WS 301 – Bread Riots to ‘Riot Grrls’: A History of Women in Social and Political Protest

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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:  
Courseware package, available at the bookstore.

Marking Scheme:

Tutorial Participation and Attendance: 15%  
Reading Responses: 5%  
Group Document Presentation: 5%

Essay Proposal: 10%  
Research Paper: 25%

Mid-term test: 15%  
Final Exam: 25%

Prerequisites for WS 301: six credit in Women’s Studies including Ws 101 and /or 102

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.