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## SYLLABUS / Shaping the 21st Century Women's Movement

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### ***Course Description:***

This course examines the state of women's achievement and status on a broad spectrum of issues and asks the question -what gaps remain to be addressed? We will reference women elsewhere in the world but focus primarily on US women.

Since the 1960s, women in all fields have made much progress and the notion of women as victims in society has been widely rejected. However, there is hardly equity at the workplace or in politics. In addition, on cultural concerns like body image, premature sexuality and advertising, many see alarming regression.

The course is structured to briefly review previous women's movements and their central concerns for the purpose of understanding those issues that have been resolved (or still remain) and to discuss how previous movements formed. We will then spend the bulk of our sessions reviewing the contemporary status of women: in the workplace, in politics, as protected by the legal system, in the economy, in healthcare, in advertising, and in the family. In each session we will examine the historical and current challenges particular to each area, but also look at potential solutions.

The course challenges this generation of young women to think about their status in society and what they would like to see changed. If your generation were to design a new and powerful movement for women's equality what would it concern itself with and what would be its goals? This is a chance to update women's concerns through the fresh lens of a new generation.

As part of the class we will design and interpret a broad survey of Tufts students on their views of women's issues and their sense of what more, if anything, needs to happen to improve the status of women.

Teams of students will develop issue-specific survey questions and also make presentations on a how a specific issue (i.e.; reproductive health, influencing advertising, etc) might be interpreted by their generation.

In addition each student will write a brief but compelling speech beseeching others to join a contemporary new women's movement.

### ***Requirements:***

Students are expected to do weekly readings and come to class prepared to pose questions

to guest speakers and to the class in general. At the first session we will divide into teams of two or three. The first task of the team will be to pick a weekly topic from the syllabus and prepare three survey questions on it to assess the views of current Tufts students. A first draft of these questions will due at the second class. The team will then work to prepare a PowerPoint presentation assessing and framing this generations view on a key issue for a new women's movement.

After class three, there will be a short paper in which we ask you to discuss your major takeaways from the history of the women's movement. We will ask you to revisit your paper and append a one page "update" at class 11.

Lastly, each student will write and deliver a five-minute speech to the class seeking to enlist members in a new women's movement.

Grades will be based 20% on class participation, 15% on short papers, 10% on survey questions, 35% on PowerPoint presentation and 20% on delivered (and written) speech.

Throughout the semester, you should frequently read (and comment on) these websites and blogs:

Bitch Magazine: <http://bitchmagazine.org/>

Bust Magazine: <http://www.bust.com/>

Cristina Page: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/cristina-page>

<http://www.feministe.us/blog/>

<http://feministing.com/>

[www.momsrising.org](http://www.momsrising.org)

<http://ourbodiesourblog.org/>

<http://www.rebeccawalker.com/>

<http://rhrealitycheck.org/>

**Books We Use (Please note, there are only two books we suggest you buy: *Nickel and Dimed*, and *The Second Shift*). This course draws heavily on the coursepack, which you can purchase.**

Alice H. Eagly and Linda L. Carli. *Through the Labyrinth: The Truth About How Women Become Leaders*. (Harvard Business School Press, 2007).

Arlie Hochschild. *The Second Shift*. (Penguin, 1989).

Astrid Henry. *Not My Mother's Sister*. (Indiana University Press, 2004).

Barbara Ehrenreich. *Nickel and Dimed*. (Metropolitan Books, 2001).

Carolyn Byerly and Karen Ross. *Women and Media*. (Blackwell, 2006).

Caryl Rivers and Rosalind Barnett. *Same Difference: How Gender Myths Are Hurting Our Relationships, Our Children, and Our Jobs*. (Basic Books, 2005).

Courtney E. Martin. *Perfect Girls, Starving Daughters*. (Simon and Schuster, 2008).

Deborah Tannen. *You Just Don't Understand*. (Ballantine Books, 1990).

Deborah Rhode. *The Difference Difference Makes*. (Stanford University Press, 2003).

