

NVCC COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
HISTORY 127 - WOMEN IN AMERICAN HISTORY (3 CR.)

Course Description

Examines the roles of women and the attitudes toward women in American society from colonial times to the present. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

To provide a course of special interest to students of all ages.

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

No prerequisites. It is preferable but not mandatory that the student has taken a general course in American history before enrolling in History 127. The ability to read and write the English language effectively at the college level is expected.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Discuss the impact of race, class, ethnicity and region on the changing status of women in American history.
- Describe how these demographic categories lead to differing outlooks on major issues confronting American women over time and space.
- Interpret the history of American women in the larger context of American history.
- Describe and put into context the evolution of women's culture, for example the emergence of cultural feminism, or the culture of the "New Woman" of the 1920s.
- Describe the evolution of women's legal status, from the doctrine of femme covert to the debate over the Equal Rights Amendment.

Major Topics to be Included

- Before America: The status and roles of the women who came to the New World
- The role of women in the establishment of permanent settlements in North America
- Women and the American Revolution-contributions of women and the impact on women
- Industrialization: The Transformation of the Household and the Concept of Separate Spheres
- Reform, Early Feminism and "The Cult of True Womanhood"
- Southern Women, White and Black
- The Civil War and American Women
- Victorian Women and Domestic Feminism
- Progressivism and the Suffrage Movement
- The "New Woman" of the 1920s
- Women and the Great Depression
- Women's roles during World War II at home and in uniform
- The Cold War Era and the Feminine Mystique
- The 1960s: The Revival of Feminism and Women's Liberation
- The 1970s and 1980s: The ERA, Anti-feminism, and changing economic roles
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