

Topic 2 - American Pluralism
Unit 4: Women's Struggle for Equality

Key Question:

How does women's history help us to understand the the issue of women's equality today?

Major Assessments

1. 4 Quizzes (quizzes for section 3-4 will be combined)
2. Short answer and essay exam (100 points) This will be given either on the day of the final and count toward this Semester's grade, or in early January and count toward next semester's grade. This depends on how long it takes to get through the unit.

* terms are to be defined from lecture - they are not in the book

Section 1 - Pluralism and the American tradition

Readings:

"From Diversity to Pluralism"

Madison's Federalist 10

Terms:

Diversity
Pluralism
Exclusion
Assimilation
Privilege
Intersectionality
"Identity politics"
"Political correctness"
Majority faction

Question:

Why is pluralism essential to the American project?

Section 2 - Women in the Early Republic

Readings:

Correspondence between John and Abigail Adams

The Declaration of Sentiments

Terms:

Abigail and John Adams
Women and the Constitution
Coveture laws
The Declaration of Sentiments
Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Question:

In what ways did the United states fail to treat women equally during the period of the early republic?

Section 3 - The Fight for and against Women's suffrage

Readings:

Pro and anti-suffrage cartoons
Alice Paul hunger strike newspaper coverage

Terms:

Susan B. Anthony
Alice Paul/Hunger strikes
Amendment 15
Wyoming Territory and women's suffrage
Amendment 19

Question

On what basis did those opposed to women's suffrage make their arguments?

Section 4 - The struggle for women's economic equality in World II and postwar America

Readings:

Video *Life and times of Rosie the Riveter*
Wartime and postwar propaganda relating to women
Excerpts from Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique*

Terms:

Rosie the Riveter
Betty Friedan/*The Feminine Mystique*

Question

What factors played a role in the development of a national culture in the 1920s (in other words, what brought Americans together and made them feel like they had something in common regardless of where they lived?)

Section 5 - The Women's struggle to control their own reproductive lives

Readings:

Margaret Sanger excerpts
Excerpts from Supreme court cases relating to Women's reproductive rights 1960s-1970s

Terms:

Margaret Sanger
Mary Ware Dennett
Planned Parenthood
Birth Control
Anthony Comstock and US Anti-Obsecntity laws
United States v. One Package of Japanese Pessaries
Griswold v. Connecticut
Eisenstadt v. Baird
Roe V. Wade

Question

What is meant by the phrase reproductive equality? Why is this issue central to larger questions of Women's equality?

Section 6 - The Status of Women in Modern America

Readings:

10 things women couldn't do in the 1960s
Sexual assault/harassment essay
Statements by public figures on women from the last 20 years

Terms:

None

Question

To what extent has women's equality been achieved in 2017?

Lecture Outline

- I. Women in the early republic
 - A. Abigail and John Adams
 - B. Women in the Constitution
 - C. Women in American law prior to the Civil War
 - D. The Birth of the Women's movement - Seneca Falls and the *Declaration of Sentiments*
- II. The fight for Women's suffrage
 - A. Early efforts
 - B. The Struggle over the 15th Amendment
 - C. Western Territories lead the way
 - D. Alice Paul and public protest
 - E. Arguments for and against suffrage,
 - F. Amendment XIX
 - G. The Equal Rights Amendment
- III. Women's economic equality during and after WWII
 - A. Women's in the workforce prior to 1941
 - B. Women and war time mobilization
 - C. Competing images of women - Propaganda during and after the war regarding the role of women
 - D. Betty Friedan and *The Feminine Mystique*: work as purpose
- IV. The struggle for women's reproductive rights
 - A. The state of women's reproductive freedom in 1900
 - B. The Comstock law
 - C. Margaret Sanger, Mary Ware and the early fight for birth control and reproductive education
 - D. The Supreme Court and reproductive rights
 - 1. *The US v. One package of Japanese Pessaries*
 - 2. *Griswold v. Connecticut*
 - 3. *Eisenstadt v. Baird*
 - 4. *Roe v. Wade*
 - E. The politics of reproductive rights
- V. The Status of women in 2017-2018