

**George Mason University
Department of History and Art History**

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Office hours: By appt. and on Thursdays, 10-noon (except 1/30, 2/27)

Spring 2020

Wednesdays, 1:30-4:10 p.m.

East 122

HIST 300, section 004: Women in American Politics

This research and writing intensive course for History majors examines women's involvement in politics in the 20th-century United States while teaching students the fundamentals of the historical method. The goal is to lay a foundation in research, analytical, and writing skills that History majors can draw on as they take their upper-level coursework and eventually the capstone course, History 499. Students will learn how to develop research questions, find and analyze both primary and secondary sources, organize their analyses into arguments that are supported by evidence, and present those arguments effectively in both written and oral forms. Students will also learn to follow ethical principles, avoiding plagiarism and acknowledging intellectual debts through proper citations written in the disciplinary-standard Chicago style.

HIST 300 is a required course for the History major and the only course in which **students must earn a grade of C or better** in order to graduate with a History B.A.

HIST 300 also satisfies the Mason Core requirement in Synthesis and is designated a Mason Impact course. You can see the Mason Impact Learning Outcomes here:

<https://uge.gmu.edu/mason-impact-learning-outcomes/>



HIST 300 is a Writing Intensive (WI) course, meaning that students "should be asked to write a minimum of 3500 words, divided among two or more assignments" and "the course must give students opportunities to draft and revise based on instructor feedback so that they can practice the writing processes, forms, and conventions expected in the field." This section of HIST 300 meets these requirements through multiple short assignments and the rough draft and final paper.

Required books: (see course schedule for additional required readings available on Blackboard)
Dorothy Sue Cobble, Linda Gordon, and Astrid Henry, *Feminism Unfinished: A Short, Surprising History of American Women's Movements* (New York: Liveright, 2014).
Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 8th or 9th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013 or 2018).

Course requirements and grading:

Weekly assignments will account for 70% of each student's grade, with all but the research report (which factors into participation) counting for 7% each. These assignments are due via Blackboard before the start of class and must be typed in a 12-point font with one-inch margins. See individual assignments for additional formatting details. Because it is vital that students keep up and complete HIST 300 as the step-by-step process that it is intended to be, **I will not accept weekly assignments that are more than 72 hours late.** If you are struggling with an assignment, **contact me immediately for help because every zero on a weekly assignment drops your course grade by 2/3 of a letter.**

The remaining 30% of each student's grade will be based on the final paper (25%) and a participation grade that factors in the research report due on 3/25 as well as active engagement (not just attendance) in class (5%). **Attendance is required. Any student who misses a class or scheduled appointment will lower their course grade by 3% per instance.** If you must miss class or cancel an appointment for a valid reason, contact me *in advance*, preferably by email.

Course policies and other information:

Honor code: Students in this course are bound by the University's Honor Code, which states: "Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work." I will pursue any concerns about academic dishonesty and will report suspected students to the Honor Board for disciplinary action, including a failing grade in the course.

Excused absences: If you expect to miss class or reschedule a due date because of a University-approved absence (i.e., varsity athletics, religious holidays), you must let me know by January 29.

Accommodations: Students who require academic accommodations should contact me promptly and *must* make arrangements through the Disability Services (ds.gmu.edu; 703-993-2474).

Incompletes: University policy states that instructors should assign an IN only if the student has a very limited amount of work to complete and there is a non-academic reason that prevents its completion by the end of the semester. An incomplete cannot be used to avoid a poor grade.

Resources and useful information:

Writing Center: <https://writingcenter.gmu.edu/> or 703-993-1200

Learning Services: <https://learningservices.gmu.edu/> or (703) 993-2380

Counseling and Psychological Services: <https://caps.gmu.edu/> or 703-993-2380

Last day to add: Tues., Jan. 28

Last day to drop with 100% tuition refund: Wed., Feb. 5

Last day to drop with 50% tuition refund: Tues., Feb. 11

Unrestricted Withdrawal Period (no tuition refund but W is better than F for GPA): Feb. 12-24

Selective Withdrawal Period (see <https://chssundergrad.gmu.edu/withdrawal/selective>): Feb. 25-March 30

Course schedule: (subject to revision)

1/22 Course introduction; discuss grammar and style expectations for formal writing

1/29 **Secondary source analysis due**; discuss how to find and cite scholarly sources; introduce Zotero
Reading: Lebsack, "Woman Suffrage and White Supremacy" (pdf on Blackboard)

2/5 **Assignment on *Feminism Unfinished* due**
Reading: Cobble, Gordon, and Henry, *Feminism Unfinished*, pp. xi-145

2/12 **Annotated bibliography #1 due**; discuss historiography and how to develop a research question
Reading: Ritterhouse, "Lucy Randolph Mason, 'Expedient' Suffragist for Economic and Racial Justice in the South" (pdf on Blackboard)

2/19 **Primary source analysis due; meet in Fenwick 1014B for research presentation by Dr. George Oberle**

2/26 **Annotated bibliography #2 due**; discuss how to write the preliminary research proposal
Reading: Sources on Blackboard; Turabian, *Manual for Writers*, read chs. 1-2; skim chs. 3-4, 17

3/4 **Research proposal due; No class → Individual meetings this week**

SPRING BREAK

3/18 **Oral presentation of research proposals and current progress on research**

3/25 **Research report due**; discuss arguments, outlines, and storyboards
Reading: Turabian, *Manual for Writers*, chs. 5-7

4/1 **Outline and body section(s) due**; discuss paragraph structure and how to write and revise introductions and historiographical sections of papers

4/8 No class

4/15 **Introduction and historiographical section due**

4/22 **Rough draft including revised outline due; Oral presentations**

4/29 **Oral presentations**

Final papers due via Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. on 5/1