to conquest and after.
- B. Roles of American women in the colonial world; north and south, European settlers and slaves.
- C. Diverse roles of women during the American Revolution.
- D. The meaning and significance of “Republican Motherhood;” women’s role in citizenship education in early America.
- E. An explanation of how through religion American women gained access to leadership roles within the Abolitionist Movement which later allowed them to parlay experience into other kinds of activism.
- F. Women wage-earners during the nascent Industrial Revolution and as contributors to the emergence of labor union activism.
- G. Significance of the Seneca Falls Convention and the “Declaration of Sentiments.”
- H. The emergence of “True Womanhood” as the ideal model of female decorum and behavior in American society.
- I. Diverse roles of women during the Civil War