**HIST/WMNS 204**

**Women and Gender in U.S. History**

**Dr. Margaret Jacobs**

**T, Th 11;12:15**

**Henzlik Hall 53**

* What would the history of the United States look like if we viewed it through the eyes of women?
* How is history gendered?
* What was the status of women in American society in the past? How has it changed?
* Has there ever been a universal women’s experience? Or do women of different classes, races, religions, regional backgrounds, and sexualities have inherently different experiences and perspectives?
* What can we learn about present-day issues related to women and gender by studying the past?

This course addresses these questions, and more, through surveying the ways in which women in the area of the present-day U.S. have experienced and given meaning to their history from around 1500 to the present. The class also examines gender as a system of power relations that has been integral to the shaping of American politics and public policy and the development of the American economy.

While learning about women and gender in history, the course also aims to impart some important reading, writing, and analytical skills that will be relevant to you in the rest of life. At the same time, this class aims to give you some insight into how historians do their work. Contrary to popular belief, the study of history is not really about memorizing dates and events. Instead it is about trying to understand the process of change over time. We will look at the sources historians use to recover the past and delve into interpretive debates that animate the field of history.

**This course fulfills ACE Outcomes #5**: Use knowledge, historical perspectives, analysis, interpretation, critical evaluation, and the standards of evidence appropriate to the humanities to address problems and issues.

HIST/WMNS 951

GRADUATE SEMINAR

COMPARATIVE HISTORY OF WOMEN AND GENDER

# Women, Gender, and Empire

Dr. Margaret Jacobs

This class will study the history of women, gender, and empire in comparative perspective. Key issues will include: “the intimacies of empire,” including interracial sex and marriage, childrearing, and domestic service in colonial settings; the role of western/white women in colonization; masculinity and empire; changes in indigenous gender systems with colonization; colonization of “the body;” the colonial control of sexuality and reproduction; the concern with hygiene and the role of science and medicine in colonization and empire; modernity, gender, and empire; and imperial representations of indigenous women and gender. Given the professor’s area of expertise, the course will compare in particular the history of women and gender in the North American West -- as a key site of settler colonialism -- with other colonial/imperial settings in the world, including Australia, Indonesia, Africa, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines. No prior knowledge of any of these areas of the world is required. This course counts as a Comparative/World seminar in the History graduate program and toward the graduate specialization in Women’s and Gender Studies for non-History students.

Course Objectives:

1. To integrate gender into the study of empire and colonialism, and to bring insights from colonial and postcolonial studies to the study of gender
2. To develop a comparative and global framework for the study of history
3. To deepen students’ knowledge of major issues, debates, and themes in the study of gender and empire
4. To promote the ability to critically evaluate and engage with primary historical sources
5. To enhance student’s oral communication skills
6. To cultivate students’ writing skills
7. To create a classroom intellectual community that fosters respect for one another's perspectives and promotes creative thinking

Readings from Spring 2012 class (we will have a different reading list for fall 2014):

Warwick Anderson, *Colonial Pathologies: American Tropical Medicine, Race, and Hygiene in the Philippines.* Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2006.

Laura Briggs, *Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science, and U.S. Imperialism in Puerto Rico*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002.

Timothy Burke, *Life Buoy Men, Lux Women: Commodification, Consumption, and Cleanliness in Modern Zimbabwe*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1996.

Sarah Carter, *The Importance of Being Monogamous: Marriage and Nation Building in Western Canada to 1915*. Calgary: University of Alberta Press, 2008.

Victoria Haskins, *One Bright Spot*. New York: Palgrave/MacMillan, 2005.

Nancy Rose Hunt, *A Colonial Lexicon of Birth Ritual, Medicalization, and Mobility in the Congo*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1999.

Margaret Jacobs, *White Mother to a Dark Race: Settler Colonialism, Maternalism, and the Removal of Indigenous Children in the American West and Australia, 1880-1940*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2009.

Adele Perry, *On the Edge of Empire: Gender, Race, and the Making of British Columbia, 1849-1871*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2001.

Ann Laura Stoler, *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002.

Lynn Thomas, *Politics of the Womb: Women, Reproduction, and the State in Kenya*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003.

Laura Wexler, *Tender Violence: Domestic Visions in an Age of U.S. Imperialism*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2000.