WS 301-4 Special Topic in Women’s Studies - Bread Riots to ‘Riot Grrls’: A History of Women in Social and Political Protest

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Classes: Tuesday, 9:30 – 1:20

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Much historical work portrays politics and social protest as a male domain. This course will challenge the exclusion of women from the realm of the political by examining the ways in which women have organized and protested for greater rights of social, political and economic citizenship. We will examine various political movements and movements of social protest, the reasons for women’s participation, and the gendered forms that protest has taken over time and space. Students will be asked to consider how issues of family, motherhood, sexuality and racial and class oppression have intersected within the formation of social movements. We will not solely be concerned with understanding or locating women’s position within social protest, but with how assumptions about gender, race and class were structured into social movements. This course will focus mainly on North America from the 18th to the 21st century, but it will also incorporate transnational themes.

REQUIRED READINGS
Custom Courseware package, available at the bookstore.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING STRUCTURE
Tutorial Participation and Attendance  10%
Reading Responses  5%
Group Presentation  10%
Document Presentation  5%

Essay Proposal  10%
Research Paper  25%

Mid-term quiz  10%
Final Exam  25%

PREREQUISITES
Six credit in Women’s Studies including WS 101 and/or 102.

***The Graduate course WS 824-5 is offered in conjunction with WS 301-4. Please refer to the WS 824 course outline for increased course requirements and grading expectations.

THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN’S STUDIES ENCOURAGES CLARITY OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION AND GOOD WRITING. STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THESE SKILLS IN ALL COURSES GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT