

HIS 4077: Gender and Law in the U.S.

History & Political Science Department
Point Loma Nazarene University
4 Units
Fall 2020

Meeting days: MWF

Meeting times: 12:15-1:20pm

Meeting location: Zoom and Canvas

Final Exam: Monday, 10:30-1:00

Professor: Dr. Kelli McCoy

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Office: Colt 114

Office hours: Mondays 12:15-1:20 on Zoom and by appointment on Zoom

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES

This seminar examines the relationship between gender and law from the colonial era to the present, with particular emphasis on the court cases and social/political movements that have shaped and continue to shape the legal relationships between women, men, and the nation. Throughout U.S. history, the struggle for women's rights has challenged and changed the legal system, and has helped to define the meanings of citizenship, gender, and sexuality. The readings for this class will historicize several debates that continue to be significant today. Therefore, the course is organized thematically, rather than chronologically, and the weekly class sessions will focus on students' thoughtful discussion and analysis of the reading material.

HISTORY PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to...

- Complete a substantial historical project autonomously. (Assessed with the literature review paper.)
- Present and analyze, in written or oral presentation, different perspectives on an event from the past. (Assessed with the lit review paper and oral presentation.)
- Find appropriate materials online, in a library, or in the community and know how to cite them. (Assessed with the lit review paper.)

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to...

- Explain the major events that have shaped the legal rights of women in America.
- Analyze various types of primary and secondary sources.
- Write an analytical paper.
- Teach their classmates about a significant historical event.

PLNU MISSION**To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send**

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

Assessment and Grading

Please contact me at any point during the semester if you have questions about your grade.

Weighted Grades:		Letter grades assigned as follows:	
Participation	15%	A=93-100	C=73-76.99
Discussions and Quizzes	15%	A-=90-92.99	C-=70-72.99
Reading Responses	15%	B+=87-89.99	D+=67-69.99
Lit Review Paper	15%	B=83-86.99	D=63-66.99
Presentation	15%	B-=80-82.99	D-=60-62.99
Final Exam:	25%	C+=77-79.99	F=0-59.99

Participation

Your engagement with the class is a huge component of your success in this course, and also enhances the learning of your classmates. Your participation is therefore evaluated throughout the semester. Attendance will be taken during our synchronous Zoom class sessions. Your participation grade will also include other activities and assignments. This is a seminar-style course, which means that our primary goal is to read and then discuss the reading, so your participation in that will be especially important!

The Final Exam

The Final will be an open-notes, essay exam. It will serve you well to take good notes and do the reading responses thoroughly throughout the semester, so that you're well prepared for the exam.

Reading Responses

The reading responses will involve you answering questions about the reading, noting important quotations, and citing your sources. These serve multiple important functions: to show me you carefully did the reading; to prepare you for our class discussions on Zoom; and to give you really good notes so that you can be very successful on the Final Exam. More detailed instructions will be given on Canvas.

Paper and Presentation: Detailed instructions will be posted on Canvas.

Incompletes and Late Assignments

Please talk with me as soon as possible if for whatever reason you are having trouble completing your work, so that we can find the best solution. All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the due date posted on Canvas. If assignments are turned in late, they will be subjected to a 10% penalty per day. Please ask me for more information if you believe you will need to turn in an assignment late and may want to ask for an extension. A course grade of “incomplete” is only assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

Required Texts

Kerber, Linda K. *No Constitutional Right to be Ladies*, Hill and Wang, 1999.

Kerber, Linda and Jane Sherron De Hart, eds., *Women's America: Refocusing the Past*, 8th edition.

All other readings are online and links are provided on Canvas.

Course Content and Discussions

The nature of this subject matter means that we're going to read about and discuss a range of very important and serious themes, including ones involving gender-based violence, slavery, sexual assault, and abortion. As scholars, we will be committed to having a classroom dialogue that is respectful and civil, both inside our classroom and in our interactions with each other outside of class. We will work together to seriously engage in studying and understanding these significant historical and contemporary issues. If anyone feels that any of these topics will be particularly difficult for you to read or talk about, please discuss it with me as soon as possible.

COURSE POLICIES

This class will follow the academic policies of PLNU as outlined in the Student Handbook and the Undergraduate Catalog.

COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 4 unit class delivered over 15 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. For this course, students will spend an estimated 150 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

STATE AUTHORIZATION

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic adjustments, modifications or auxiliary aids/services. At Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), these students are requested to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center (DRC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). The DRC's policies and procedures for assisting such students in the development of an appropriate academic adjustment plan (AP) allows PLNU to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. After the student files the required documentation, the DRC, in conjunction with the student, will develop an AP to meet that student's specific learning needs. The DRC will thereafter email the student's AP to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester. The AP must be implemented in all such courses.

If students do not wish to avail themselves of some or all of the elements of their AP in a particular course, it is the responsibility of those students to notify their professor in that course. PLNU highly recommends that DRC students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester about the applicability of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not desire to take advantage of some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all **synchronous** class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions (virtual or face-to-face), the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. In some courses, a portion of the credit hour content will be delivered **asynchronously** and attendance will be determined by submitting the assignments by the posted due dates. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate

Academic Catalog. If absences exceed these limits but are due to university excused health issues, an exception will be granted.

Asynchronous Attendance/Participation Definition

A day of attendance in asynchronous content is determined as contributing a substantive note, assignment, discussion, or submission by the posted due date. Failure to meet these standards will result in an absence for that day. Instructors will determine how many asynchronous attendance days are required each week.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

In order to be successful in the online environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the [Technology and System Requirements](#) information. Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers compatible with their computer available to use. If a student is in need of technological resources please contact student-tech-request@pointloma.edu.

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

Wellness Center: The PLNU Wellness Center provides the following services for undergraduate students who experience stress, depression, and/or anxiety in this season: [LomaCare](#) virtual, 24/7 on-demand counseling services and more. [Find the link to LomaCare and more info here.](#)

Title IX at PLNU: As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. It is my goal that you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussions, in your written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. I will seek to keep any information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, you should know that I have a mandatory reporting responsibility under PLNU policy and federal law, and am required to share any information I receive regarding sexual harassment, discrimination, and related conduct with PLNU's Title IX Coordinator.

PLNU strives to provide a learning and living environment that promotes safety, transparency, personal integrity, civility, mutual respect, and freedom from unlawful discrimination or sexual harassment. Detailed information on discrimination, harassment, and sexual assault policies and processes for getting help and for reporting are available at <https://www.pointloma.edu/title-ix>. PLNU's Title IX Coordinator is Dr. Caye Smith, Vice President for Student Development (619-849-2479, Room 303 Nicholson Commons). The Title IX office will seek to maintain your privacy to the greatest extent possible, but cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality and the information you share will result in a mandatory report to campus authorities. Students can receive *confidential* support (with the exception of a few critical situations) from the Wellness Center (619-849-2574) or campus pastors in the Office of Spiritual Development (619-849-2655).

COURSE OVERVIEW

See Canvas for daily/weekly assignments, detailed instructions, and the precise where/when/how to submit assignments. If anything changes, especially due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the dates and assignments will be updated in Canvas.

DAY	LOCATION	WHAT TO DO
Week 1: Aug 17-21		
Introduction to Women's and Gender History		
Mon	Online Optional: Zoom office hours @12:15	Begin reading assignment
Wed	Online	Do discussions and assignments posted on Canvas
Fri	Zoom class session @12:15-1:20	Reading Response Due before Class Attend live Zoom class- be prepared to discuss the reading assignment
Week 2: Aug 24-28		
Women's Legal Status in Early America: Gender Roles, Marriage, and Coverture		
Mon	Online Optional: Zoom office hours @12:15	Begin reading assignment View lecture/film on Canvas
Wed	Online	Do discussions and assignments posted on Canvas
Fri	Zoom class session @12:15-1:20	Reading Response Due before Class Attend live Zoom class- be prepared to discuss the reading assignment
Week 3: Aug 31- Sep 4		
The American Revolution and the Early Struggle for Women's Rights		
Mon	Online Optional: Zoom office hours @12:15	Begin reading assignment View lecture/film on Canvas
Wed	Online	Do discussions and assignments posted on Canvas
Fri	Zoom class session @12:15-1:20	Reading Response Due before Class Attend live Zoom class- be prepared to discuss the reading assignment

Week 4: Sep 7- 11		
Race, Gender, Slavery, and Miscegenation		
Mon	Online Optional: Zoom office hours @12:15	Begin reading assignment View lecture/film on Canvas
Wed	Online	Do discussions and assignments posted on Canvas
Fri	Zoom class session @12:15-1:20	Reading Response Due before Class Attend live Zoom class- be prepared to discuss the reading assignment
Week 5: Sep 14- 18		
The Civil War, Reconstruction, and the Meanings of Citizenship		
Mon	Online Optional: Zoom office hours @12:15	Begin reading assignment View lecture/film on Canvas
Wed	Online	Do discussions and assignments posted on Canvas
Fri	Zoom class session @12:15-1:20	Reading Response Due before Class Attend live Zoom class- be prepared to discuss the reading assignment Lit Review Part I Due
Week 6: Sep 21-25		
The Fight for Suffrage and Equal Rights		
Mon	Online Optional: Zoom office hours @12:15	Begin reading assignment View lecture/film on Canvas
Wed	Online	Do discussions and assignments posted on Canvas
Fri	Zoom class session @12:15-1:20	Reading Response Due before Class Attend live Zoom class- be prepared to discuss the reading assignment
Week 7: Sep 28- Oct 2		
Early 20th c. Reform Movements		
Mon	Online Optional: Zoom office hours @12:15	Begin reading assignment View lecture/film on Canvas

Wed	Online	Do discussions and assignments posted on Canvas
Fri	Zoom class session @12:15-1:20	Reading Response Due before Class Attend live Zoom class- be prepared to discuss the reading assignment
Week 8: Oct 5-9 This week is for catching up and working on papers		
Mon	Online Optional: Zoom office hours @12:15	No reading assignment this week. Work on papers.
Wed	Online	Do discussions and assignments posted on Canvas
Fri	Zoom class session @12:15-1:20	Reading Response Due before Class Attend live Zoom class- be prepared to discuss the reading assignment Lit Review Part II Due
Week 9: Oct 12-16 Women's Bodies and Reproduction		
Mon	Online Optional: Zoom office hours @12:15	Begin reading assignment View lecture/film on Canvas
Wed	Online	Do discussions and assignments posted on Canvas
Fri	Zoom class session @12:15-1:20	Reading Response Due before Class Attend live Zoom class- be prepared to discuss the reading assignment
Week 10: Oct 19-23 Marriage and Citizenship in the Twentieth Century		
Mon	Online Optional: Zoom office hours @12:15	Begin reading assignment View lecture/film on Canvas
Wed	Online	Do discussions and assignments posted on Canvas
Fri	Zoom class session @12:15-1:20	Reading Response Due before Class Attend live Zoom class- be prepared to discuss the reading assignment

Week 11: Oct 26-30		
The Rise of Feminism and the Civil Rights Movement		
Mon	Online Optional: Zoom office hours @12:15	Begin reading assignment View lecture/film on Canvas
Wed	Online	Do discussions and assignments posted on Canvas
Fri	Zoom class session @12:15-1:20	Reading Response Due before Class Attend live Zoom class- be prepared to discuss the reading assignment Lit Review Paper Due
Week 12: Nov 2-6		
Legal and Cultural Changes in the Late Twentieth Century		
Mon	Online Optional: Zoom office hours @12:15	Begin reading assignment View lecture/film on Canvas
Wed	Online	Do discussions and assignments posted on Canvas
Fri	Zoom class session @12:15-1:20	Reading Response Due before Class Attend live Zoom class- be prepared to discuss the reading assignment
Week 13: Nov 9-13		
Women & Military Service		
Mon	Online Optional: Zoom office hours @12:15	Begin reading assignment View lecture/film on Canvas
Wed	Online	Do discussions and assignments posted on Canvas
Fri	Zoom class session @12:15-1:20	Reading Response Due before Class Attend live Zoom class- be prepared to discuss the reading assignment
Week 14: Nov 16-20		
The Movement for LGBTQ+ Rights		
Mon	Online Optional: Zoom office hours @12:15	Begin reading assignment View lecture/film on Canvas

Wed	Online	Do discussions and assignments posted on Canvas
Fri	Zoom class session @12:15-1:20	Reading Response Due before Class Attend live Zoom class- be prepared to discuss the reading assignment Presentations Due
Week 15: Nov 23-27		
Mon	Online Optional: Zoom office hours @12:15	View classmates' presentations
Wed	Thanksgiving Break	
Fri	Thanksgiving Break	
Week 16: Nov 30-Dec 4 Final Exam Week		
Fri	Online	Final Exam on Monday, 10:30am-1:00pm