Themes in American Women’s History:
“The New Woman”

HST 389-9547 | WMS 389-9548
Fall 2009, CSI/CUNY
Th 6:30- 9:50PM 2N/108

Professor Catherine Lavender, PhD
Office hours (2N-203): Th 4:00-6:00, & by appt.
lavender@mail.csi.cuny.edu (718) 982-2869

About the Course:
This course examines the discipline of women's history by tracing the historiographical and methodological debates surrounding the history of the “New Woman” in the field of American women's history. We will address a variety of topics ranging through political, labor, cultural, and social histories in order to gain a deeper understanding of American women’s history generally and the historical period from the 1880s to the 1940s specifically.

Course Requirements:
All students are required to attend class meetings, take part in discussions, and submit all written work on time; late papers will not be accepted without prior arrangement with the professor. As per CSI-CUNY regulations, no student with more than two unexcused absences will receive credit for the course. Finally, plagiarism and other forms of intellectual dishonesty or sloth will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade for the assignment and/or course. For information about CUNY’s policies on academic dishonesty, refer to www1.cuny.edu/portal_ur/content/2004/policies/image/policy.pdf.

Assignments:
• Assignments, Exercises & Quizzes (ongoing) (50% of course grade total)
• Class Participation/Attendance (10% of course grade)
• Annotated Bibliography, due 10/29/09 (10% of course grade)
• Final Paper, due 12/17/09 (30% of course grade)

Contacting the Professor:
My contact information and office hours are listed above. Course materials may be downloaded via www.library.csi.cuny.edu/dept/history/lavender/389/.

Texts:
The books below have been ordered for purchase at the College Bookstore.

HST/WMS 389 Course Reader (CR)

Holly Pyne Connor, Off the Pedestal: New Women in the Art of Homer, Chase, and Sargent (Newark: Rutgers University Press, 2006).


CLASS MEETING SCHEDULE:

Th 9/3  Introduction to the Course: The New Woman in American Women’s History

Th 9/10  The New Woman and Her Times
Reading: “I: Introduction – The New Woman in Context” (CR)
Chris Waters, "New Women and Eugenic Fictions" (2003)
Nancy Isenberg, "Founding Mothers, Myths, and a Martyr" (2007)
Martha H. Patterson, "Beyond Empire: The New Woman at Home and Abroad"
(2009)
Connor, "Not at Home: The Nineteenth-Century New Woman"
Patterson, "I: Defining the New Woman in the Periodical Press"
Adickes, "Ch. 1, Introduction" and "Ch. 2, 1912: New York Enters a New Era"

Th 9/17  Representing The New Woman
Reading: “II: Representing The New Woman” (CR)
Jessica Berman, "Feminizing the Nation: Woman as Cultural Icon in Late James"
(1996)
Sidney R. Bland, "Shaping the Life of the New Woman: The Crusading Years of
The Delineator” (2009)
Heather Lee Miller, "Sexologists Examine Lesbians and Prostitutes in the United
States, 1840–1940" (2000)
Connor, "Winslow Homer's Ambiguously New Women"
Adickes, "Ch. 3, Movers and Shakers: The Forerunners" and "Ch. 4. Movers and
Shakers: The New Women"

Th 9/24  The New Woman and Politics
Reading: “III: The New Woman and Politics” (CR)
Belinda A. Stillion Southard, "Militancy, Power, and Identity: The Silent
Sentinels as Women Fighting for Political Voice” (2007)
Holly J. McCammon, “Stirring Up Suffrage Sentiment: The Formation of the
State Woman Suffrage Organizations, 1866-1914” (2001)
Patterson, "II: Women's Suffrage and Political Participation"
Adickes, "Ch. 5, The Great Movements: Suffrage"

Th 10/1  The New Woman and Race
Reading: “IV: The New Woman and Race” (CR)
Sylvia D. Hoffert, "Jane Grey Swisshelm, Elizabeth Keckley, and the
Significance of Race Consciousness in American Women’s History”
(2001)
Pamela L. Caughie, "Passing as Modernism" (2005)
“V. The ‘New Negro Woman’” (CR)
Susan Tomlinson, “Vision to Visionary: The New Negro Woman as Cultural
Worker in Jessie Redmon Fauset’s Plum Bun” (2002)
Jane Kuenz, "The Face of America: Performing Race and Nation in Jessie
Fauset's There is Confusion” (1999)
Ula Y. Taylor, “‘Negro Women Are Great Thinkers as Well as Doers’: Amy
Jacques-Garvey and Community Feminism in the United States,
1924–1927” (2000)
Patterson, "IV: The Women's Club Movement and Women's Education"
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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Reading Notes</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Ljiljana Coklin, &quot;Between the Orient and the Ghetto: A Modern Immigrant Woman in Anzia Yezierska’s Salome of the Tenements&quot; (2006)</td>
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<td>Adickes, &quot;Ch. 8, The New Woman in Love&quot;</td>
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<td>Patterson, &quot;III: Temperance, Social Purity, and Maternalism&quot;</td>
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<td>Adickes, &quot;Ch. 7, The Great Movements: Birth Control&quot;</td>
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<td>Connor, &quot;The Manly New Woman&quot;</td>
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<td>Patterson, &quot;VII: Prohibition and Sexuality&quot;</td>
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<td>Martha H. Verbrugge, &quot;Recreating the Body: Women's Physical Education and the Science of Sex Differences in America, 1900-1940&quot; (1997)</td>
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<td>Patterson, &quot;IX: Evolution, Birth Control, and Eugenics&quot;</td>
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Th 11/12  The New Woman at Work and On Strike
Reading: “XI: The New Woman at Work” (CR)
   Daniel Opler, "Monkey Business In Union Square: A Cultural Analysis of the
   Klein's-Ohrbach's Strikes of 1934-5" (2002)
   Jean Marie Lutes, "Sob Sisterhood Revisited" (2003)
   Patterson, "V: Work and the Labor Movement"
   Adickes, "Ch. 6, The Great Movements: Economic Justice"

Th 11/19  The New Woman On/In Film
Reading: “XII: The New Woman On/In Film” (CR)
   Jennifer Parchesky, "Women in the Driver’s Seat: The Auto-Erotics of Early
   Women’s Films" (2006)
   Brett L. Abrams, "Latitude in Mass-Produced Culture’s Capital: New Women and
   Marsha Orgeron, "Making It in Hollywood: Clara Bow, Fandom, and Consumer
   Culture" (2003)
   Patterson, "VIII: Consumer Culture, Leisure Culture, and Technology"

Th 11/26  CSI Closed – No Class Meeting

Th 12/3  The New Woman and Cultural Production
Reading: “XIII: The New Woman and Cultural Production (Behind the Scenes)” (CR)
   Carol J. Oja, "Women Patrons and Activists For Modernist Music: New York in
   the 1920s" (1997)
   Eric Rauchway, "A Gentlemen's Club in a Woman's Sphere: How Dorothy
   Whitney Straight Created the New Republic" (1999)
   Adickes, "Ch. 9, Arts and Letters"

Th 12/10  The New Woman Abroad
Reading: “XIV: The New Woman Abroad” (CR)
   Cheryl M. Cassidy, “Bringing the ‘New Woman’ to the Mission Site: Louise
   Manning Hodgkins and The Heathen Woman’s Friend” (2006)
   Motoe Sasaki, "American New Women Encountering China: the Politics of
   Temporality and Paradoxes of Imperialism, 1898–1927" (2009)
   Patterson, "VI: World War I and Its Aftermath"

Th 12/17  FINAL PAPER DUE