

COURSE OUTLINE

HIST-227

**Women in American History:
1880 to the Present
3 Semester Hours**

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

An in-depth study of the lives and experiences of American women from diverse racial and ethnic groups from 1880 to the present. This course examines the experiences of women in the modern world from the end of the nineteenth century through the twentieth. Focus will be on the varying experiences of reformers, workers, organizers, and immigrants with particular attention to differences between married and single women and between those living in the cities and those living in rural areas. During this time period, women have gained the legal right to vote and run for office, regulate the size of their families, and receive equal pay for equal work. And yet women retain primary responsibility for housekeeping and child care. This course considers the roots of some of these contradictions. Prerequisite: ENGL-121 or ENGL-101. (3 hours weekly) NOTE: Also listed as WMST-227.

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 examine the effects of the sexual division of labor on American women's lives.
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 women and their families.
7. Analyze and describe changing roles for women in wartime, during the Industrial Revolution, in the Roaring Twenties and the Depression, and during the rebirth of Feminism in the 1960s.
8. Describe and analyze the struggle to achieve the suffrage for American women.
9. Describe and analyze the Settlement House and Temperance movements.
10. Describe and analyze the current status of women in contemporary American society.

Major Topics

- I. Immigrant Women
 - A. Assimilation versus Separatism
 - B. Urban working women
 - C. Settlement Houses

- II. Women and Labor Unions
 - A. Garment Workers
 - B. Protective Legislation

- III. Women and Work
 - A. Professional and White Collar Women
 - B. The Depression and Women Workers
 - C. Rosie the Riveter
 - D. Pink Collar Workers

- IV. Suffrage and Reform Movements
 - A. Winning the Vote
 - B. The Equal Rights Amendment
 - C. The Birth of a Twentieth Century Feminism
 - D. Temperance as a Woman's Cause

- V. The Modern World
 - A. Equality versus Difference
 - B. Rights and Responsibilities
 - C. Contradictions in Women's Lives

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.