Engendering Culture: The “Modern” Woman

A study of the way in which American culture is shaped by gender and how culture is constructed. In this course we will study: Victorian Marriage, Companionate Marriage and Modern Millies, Consumer Culture, Advertising and Leisure, Beauty Culture, New York Night Life, how corporate office work developed gender and racial codes, New Deal Art and Theater, militarization and gender, Cross dressing and the Double Life, Alcohol and gender, Men in Westerns, Divorce and the Anti-Feminist.

Seminars provide an excellent opportunity to explore a subject in depth. The reading in this course may therefore be heavier than you expected. Be sure to explore the assigned readings and understand your assignment before you begin reading. This seminar is designed to help you produce an honors quality paper. You will not be doing the same amount of work as an honors student, but you will have an opportunity to organize your thoughts around four or five monographs, tie them into the main reading for the week and lead discussion.

Due to the exceptional flu season and the close quarters of the seminar you are urged to get your flu shot before coming to class. You may have one unexcused absence if you do get the flu, this gives you a week to recover. Unless you are ill, do not miss a class as it will count against you in the final grade. If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Leslie Hempling in the Office of Student Disability Services (Parrish 130) or email lhempli1@swarthmore.edu to arrange an appointment to discuss your needs.

Please Purchase the following books:
1. Barbara Melosh, Engendering Culture. (This book can be found online).
2. Kathy Peiss, Hope in a Jar
3 George Chauncey, Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1920
4 Venus Greene, Race on the Line: Gender, Labor and Technology
Seminar papers.

In addition to the weekly reading you will be asked to read four to six other sources for your seminar paper, which is due in draft form during separate weeks of the semester. This paper should be 7-10 pages in length with 1-3 pages of annotated bibliography and should thoroughly explore the monographs and articles you have read as well as integrate this material into the common readings of the class. On Friday afternoon (2-5 pm) the week before your essay you will come to my office with a copy of your rough draft. You will choose your primary sources and copy them for the seminar. After you have done your revisions, you will email your essay to members of the class in advance on Sunday evening before 6 PM, at this time you will put a hard copy of the paper in the mailbox outside my office, 211 Trotter. **There are no late papers in this class.** You are urged to pick your topic after the first week and begin reading for that week immediately. You will need to read the main assigned reading first and proceed from there.

You will have a chance to revise your paper at the end of the semester and you are urged to take notes during the discussion of your paper in seminar for this purpose. Also, you will be responsible for helping a colleague revise their paper. (60% = 30% original draft, 5% for your revision suggestions to other students and 25% for your revised paper) Finally, because this is a reading seminar, you are responsible for the common readings of the class; some of you will be designated as discussion leaders for classes. (15%) If you fail to have done the reading you will lose credit, which you may make up by diligently participating in subsequent classes. Nevertheless, if you do not keep up with the reading your performance in seminar may erode your graded paper work. (5%). It goes without saying that if you miss one session of the seminar, you have missed a weeks worth of work. Your grade will deteriorate accordingly.

The remaining (25%) of your grade will be based on the quality of your annotated bibliography. You will summarize your reading and add everything you have read to your bibliography, including book reviews. You are strongly encouraged to use the library’s jstor database, which makes available 40 history journals, many of which have reviews of what you are reading. You are also encouraged to find your own primary sources copy and distribute them to your class and add them to your
bibliography. Go to the American Memory project in the Library of Congress or any one of a number of web sites and bring it to your Friday afternoon consultation.

1. Victorian Marriage

**January 21:** Introductions, Bibliographies, Readings:

**Readings:**


**Secondary Source:** Carole Smith-Rosenberg, “The Female World of Love and Ritual: Relations Between Women in Nineteenth Century America;” Ellen Kay Trimberger, “Feminism, Men and Modern Love: Greenwich Village, 1900-1925.”