Estelle B. Freedman, ed., *The Essential Feminist Reader* (Modern Library, 2007).

Barbara Ehrenreich. *Nickel and Dimed*. (Metropolitan Books, 2001).

Gloria Feldt. *The War on Choice: The Right Wing Attack on Women's Rights and How to Fight Back*. (Bantam, 2004).

Joan Williams. *Unbending Gender*. (Oxford University Press, 1999)

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich. *Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History*. (Vintage, 2008).

Sally McMullen, *Seneca Falls and the Origin of the Women's Movement*. (Oxford, 2008).

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **1) September 8, 2009**

#### **INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW**

We will spend our first class reviewing the syllabus and establishing a common baseline about the current status of women. For example we will look at how women now fare educationally and at work compared to men. We will look at differences that exist among women by race and age and see how changing attitudes about women compare to actual experience. We will also look (briefly) at global comparisons. We will also learn about writing good survey questions and discuss the assignment to bring three questions back for next class.

Speaker: Peter Levine, Director, CIRCLE and Research Director for Tisch College; demographic and survey research expert

## 2) September 15, 2009

WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS IN THE PAST: WHAT WERE THE ISSUES? How did the Movement get organized? What makes a movement a movement?

We know that the fight to get the women's vote was hard fought and that it was led by extraordinary women. For the purpose of this class we will look at how the movement coalesced, what the rhetoric was that galvanized others and how and why it succeeded.

We will also spend time reviewing the survey questions submitted and begin putting out the Tufts-wide survey together.

To read:

Toni Bentley. *A Hyena in Petticoats*. From the NYT Book Review, May 29, 2005. Available online at <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9E07EFDA1739F93AA15756C0A9639C8B63>

Sally McMullen, *Seneca Falls and the Origin of the Women's Movement*. pp. 104-148.

Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* pp. 24-36 in Estelle B. Freedman, ed., *The Essential Feminist Reader* (Modern Library, 2007), (Originally published in 1792).

"Slaves in the Attic," in Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *Well Behaved Women Seldom Make History*, pp. 105-142.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, "Declaration of Sentiments" in Freedman, pp. 57-62. (Originally published in 1848).

Sojourner Truth, two speeches in Freedman, pp. 63-66.

## 3) September 22, 2009

WHAT WERE THE ISSUES OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT OF THE 60'S AND 70'S? Are most resolved or do they still persist? How has participation in the women's movement influenced today's middle-aged women and their daughters? How does this generation view their supposed role models? We will define the "waves" of feminism.

Speaker: Phyllis Segal, A Founder of NOW Legal Defense Fund and active in women's movement

To Read:

Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*, in Freedman, pp. 269-282. (Originally published 1963).

Bell hooks, "Black Women: Shaping Feminist Theory" in *The Black Feminist Reader*, eds.

Joy James and Tracey Denean Sharpley-Whiting, pp. 131-144.

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, "Waves," pp. 191-222.

Robin Morgan (Goodbye To All That, 1970)

Available at: <http://blog.fair-use.org/category/chicago/>

Videos of Gloria Steinem:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z3zw5GQAMmA&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aYLfsikLAM>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FL\\_WfbP-RTA&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FL_WfbP-RTA&feature=related)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSH8qlmyZZI> (1968)

Audre Lorde, "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House," in Freedman, pp. 331-335. (Originally published 1979).

#### **4) September 29, 2009**

ARE THERE REAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN? Are they socialized or biological? This has been a debate amongst women and between women and men that often reinforces stereotypes and discrimination. We will examine some of the evidence and discuss if the debate really matters and if so how.

To Read:

Caryl Rivers and Rosalind Barnett, *Same Difference: How Gender Myths Are Hurting Our Relationships, Our Children, and Our Jobs*. Pp. ix -45.

***Deborah Tannen: excerpt from "You Just Don't Understand" TBD- downloadable from BlackBoard***

Fels, Anna. 2004. "Do Women Lack Ambition?" *Harvard Business Review* 82 (4): 50-60.

