

HNRS 4900: Sex & the City: Women in Industrialized Space



Leah LaGrone | 9:30 - 10:20 am | Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays | LI 325

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Office Hours : W 12:00 - 3:00 or by appointment, Zoom available

Course Description :

In the early 1900s, the US went through an industrial revolution. Lured by the promise of prosperity, thousands of rural and immigrant women arrived in cities to work in factories. This class will explore what their lives were like, what they did to survive, and how laws that governed women shaped our understanding of poverty, morality, and resistance today.

Books:

1. *Cheap Amusements Working Women and Leisure in Turn-of-the-Century New York*- Kathy Peis. [Amazon Link to Book](#) (please get a used copy- they start at \$2)
2. *Women Adrift Independent Wage Earners in Chicago, 1880-1930*, Joanne J. Meyerowitz. [Amazon Link to Book](#) (please get a used copy- they start at \$3)

The following three books are newer and have an ebook in our library.

3. *Sex Workers, Psychics, and Numbers Runners : Black Women in New York City's Underground Economy*, LaShawn Harris
4. *West of Sex : Making Mexican America, 1900-1930*, Pablo Mitchell
5. *Public Faces, Secret Lives : A Queer History of the Women's Suffrage Movement*, Rouse, Wendy L.

Requirements

This course is designed to introduce you to US History/ Women and Gender/ and Industrialization. It is also designed to give you experience writing and thinking critically about the topics we examine. This course will include lectures and in-class discussion.

Assignment = % of your final grade

Attendance/ Participation = 100 points

Weekly Discussion Posts = 10 points each

Signature Assignment = 25 points

3 precis = 25 points each

Final Project = 100 points

Weekly Participation:

A = Prepared, vigorous, thoughtful participation throughout every class all semester

B = Prepared consistent participation throughout the semester

C = Prepared but participating only when called upon or giving non-substantive answers

D = Poor preparation, answers are non-substantive, and participation is not voluntary

E = Not prepared, unable to answer questions when called upon, or absent

Attendance: Your attendance in class is required and will be an important part of your final grade. You are expected to complete all of your assigned readings before the class meeting on the schedule below. You are expected to participate in our class discussions; participation includes asking questions, answering questions, and offering opinions or ideas about the topic under discussion.

Major Graded Assignments:

A = Beautifully structured and impeccably written, this paper brings thoughtful and new analysis to the topic and shows substantial work with classroom and quality outside materials

B = Well-constructed, this paper shows a strong understanding of major course topics and displays significant work with classroom and outside materials but does not show inventive or deep thought and may contain grammatical errors

C = Occasionally off-topic with frequent grammatical errors, this paper engages class materials but does not venture in-depth to their discussion or to outside sources in any consequential manner

D = Poorly presented and structured, this paper fulfills the assignment but in the most casual of manners. It does not engage course materials well, and its outside source work is poorly done or not at all

E = Poorly written and organized, this paper barely fulfills the outlines of the assignment in terms of source, course readings, or outside materials

Online Discussion (OL): Each week throughout the course, I will post discussion questions online. To receive full credit, students must post an original response (OR) plus at least two replies (RP) to fellow classmates. ORs must be at least 200 words and RPs must be at least 100 words (include the word count @ the end of post). The online discussion acts as reading quizzes. More often than not, the post will connect the reading with current events. The online discussion may also include a news article or a video to watch and comment on/ discuss. No late work accepted because the grade is based on discussion. Discussion must include references to readings/ lecture/ videos.

Three Precisis: There will be *three* 2 page precis due during the semester. The book list sign up will be posted on Canvas.

Final Project : The final project will be part of the WSU Research and Engagement Symposium. The Center for Community Engaged Learning is co-hosting an annual symposium to showcase student projects from across the institution. The session is an opportunity for students to present the results of their direct service, civic engagement, and/or community research in the community. Students have the option to do a paper poster, digital poster/presentation, or oral presentation.

