

U.S. Women's and Gender History

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CONTACT INFO

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OFFICE HOURS

In office: T 10-11 AM and Th 12:30-1:30 PM
[On Zoom](#): W 12:30-1:30 PM
and by appointment

COURSE MATERIALS

- [*A Black Women's History of the United States*](#), Daina Ramey Berry and Kali Gross
- [*Homeward Bound*](#), Elaine Tyler May
- *Lakota Woman*, Mary Crow Dog
- [*Know My Name*](#), Chanel Miller
- *Mr. Mom*, 1983, available for rent on several platforms
- *RBG*, 2018, available via TAMUSA library
- Other readings/films available on Blackboard or via TAMUSA library databases

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Articulate in writing the definitions of agency, gender, and intersectionality.
- Exercise critical thinking skills in assessing the impact of intersectionality in women's experiences.
- Communicate in writing an understanding of how women's and gender history fits into the broader developments of U.S. history.



"1902 First Colored Women to Vote in Ettrick, Virginia." Courtesy of Virginia State University Digital Archive Collection.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Investigation of the social, economic and political position of women and gender in the United States.



ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING SCALE

IN-CLASS WORK: 15%. Discussion is an integral part of this class, and your participation is important. We will be covering topics that tend to incite tension and debate. Absolutely engage in these debates, so long as you are respectful and informed. Your comments should always be based in the readings. There will be in-class assignments--including, but not limited to, discussion questions, text analysis, and fishbowl exercises--that you will complete individually and/or in small groups over the reading/lecture material. Each student is responsible for writing their own answers. There will be a Breakfast Quiz when attendance is low.

READING RESPONSE PAPERS: 20%. 600-900 words, 1-inch margins, 12 pt. Times New Roman font. There will be 3 response papers due this semester, and students must write 2 of them. Response papers should respond to the prompt, discussing relevant themes, argument/thesis of the works, and reflect on how you engaged with the material. These papers should be critically engaged, and should draw from your thoughts and ideas. Do not do outside research, and do not draw from online sources or use any AI software. See AI policy on the following page.

ATTENDANCE: 10%. Attendance is mandatory. You will receive a 100 for each day you are in class on time. If you are more than 15 minutes late, you will receive a 50, and if you are absent, you will receive a zero for that day. If you are more than 30 minutes late, you will be marked absent. If you have a documented excused absence, you will not receive a grade for that day.

CHECK-IN JOURNAL POSTS: 10%. There will be 3 check-in journal posts due throughout the semester. The writing in this space is different from other assignments, as it doesn't necessarily have to be formal. Other students will not see what you write. Do not use AI software to write these journal entries. See AI policy on the following page.

EXAMS: 25%. There will be 2 exams throughout the semester. These exams may have a combination of identification, short answer, and/or essay questions.

FINAL EXAM: 20%. The final exam will take place during finals week. It will be cumulative, covering all our material for the semester. It may be comprised of multiple choice-type questions, short answer questions, and/or essay questions.

GRADING SCALE

• 90-100	A
• 80-89	B
• 70-79	C
• 60-69	D
• Below 60	F

Write Like Jovita Idar

One of the incredible historical figures we will be discussing this semester is Jovita Idar, who was born in Laredo in 1885 and died in San Antonio in 1946. Her father owned a Spanish-language newspaper called *La Crónica* (The Chronicle) that was published from 1910 to 1914. Idar published several articles in the family newspaper (under various pen names) to express her ideas and beliefs about the pressing issues of her chaotic time: education for ethnic Mexican children, women's rights, racism, and mass poverty. When the family newspaper closed after her father's death, she wrote for several other publications, even founding her own newspaper called *Evolución*. She wrote with passion and critical engagement.

Much like Idar, we, too, are living in tumultuous times, and one of the most helpful things you can do for yourself is to dive deep into our material this semester. It will provide much of the historical context missing from the 24-hour news cycle. Allow yourself the time to be present, to read and to listen with mindfulness, so that when you sit down to write your papers, you do so with passion and critical engagement. The knowledge and critical thinking skills you will develop are what will stay with you long after the semester ends.



COURSE EXPECTATIONS

PARTICIPATION AND COURTESY:

TL;DR Be excellent to each other.

It is true that well-behaved women seldom make history. Look closely at the photo to the right and at the photo at the bottom of the last page. Those women who stood outside the White House in 1918 and again in 2017, as well as countless other women in-between, understood this--that if they were going to bring about change, if they were going to empower themselves in a society that rigidly defined their roles, they were going to have to "misbehave." These women also understood that collaboration is one of the most significant tactics for effective organizing. Central to collaboration is both calm and heated discussion. I hope that despite whatever difficulties you may be having outside of school, you all will be able to

1) use this semester's material as a vehicle for self-empowerment, regardless of your gender, and 2) interpret class discussion as our form of collaboration because these conversations are just as important as the readings and the lectures. All the pieces only fit into place if we do the readings, and we listen to and be excellent to each other. We don't always have to agree, but we do need to understand that we are all in this together.