Melosh, *Engendering Culture, Introduction*

**Movie:** *Woman of the Year*

2. Visions of the Modern Millie

**January 28:** Scheduling papers, Discussion of the Companionate Marriage

**Readings:**

Suffrage;” Swarthmore Graduate and Suffrage Militant Alice Paul Goes to Jail


Movie: Woman of the Year

3. Consumer Culture Advertising and Leisure

February 4

Readings:
Kathy Peiss, Hope in a Jar., to ch. 7
Roland Marchand, “Apostles of Modernity,” In Advertising the American Dream.; Melosh, Engendering Culture, 8

Bibliography
Consumer Society – Gender Selling.
Susan Porter Benson, Counter Cultures: Saleswomen, Managers, and Customers in American Department Stores.
Lizabeh Cohen, A Consumers’ Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption
Gary Cross, An All Consuming Century: Why Commercialism won in Modern America.
Elaine Abelson, When Ladies Go A-Thieving: Middle Class Shoplifters in the Victorian Department Store.
Kathy Peiss, "Commercial Leisure and the 'Woman Question'," in Richard Butsch, ed., For Fun and Profit: The Transformation of Leisure into Consumption, 105-117.

The Business of Consumption -- Advertising & Retail Stores:
Paula Fass, *The Damned and The Beautiful: American Youth in the 1920’s, part II.*
Simone Weil Davis, *Living Up to the Ads: Gender Fictions of the 1920’s*

Public Amusements:
David Nasaw, *Going Out: The Rise and Fall of Public Amusements*
John Kasson, *Amusing the Millions; Coney Island and the Turn of the Century.*
Nathan Irvin Huggins, *Harlem Renaissance*, 1, 4, 5 and 6.
Roy Rosenzweig, *Eight Hours For What We Will*, ch. 7-8.

4. **New York Night Life**
February 11
George Chauncey, *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture and the Making of the Gay Male World*, 1890-1920, Ch. 5-9; Melosh, *Engendering Culture*, 6-7

**Bibliography:**

**Popular Culture and Entertainment:**
David Nawsaw, *Going Out: The Rise and Fall of Public Amusements*
John Kasson, *Amusing the Millions.*
Katherine Frank, *G-Strings and Sympathy: Strip Club Regulars and Male Desire.*
Paula Fass, *The Damned and The Beautiful: American Youth in the 1920’s*, part II.
Simone Weil Davis, *Living Up to the Ads: Gender Fictions of the 1920’s*
Lawrence Levine, *The Unpredictable Past: Explorations in American Cultural History.*
Nathan Irvin Huggins, *Harlem Renaissance*, 1, 4, 5 and 6.

**The "Crisis" in Masculinity:**
Christopher Lane, *The Burden of Intimacy: Psychoanalysis and Victorian Masculinity.*
Howard Chudacoff, *The Age of the Bachelor: Creating an American Subculture.*
Peter Filene, *Him/Her/Self: Sex Roles in Modern America.*
David I. MacLeod, *Building Character in the American Boy: The Boy Scouts, YMCA, and Their Forerunners.*

Social History of Habits, Vices and Social Behavior:
David Higgs, *Queer Sites: Gay Urban Histories Since 1600.*
Elaine Abelson, *When Ladies Go A-Thieving: Middle Class Shoplifters in the Victorian Department Store.*
Harvey Levenstein, *Paradox of Plenty: A Social History of Eating in Modern America*

Sports:
David Nawsaw, *Going Out, ch 8*
Roy Rosenzweig, *Eight Hours For What We Will*
Elliott Gorn, *The Manly Art: Bare-Knuckle Prize Fighting in America.*
Susan Cahn, *Coming on Strong: Gender and Sexuality in 20th Century Women's Sport.*
Peter Levine, *Ellis Island to Ebbets Field: Sport and the American Jewish Experience.*

5. Gender, Race and Class
February 18

Reading: Venus Greene, *Race on the Line: Gender, Labor and Technology* Ch.1-4, 8 & Epilogue. ; Melosh, *Engendering Culture*, 2-5.