Course Policies:

Academic Misconduct: Plagiarism or other forms of cheating will not be tolerated in this class on any assignment. If you are in any way uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating, or you have any concerns about the proper citation for references included in your written work, please ask me. As a general rule of thumb, anytime you use two or more words taken directly from a text – you must have a citation.

Inclusivity Statement: Pivotal to Weber State University's mission is the need to embrace and value the diversity of its members. Acknowledging the uniqueness of each individual, we seek to cultivate an environment that encourages freedom of expression. Because the University is a

community where inquiry is nurtured and theories are tested, every individual has the right to feel safe to express ideas that differ from those held by other members of the community. However, all persons who aspire to be part of our campus community must accept the responsibility to demonstrate civility and respect for the dignity of others. Therefore, expressions or actions that disparage an individual's or group's ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, age or disability are contrary to the mission of Weber State University.

“Core Beliefs” Statement: According to PPM 6-22 IV, students are to “determine, before the last day to drop courses without penalty, when course requirements conflict with a student’s core beliefs. If there is such a conflict, the student should consider dropping the class. A student who finds this solution impracticable may request a resolution from the instructor. This policy does not oblige the instructor to grant the request, except in those cases when a denial would be arbitrary and capricious or illegal. This request must be made to the instructor in writing and the student must deliver a copy of the request to the office of the department head. The student’s request must articulate the burden the requirement would place on the student’s beliefs.”

Disability Access: Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Disability Services (DS) in Room 181 of the Student Services Center (or Room 256 at the Davis Campus). Disability Services can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats upon request.

Recording Statement: Students must obtain a faculty member’s permission before making audio or visual recordings of non-public University-sponsored educational experiences such as classes, course related activities, nonpublic academic meetings, etc. Where a faculty member grants permission, students may only use these recordings for personal educational purposes unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the faculty member. Students who have been granted permission to record may not share these recordings with other people through any means (e.g. sharing on social media, posting online, giving to other students, etc.) unless each recorded person gives their written permission.

Course Fee Statement: There is no course fee for this class.

General notes: I am happy to read drafts of papers, outlines, or theses before your papers are due. Please give me at least 24 hours before the due date to read it and get back to you with comments. Any and all feedback will help you sharpen your argument and evidence, resulting in a clearer paper and better grade.

Course Calendar - please see Canvas for dates

Week / Book	Assignments
Week One : <i>Cheap Amusements</i>	Chap. Intro-3 / Gendered Division of Labor
Week Two: <i>Cheap Amusements</i>	Chap. 4-Conclusion / Working Class Culture
Week Three: <i>Women Adrift</i>	Chap. Intro-3 / Working Class and Morality
Week Four: <i>Women Adrift</i>	Chap. 4-Conclusion / The Reformers Response
Week Five: <i>Sex Workers, Psychics, and Numbers Runners</i>	Chap. Intro - 2 / Black Women In Urban Space
Week Six: <i>Sex Workers, Psychics, and Numbers Runners</i>	Chap. 3-4 / Segregation and the City
Week Seven: <i>Sex Workers, Psychics, and Numbers Runners</i>	Chap. 5- Conclusion / Black Working-Class Resistance
Week Eight: Projects Discussion	https://www.weber.edu/ccel/symposium.html
Week Nine: Spring Break	
Week Ten: <i>Public Faces, Secret Lives</i>	Chap Intro- 3 / Gender Identity in the City
Week Eleven: <i>Public Faces, Secret Lives</i>	Chap. 4- Conclusion / Queering the City
Week Twelve: <i>West of Sex</i>	Chap. Intro - 3 / Industrialization of the West
Week Thirteen: <i>West of Sex</i>	Chap. 4- Conclusion / Latina Power
Week Fourteen: Laws governing Women	Pdfs provided
Week Fifteen: Sex Workers Rights and Resistance	Pdfs provided
Week Sixteen: Gender in Urban Space Today	Pdfs provided

All other assignments and descriptions will be posted to canvas. Along with the assigned books, students will also be asked to listen to podcasts/ watch videos/ or complete short supplemental readings provided by the professor.

All assignments are subject to change at the discretion of the professor.