The History of Feminism in the United States (HIS 97)

Instructor: Margo Horn
Quarter: Winter 2017
Course Syllabus
**Course Title:** The History of Feminism in the United States  
**Course Code:** HIS 97  
**Instructor:** Margo Horn

**Course Objective:**  
This course will begin with readings from classic feminist theory, and explore how both these ideas and changing historical circumstances prompted and defined the three historical waves of feminism in the United States. We will ask what difference these waves of feminism meant for women and for society in the United States?

**Course Schedule:**  
This is a five-week course, meeting every Tuesday, from January 10 to February 7, from 7:00-8:50. I am available after class to answer questions, and by email during the week.

**Required text:**  
Estelle B. Freedman, *The Essential Feminist Reader.* Available at Stanford Bookstore. Other course readings will be posted online.

**Three Grading options:**  
- No grade requested (this is the default option).  
- Credit/No credit: if you elect this, class attendance will determine your grade.  
- Letter grade: if you elect a letter grade, your grade is based on a five-page essay submitted at the last class. Please submit an essay topic for approval via email by January 25.

*Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.*
Winter 2017  
HIS 97: The History of Feminism in the United States  

Weekly Outline

January 10: Introduction: Background of 18th Century Liberal Feminism; Women’s Sphere and Women’s Rights  
Reading: E. Freedman, The Essential Feminist Reader: (FR)  
Mary Astell, “A Serious Proposal to the Ladies,” pp. 20-24  
E. Freedman, No Turning Back: “Liberal Feminism: Extending the Rights of Man to the Rights of Women,” CSP website

January 17: First Wave US Feminism: The Woman’s Rights Movement  
1848-1920 Seneca Falls to the 19th Amendment: ideas, activists, achievements.  

Betty Friedan to Anita Hill: ideas, activists, achievements.  
Reading: FR: Simone de Beauvoir, “The Second Sex,” p. 251  
Betty Freidan, “The Feminine Mystique,” p. 269  
Pauli Murray, Testimony, US Congress, p. 283  
Susan Brownmiller, “Against Our Will,” p. 311  
Susan Okin, Justice, Gender and the Family CSP website

January 31: Third Wave US Feminism: 1991-present  
Splintering and globalization: Ideas, activists, achievements  
Reading: FR: UN Fourth World Conference on Women, p. 402  
Rebecca Walker, “Becoming the Third Wave,” p. 397  
J. Baumgardner and Amy Richards. “Manifesta” p. 424
February 7: The Future of US Feminism: Madame President...when?
Gertrude Mongella: “A [women's] revolution has begun, and there will be no going back.”

Reading: TBA