Women and Labor:
Nan Enstad, *Ladies of Labor: Girls of Adventure*
Sharon Hartman Strom, *Beyond the Typewriter: Gender at Work; the Dynamics of Job Segregation by Sex.*
Lesley Woodcock Tentler, *Wage Earning Women*
Ava Baron, ed., *Work Engendered.*
Dorothy Sue Cobble, *Dishing It Out: Waitresses and Their Unions in the Twentieth Century.*
Stephen H. Norwood *Labor's flaming youth: telephone operators and worker militancy, 1878-1923*
John N. Schacht, *The making of telephone unionism, 1920-1947*
Venus Greene *Race on the line: gender, labor, and technology in the Bell System, 1880-1980*
Margery Davis, *A Woman's Work is at the Typewriter*
Helen C. Campbell, *Iron In her Soul: Elizabeth Gurley Flynn*
Deborah Thom, *Nice Girls, Rude Girls*
Sue Cobble, *Dishing It Out: Waitresses and Their Unions in the Twentieth Century.*
Nancy S. Dye, *As Equals and as Sisters.*
Racial Labor Politics:
Eric Arenesen, *New Perspectives on Race and Class*.
Jacqueline Jones, *American Work: Four Centuries of Black and White Labor pt. 3*
William T. Harris, *The Harder We Run*
Keith P. Griffen *What Price Alliance: Black Radicals Confront White Labor 1918-1958*
Nell Painter, *The Narrative of Hosea Hudson*.
Robin Kelley, *Hammer and Hoe*.
Robin Kelley, *Race Rebels*.
Mark Naison, *Communism in Harlem During the Depression*.
Daniel M. Johnson, *Black Migration in America: A Social Demographic History*.
Dominick Capeci, *War Time Detroit* and by the same author: *Harlem, 1943*

White Collar Workers and the New Labor
Clark Davis, *Company Men: White Collar Life and Corporate Culture in LA: 1892-41*
Roland Marchand, “Men of the People: The New Professionals,” in *Advertising the American Dream*.
C. Wright Mills, *White Collar: The American Middle Classes*
Gillian Creese, ,, *Contracting Masculinity, Gender, Class and Race in a White Collar Union*.
Gregory Anderson, *The White Blouse Revolution: Female Office Workers Since 1870*
Sharon Hartman Strom, *Beyond the Typewriter: Gender, Class and Office Work*
Tom Juravich, *Commonwealth of Toil* (see Telephone operators)
Harry Braverman, *Labor and Monopoly Capital.*
Alfred Chandler, *The Visible Hand*
Wilson Sloan, *The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit*
Barbara Ehrenreich, *Bait and Switch*

6. The New Deal in Art and Theatre

**February 25**

**Reading:**

**Bibliography**

Visual Clues:
Vivien Green Fryd, *Art and the Crisis of Marriage in Edward Hopper and Georgia O'Keefe*
Elizabeth Faue: *Community of Suffering and Struggle; Women, Men and the Labor Movement in Minneapolis, 1915-1945.*
Linda Banks Down, *Diego Rivera and the Detroit Industry Murals*
Keith Davies, *The Photographs of Dorothy Lange*
John Vachon, *John Vachon’s America*

Depression Years & New Deal:
Lizeth Cohen, *Making a New Deal.*
Harvard Sitkoff, *A New Deal for Blacks.*
Robin Kelley, *Hammer and Hoe.*
David Kennedy, *Freedom from Fear: The American People in Depression and War.*
James Goodman, *Stories of Scottsboro.*
Dixon Wecter, *The Age of the Great Depression, 1, 2, and 3*
Donald Wooster, *Dust Bowl: The Southern Plain in the 1930s.*

**Novels**

Michael Gold, *Jews Without Money*
John Steinbeck, *In Dubious Battle, Grapes of Wrath*
Henry Roth, *Call It Sleep*
Howard Fast, *Citizen Paine*
Harriet Arnow, *The Doll Maker*
James T. Farrell, *Studs Lonigan*

