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Office Hours T 1-2, TH 1-2 (or after class or appointment)
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HST 324-301
Women in American History: The Colonial Era to the Present

Books

Benfield-Barker, *Portraits of American Women*
Baker, Sisters, *The Lives of American Suffragists*
McLaurin, *Celia, A Slave*
Perkins, *The Yellow Wallpaper*
Traister, *Good and Mad*

In addition, there will be documents and articles assigned to some lectures posted on Blackboard.

Grades

There are two midterms worth 100 points. The final exam is worth 200 points. There are 4 book tests worth 100 points – *Celia: A Slave, Sisters, The Yellow Wallpaper Good and Mad* total 400 points.

You will have one oral report on a woman from the book *Portraits*. 25 points

Biographical background

Sources?

Historical significance?

How does the author interpret the life of this person?

Do you have a different viewpoint?

Class participation 100 points.

Total 925

925-875 A

874-824 B

823-773 C

772-722

771

The final will consist of two parts- Essay questions from the last third of the class and the following question:

In *Backlashes Then and Now* Susan Faludi writes, “An accurate charting of American women’s progress through history might look like a corkscrew slightly to one side, inching closer to the line of freedom with the passage of time, but, like a mathematical curve approaching infinity, never touching its goal. The American woman is trapped in this asymmetrical spiral, turning

endlessly through the generations, drawing ever near to her destination without ever arriving.” Beginning with Seneca Falls and continuing until the 21st century as described in the book *Good and Mad* write an essay reflecting upon the validity of Faludi’s thesis. Do you see examples of generational fits and starts and cycles of lost and found? Or is this a far too simplistic analysis that does not do justice to the economic, political, familial, and social layers and complexities making up the lives of women over the past 150 years?

Schedule

1/18 Introduction

1/25 Native, African Women, British Women in the 17th-18th centuries **Portraits:** Pocahontas, Ward, Hutchinson

2/1 Witchcraft in Salem

2/8 The Revolution **Portraits:** Eliza Pinckney, Mercy Otis Warren, Phyllis Wheatley

2/15 Separate Spheres, Industrialization, Movement West **Portraits:** Beecher, Fuller

2/22 Antebellum Reform and the Vote **Portraits:** Weston, **Sisters:** Chapters 1, (Stone) 2, (Anthony), pages 93-120 (Stanton Part1)

3/1 EXAM I Bring Blue Books

3/8 Slavery and the Civil War **Portraits:** Davis, Lincoln, Forten
Test on *Celia: A Slave*

3/15 SPRING BREAK

3/22 The Victorian Lady **Portraits:** Gilman, **Sisters**, pages 120-135 (Stanton Part II), Chapter 4 (Willard), **Test on *The Yellow Wallpaper***

3/29 The New Woman and the Working Girl **Portraits:** Addams, Wells-Barnett, Schneiderman

4/5 The Vote and After, **Sisters Paul**

4/12 EXAM II Bring Blue Books

4/19 The Great Depression, WW II and the Fifties **Portraits:** Roosevelt, Mead, Douglas

4/26 Modern Feminism Freidan, Baker

5/3 Modern America, *Test Good and Mad*, Review for Faludi question final exam

5/10 Open

Final Exam Tuesday May 17 5:45 – 7:45