

Women and Politics in 20th Century America

Professor Linda Gordon

New York University

Course Description

This course examines the struggles and successes of American women fighting for equality in American politics, life, and culture, from the movement for suffrage through campaigns for fair wages. Led by historian Linda Gordon, participants will explore grassroots political activism, landmark court decisions, significant achievements in the arts, and the intersection of work on behalf of women's rights in the United States with other galvanizing movements for equality at home and abroad. The course also considers the evolving role of gender in mediating political discourse and social relations in the United States, and studies important distinctions in activism and opportunity shaped by race, geography, economics, and marriage.

Led by Linda Gordon, a professor emerita of history at New York University, with a guest appearance by Robyn Spencer, associate professor of history at Lehman College, City University of New York

Lecture Videos

This course consists of approximately 12 hours of instruction presented by Professor Gordon and Professor Spencer, split into 26 lecture videos ranging from 18 minutes to 40 minutes in duration. Below are the lecture titles and major themes as identified by Professor Gordon. The videos provide the content needed to answer the quiz questions.

1. "The Women's Rights Movement in the Nineteenth Century" (5 Videos)
2. "Immigration, Migration, and Women's Work" (2 Videos)

3. “Women’s Employment, Financial Contributions, and Suffrage” (2 Videos)
4. “Birth Control, Settlement Houses, and Relationships” (4 Videos)
5. “The Great Depression and New Deal” (4 Videos)
6. “Women’s Role in WWII and the Black Panther Party” (5 Videos)
7. “Civil Rights, Women’s, and Conservative Movements” (4 Videos)

Note: Course lectures were originally recorded for the Gilder Lehrman Institute’s online graduate program. You can disregard references to assignments, other coursework, and the use of content in classrooms discussed in the videos. They are not part of the History U program.

Resources

Select the Resources link for information about the primary and secondary resources, videos, and websites referred to in the course. Please note: History U participants are not required to read or purchase print materials. All quiz questions are drawn from the lectures.

Quizzes

The purpose of the short quizzes is to review your knowledge of the material covered in the lectures. No outside reading is required to answer the questions successfully. After watching the video, select and complete the corresponding quiz to test your knowledge and qualify for the Certificate of Completion.

Certificate of Completion

After you finish watching all of the lectures, score an 80% or higher on each quiz, and complete the feedback survey, you will be able to download your certificate.

Please email historyschool@gilderlehrman.org with any questions.