**Writers, Intellectuals**
James Agee & Walker Evans, *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*, part I
Alan Brinkley, *Voices of Protest*, 4, 5 and 6
Richard Pells, *Radical Visions and American Dreams*, 1-6
Jerry Mangione, *The Dream and the Deal: The Federal Writers Project*
Brendan Gill, *The Portable Dorothy Parker*, 451-550
Tillie Olsen, *Yonnondio: From the Thirties*
_________Silences
Lanston Hughes, *I Wonder as I Wander, Without Benefit of Declaration*
Claude McKay, *Home to Harlem*

**7. Men/Women/War/Peace**

**March 4**

**Reading:**
Barbara Melosh, *Gender*, Ch.4,8.

**Bibliography:**

**Men and Combat:**
Allan Berube, *Coming Out Under Fire: The History of Gay Men and Women in World War II.*
Claire Snyder, *Citizen Soldiers and Manly Warriors: Military Service and Gender in the Civic Republican Tradition.*
Louis Ehrenberg and Susan Hirsch eds., *The War in American Culture.*
John Chambers, *To Raise An Army: The Draft Comes to Modern America.*
John Morton Blum, *V Was For Victory: Politics and American Culture During World War II.*
Clint Willis, *War Stories: Stories of Life and Death from World War II.*
Studs Terkel, *The Good War: An Oral History of World War II.*

**Gendering War:**
Miriam Cook and Angela Woolacott, eds., *Gendering War Talk*
Thomas Doherty, *Projections of War; Hollywood, American Culture and World War II.*
D’Ann, *Women at War With America.*
Claire Snyder, *Citizen Soldiers and Manly Warriors: Military Service and Gender in the Civic Republican Tradition.*
Margaret Higgonet et al, *Behind the Lines: Gender in the Two World Wars.*
Leisa Meyer, *Creating GI Jane: Sexuality and Power in the Women’s Army Corps During World War II.*
Leila Rupp, *Mobilizing Women for War: German and American Propaganda, 1939-1945.*

**Objecting to War**
Alonso, Harriet Hyman. *Peace as a women’s issue: a history of the U.S. movement for world peace and women’s* 
Larry Gara and Lenna Mae Gara eds., *A Few Small Candles; War Resistors of World War II.*
J. Henry Dasenbrock, *To the Beat of a Different Drummer; A Decade in the Life of a World War II Conscientious Objector.*
Cynthia Eller, *Conscientious Objectors and the Second World War.*
McAllister, Pam *This river of courage: generations of women’s resistance and action.*
Francie Early, *A World Without War*

**8. Spring Break March 8-18**

**9. Crossing the Lines-Music and the Double Life**

**March 18**
**Reading:**
Diane Middlebrook, *Suits me, The Double Life of Billy Tipton*

**Bibliography:**
Jazz Culture:
Sherri Tucker, *Swing Shift: “all girl” bands of the 1940s*
Kathy Ogren, *The Jazz Revolution: Twenties America and the Meaning of Jazz.*
Geoffrey Ward, *Jazz a History of America’s music*
Robert Wasler, ed., *Keeping Time: Readings in Jazz History*

Crossing
Marjorie Garber, *Vested Interests: CrossDressing and Cultural Anxiety*
Lillian Fader, *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers.*
Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Sex Identity.*
Vern L. Bullough and Bonnie B. Bullough, *Cross Dressing, Sex and Gender.*
John D’Emilio and Estelle Friedman, *Intimate Matters.*

10. Strains in Family Life

March 25
Reading:

Parenting, Personal Life
Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound.*
Lillian Rubin, *Worlds of Pain: Life in the Working Class Family*
Robert Griswold, *Fatherhood in America.*
Wini Brienes, *Young, White and Miserable: Growing up Female in the Fifties.*
John Demos, *Past, Present, and Personal.*
Steven Mintz and Susan Kellogg, *Domestic Revolutions: A Social History of American Life.*
Peter Stearns and Jan Lewis, eds., *An Emotional History of the United States.*