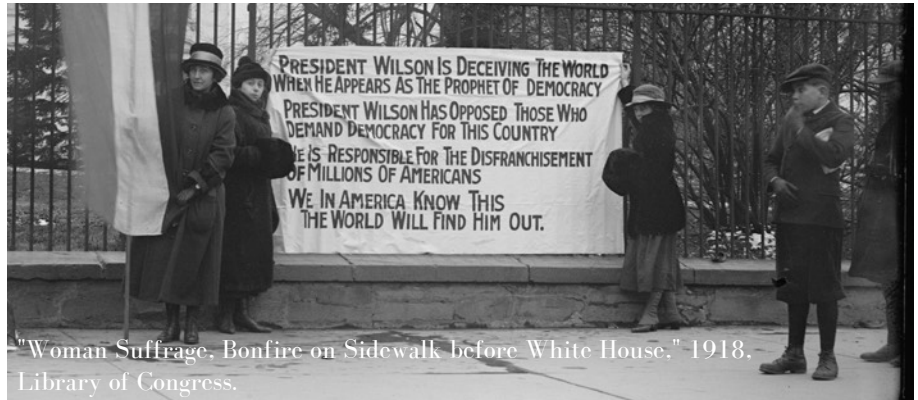
ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: Students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic dishonesty for which a student is subject to penalty includes cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submissions, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, violating known safety requirements and ethical misconduct. This includes holding other students to the same standards and reporting any incidents of alleged violation of the honesty policy to the instructor or, if necessary, to the appropriate academic department head. Students guilty of academic misconduct will receive a zero on the assignment and will be reported to Academic Affairs.

The Elephant in Our Classroom

TL;DR The use of AI is not allowed. It constitutes academic dishonesty. You will get a zero.

AI is everywhere these days, so let's confront the elephant in our classroom--the elephant in every classroom. Here's what happens every time you use AI: the software draws from the published work of others--without their consent, without citing them or compensating them--and produces a seemingly polished piece of writing. But this piece of writing is full of made up evidence and falsified citations. The skills required of a student of history include reading critically; assessing a scholar's use of evidence; making connections between primary and secondary sources; understanding categories of analysis, like race, class and gender; and constructing your own arguments that require you to use all these skills. AI plagiarizes from people who have waded through these intellectual trenches. It does not itself have these skills. And every time you use AI to write or to construct analysis, you are losing the ability to do this yourself.

Writing and critical thinking are not easy skills to develop. They can make you uncomfortable and uneasy. They are time consuming and inconvenient. But in exchange for the discomfort and time spent, you gain access to another form of self expression--you get to develop your voice as a writer, as a thinker, and as a human being living in our modern world. We're living in a crucial moment in which we're forced to answer the question: how much are we willing to pay for convenience? If you've read this far, you know that I believe the costs are too high. Students are not authorized to use any AI software in this course, and I will not use it either. It is dishonest and a form of plagiarism. You will not receive any credit for work that uses AI.



"Woman Suffrage, Bonfire on Sidewalk before White House." 1918. Library of Congress.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance in this class is imperative. Changes to the syllabus, advice, and feedback will be given in class and via blackboard announcements. Additionally, attendance is 10% of your grade. **You will need access to the internet to complete this course, but in our class sessions, we're going to kick it like it's 1995. No laptops, headphones, or cell phones are allowed, unless we need the tech for a specific in-class assignment.**

LATE/MAKE UP WORK: Make-ups will be given only in the case of documented medical or family emergencies. They must be completed before the last day of classes. For each day an assignment is late, its grade drops 5 points. I will not accept late work after 6 days. If you need to request an extension, you must contact me before the due date to make your request.

IF YOU DON'T GET THIS REFERENCE, WATCH TERMINATOR 2 IMMEDIATELY.



UNIVERSITY POLICIES & RESOURCES

STUDENT MISCONDUCT: Appropriate conduct is essential to the effective functioning of the University. University policy defines unacceptable conduct, both academic and non-academic misconduct, and penalties for such behavior in The Student Handbook and The Student Code of Conduct.

SIX-DROP RULE: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

EMAIL POLICY AND COURSE COMMUNICATIONS: All correspondence between professors and students must occur via University email accounts. If your jaguar account is not working, contact the help desk at sahelp@tamusa.tamus.edu or at 210-784-4357.

FINANCIAL AID AND VERIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (the first week of class) will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

COUNSELING SERVICES: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit <http://tamusa.edu/studentcounseling>

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331. Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.

THE ACADEMIC LEARNING CENTER: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the Tools section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202

STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER: takes a developmental approach to help students complete their academic goals from orientation through graduation. The Center offers academic and skills workshops, one-on-one appointments, and online resources to help retention efforts at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. The goal of the Center is to help students discover, self-reflect, and become independent learners. Student Academic Success is located in Modular C. Their services are currently offered virtually or by phone. To contact the Center, please call 210-784-1307 or email at Student.Success@tamusa.edu.

THE WRITING, LANGUAGE, AND DIGITAL COMPOSING CENTER supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics>.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services as soon as possible

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided with an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

MILITARY AFFAIRS: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>. More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found [here](#). Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

MEETING BASIC NEEDS: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable me to direct you to available resources.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES & RESOURCES

YOUNG JAGUARS can support parenting students with daycare who meet this criteria: Must be enrolled in classes at TAMUSA in the current semester. Must be Pell eligible or a single parent. They serve children ages 3 to 12-years-old. Children must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. youngjaguars@tamusa.edu (210) 784-2636

PREGNANT/PARENTING STUDENTS: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable modifications to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K). Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

STATEMENT OF HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or titleix@tamusa.edu.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related sex-based misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

STUDENTS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university students' rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated. Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).