

COURSE OUTLINE

HIST-225

**Women in American History:
Colonial Times to 1880
3 Semester Hours**

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

An in-depth study of the lives and experiences of American women from the early seventeenth century to 1880. This course examines three major cultures—native, African and European as they met and mixed in colonial America with particular attention to women's experience in this cultural mixing. Focus will be on wealthy merchant families, slave holding planter families, indentured servants, slaves, factory workers, and immigrants and will include women's relationships with husbands, children and other women. Prerequisite: ENGL-121 (3 hours weekly) NOTE: Also listed as WMST-225.

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. Analyze the experiences of American women under the category of race.
2. Analyze the experiences of American women under the category of social class.
3. Analyze the experiences of American women under the category of gender.
4. Compare and critically analyze variations of the sexual division of labor among the native, African and European cultures.
5. Critically examine the standard periodization of American History and its applicability to the experiences of American women.
6. Analyze fictional portrayals of women and their families during this period, comparing them with what we know about actual woman and their families.
7. Analyze and describe changing roles for women in wartime and on the Overland Trail.
8. Describe and analyze the Industrial Revolution and women's experiences.
9. Describe and analyze the marriage laws, customs, and expectations for women and men.
10. Describe and analyze the concepts of women's health and women's diseases.

Major Topics

- I. The Colonial Period
 - A. Variety in Native Cultures
 - B. West African Traditions
 - C. European Traditions
- II. The Early Republic
 - A. Republican Motherhood
 - B. Educational Reform
 - C. Separate Spheres
- III. American Expansion and Industrialization
 - A. The Lowell Mill Girls
 - B. Gender Roles on the Overland Trail
 - C. Marriage as an Institution
- IV. Slavery, Abolitionism, and the Civil War
 - A. Slave Women and their Families
 - B. Slave holding Women and their Families
 - C. Civil War and Women's Lives
- V. Early Feminists
 - A. The Great Awakening and Women's Benevolent Associations
 - B. Seneca Falls Convention
 - C. Constitutional Amendments

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

Research assignments will focus on the similarities and differences in American women's experiences.

Final grades will be based on unit exams, research and writing assignments, and class participation.

Writing: Specific writing assignments will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include at least 2500 words of formal writing.

Other Course Information

This course is an Interdisciplinary and Emerging Issues core course.

Meets College definition for **Cultural Diversity**.

This course is a Social Science elective and an Arts and Sciences elective.