Rhode, "The Difference Difference Makes," pp. 3-34 (notes optional) in Rhode, Ed. *The Difference Difference Makes* (2003).

Eagly and Carli, "Are Men Natural Leaders"? in Eagly and Carli, op.cit., pp. 29-48

SHORT PAPERS DUE: How does the history of the women's movement affect the issues women face today? What is the legacy of the movement? In your mind, which issues are resolved and which still need a lot of work? This is a four to six page paper. You may choose the focus of your paper, and we expect you to draw on the class readings and class discussions.

#### **5) October 6, 2009**

Assignment: Please keep a diary for about four days, noting images and incidents of

sexism and gender discrimination you see in the popular media. You won't have to hand in your diary; rather, we'll use this as a basis for discussion for class six.

**CURRENT ISSUES: REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS and Current Issues in Women's Health.** What is current state of fight for reproductive rights and birth control? What are other women's health issues and concerns that require attention and advocacy?

Speaker: Dr. Paula Johnson, Chair of Women's Health, Brigham and Women's Hospital

Margaret Sanger, "Women and the New Race," in Freedman, pp. 211-216. (Originally published in 1920).

Boston Women's Health Book Collective, "Our Bodies Ourselves Introduction," in Freedman, pp. 295-299.

Suzanne Staggenborg, "Organizational and Environmental Influences on the Development of the Pro-Choice Movement." *Social Forces*, Vol. 68, No. 1 (Sep., 1989), pp. 204-240.

Gloria Feldt, *The War on Choice: The Right Wing Attack on Women's Rights and How to Fight Back*. Introduction- pp. 86

Watch this video of current PPFPA President Cecile Richards's speech at the 2008 Democratic National Convention:  
<http://womenshealthnews.wordpress.com/2008/08/26/planned-parenthoods-cecile-richards-at-the-democratic-national-convention/> so we can see how the framing of the issues has changed

Review the websites and blog "RH Reality Check" at <http://rhrealitycheck.org/> and <http://www.ourbodiesourblog.org/>

*Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> – is a Tufts Monday.*

## **6) October 20, 2009**

**CURRENT ISSUES: BODY IMAGE AND SEXUALITY:** Are women advancing or regressing on issues of sexuality? What is the role of advertising and the media in molding how young women feel about themselves and their appearance?

To Read:  
Byerly and Ross, Chs. 1 and 2.

Courtney E. Martin, "*Perfect Girls, Starving Daughters*," pp. 17-65, 141-16

Selections from the work of Jean Kilbourne – *Killing Me Softly on Reserve*

Come prepared to discuss your pop culture diaries.

## **7) October 27, 2009**

**CURRENT ISSUES: THE WORKPLACE AND THE ECONOMY:** What special issues do women face in the workplace? What accounts for their lower pay and lower advancement levels? We will examine the issues of lower income women and the lower pay assumptions in jobs dominated by women. We will also look at the status of women in professional jobs and the barriers to their advancement.

Speaker: Nancy Keenan

To Read:

Amott, ch. 1 and 2

Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed*, entire book.

Sheila Wellington, Marcia Brumit Kropf, Paulette R. Gerkovich What's Holding Women Back (June 2003), *Harvard Business Review*.

Read Sylvia Ann Hewlett's blog on the Harvard Business Review:  
<http://blogs.harvardbusiness.org/hewlett/>

Eagly and Carli, Ch. 2 and 7

## **8) November 3, 2009**

**CURRENT ISSUES: THE FAMILY AND WORK/FAMILY DILEMMA:** How does family role affect women's status? We will examine how roles in the family affect advancement and how men and women make decisions about working when children are present. We will look at the key issues that limit the advancement of parents and what can be done to eliminate them.

Speaker: Amy Richman, DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH, WFD, Inc

To Read: Arlie Hochschild, *The Second Shift*, p 1-61 and one of the additional chapters-your choice. Come prepared to discuss.

Rodgers, HBR Business and the Facts of Family Life (1989).