**Drinking:**
William Grimes: *Straight Up or on the Rocks: A Cultural History of American Drink*
Madelon Powers, *Facing the Bar: Lore and Order in the Workingman’s saloon*
Perry Duis, *The Saloon: Public Drinking in Chicago and Boston*
W. J. Rorabaugh, *The Alcoholic Republic*
James Kirby Martin, *Drinking in America: A History*
Ian Tyrell, *Sobering Up: From Temperance to Prohibition in Antebellum America.*
Lender and Martin, *Drinking in America*

**Post War Family Ideals**
Stephanie Coontz, *The Way We Never Were: American Families and the Nostalgia Trap*
Susan Hartman, *The Homefront and Beyond: American Women in the 1940’s*
Sherna Gluck, ed., *Rosie the Riveter Revisited: Women, the War, and Social Change.*
Ruth Milkman, *Gender at Work: The Dynamics of Job Segregation by Sex during World War II.*
Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound.*
Lila Rupp, Mobilizing Women for War
William Kornblum, Blue Collar Community.
Lynn Weinger, From Working Girl to Working Mother
Claudia Goldin, Understanding the Gender Gap, Ch. 5
Alice Childress, Like One of the Family
Janice Radway, Reading the Romance, Intro. & ch. 1.

11. Men in Westerns

April 1
Reading:
Gary Wills, John Wayne’s America

Westerns:
Jane Tomkins, West of Everything: The Inner Life of the Western.
Richard White, “Its Your MisFortune and None of My Own”: A New History of the American West.
Will Wright, Sixguns and Society: A Structural History of the Western.
Dave Rothel, Who Was That Masked Man?

Film History
Hamilton, Marybeth. When I’m Bad, I’m Better: Mae West, Sex, and American Entertainment.
Stephen Weissman, “Charlie Chaplin’s Film Heroines,” Film History 8/14 (1996)
Thomas Doherty, Projections of War: Hollywood, American Culture and World War II.
Andrew, Dudley. “Film and History.” Belton, John. “American Cinema and Film History.”


Peter Biskind, *Seeing is Believing: How Hollywood Taught Us to Stop Worrying and Like the Fifties.*


12. Divorce and the Anti-Feminists

April 8
Reading: Barbara Ehrenreich, *Hearts of Men.*

Suburbanization:
Herbert J. Gans, *The Levittowners*


Kenneth Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontiers.* introduction, ch. 1,11-16.
Roy Bongartz, “Remember Bomb Shelters?” From Things in the Drivers Seat, pp 203-214

Television and Mass Culture:

Lynn Spigel, Make Room for TV: Television and the family Ideal in Post War America.
David Marc, Comic Visions: Television Culture and American Comedy
Steven Strub, Glued to the Set
Ariel Dorfman, The Empire’s Old Clothes,
Erik Barnouw, The Golden Web
Erik Barnouw, The Image Empire
William Boddy, Fifties Television: The Industry and Its Critics
Paul Buhle, Popular Culture in America. pp.139-197
Tim Burke, Saturday Morning Fever, ch. 1-3
Dave Rothel, Who Was That Masked Man?

Beats
Joyce Johnson, Minor Characters
Jack Kerouac, On the Road
Ann Charters, The Portable Beat Reader,
Allen Ginsburg, Howl
Todd Gitlin, The Sixties, Years of Hope, ch. 3
Thomas Flink, The Conquest of Cool
Bruce Cook, The Beat Generation
Michael McClure, Scratching the Beat Surface
Dennis McNally, Desolate Angel: Jack Kerouac, The Beat Generation and America.

Oral Presentation all papers, bibliographies are due.

April 15
April 22
April 29

Final Papers are due on the last day of class, no late papers, no exceptions.