**HIST/WMNS 204**

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

**Dr. Margaret Jacobs**

**T, Th  11;12:15**

**BL-105**

* 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.