Felice Schwartz, Management Women and the New Facts of Life (HBR)

Joan Williams: *Unbending Gender*. pp 64-113.

Review [www.momsrising.org](http://www.momsrising.org)

## **9) November 10, 2009**

**CURRENT ISSUES:** Does the Legal System treat women fairly? IS there an inherent sexism in the legal system? What are the main issues? What changes in the law would

help advance the status of women? What is the current political makeup of the courts?

Speaker: Judge Nancy Gertner

To Read: D. Kelly Weisberg *Applications of Feminist Legal Theory to Women's Lives*

Anita Hill, "What Difference Will Women Judges Make?" in Kellerman and Rhode, pp. 175-190.

Emily Bazelon, "The Place of Women on the Court, in the *New York Times Magazine*, June 12, 2009. Available at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/12/magazine/12ginsburg-t.html>

### **10) November 17, 2009**

**THIRD WAVE FEMINISM AND ETHNIC AND RACIAL DIFFERENCES:** What have younger women been doing to organize and advocate for their own issues? Are the racial divides in previous women's movements still present? Is there a new women's movement in formation?

To Read:

Rebecca Walker, "Becoming a Third Wave," in Freedman, pp. 398-401. (Originally published 1992).

United Nations Fourth Conference on Women, in Freedman, pp. 402-414.

Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards, "Manifesta: Young Women, Feminism, and the Future," in Freedman, pp. 424-426.

Astrid Henry. *Not My Mother's Sister*, pp. 16-51.

"African American Women in Defense of Ourselves." *New York Times*, 17 November 1991, 53. Reprinted in *The Black Feminist Reader*, eds. Joy James and Tracey Denean Sharpley-Whiting (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2000).

Selected websites including:

<http://angryblackbitch.blogspot.com/>

Bitch Magazine: <http://bitchmagazine.org/>

Bust Magazine: <http://www.bust.com/>

Christina Page: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/cristina-page>

<http://www.feministe.us/blog/>

<http://feministing.com/>

<http://www.rebeccawalker.com/>

Read this interview with Gloria Steinem and activist Suheir Hammad

<http://nymag.com/anniversary/40th/50664/>

### **11) November 24, 2009**

**WOMEN IN POLITICS and GOVERNMENT:** Why is there not more women succeeding in politics and what is the pipeline of younger women like? Have women succeeded more in government and the military? What has the experience been like?

Due: Please draft a one-page addition to your short paper, focusing on the question: What is the legacy of the women's movements of the past? In your mind, which issues are resolved and which still need a lot of work? How have your views changed during the course of this class?

To Read:

Marie Wilson, "It's Woman Time," In Kellerman and Rhode, pp. 271-282.

Richard Fox, "The Future of Women's Political Leadership: Gender and the Decision to Run for Elective Office." In Kellerman and Rhode, pp. 251-261.

Ruth Mandel, "She's the Candidate!" In Kellerman and Rhode, pp. 283-307.

Robin Morgan: Goodbye To All That No. 2 (2008), available at

<http://www.womensmediacenter.com/ex/020108.html>

Read/watch these selections from Rebecca Traister, Salon.com:

[http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2009/01/19/emily\\_list/index.html](http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2009/01/19/emily_list/index.html)

[http://www.salon.com/mwt/feature/2008/11/12/michelle\\_obama/index.html](http://www.salon.com/mwt/feature/2008/11/12/michelle_obama/index.html)

[http://www.salon.com/ent/video\\_dog/current\\_tv/2008/07/03/traister\\_feministcampaign/index.html](http://www.salon.com/ent/video_dog/current_tv/2008/07/03/traister_feministcampaign/index.html)

### **12) December 1, 2009**

Review of Survey Results and Workshop on Interpreting Results and creating an Executive Summary. We will discuss the results of our survey together and break up into groups to help craft an executive summary to report back to Tufts Community.

Speaker, Advisor: Peter Levine, Director of CIRCLE and Research Director for Tisch College

### **13) December 8, 2009**

Wrap up and Presentation of Final Speeches