

“Women’s Suffrage: A Documented History”

Fall 2017

DATE/TIME: Thursdays 9/21-10/26/17
6:00-8:00 pm



“Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favourable to them than your ancestors.”
– Abigail Adams

SYLLABUS

- Session 1: Introduction: Revolution
Letter from Abigail Adams to John Adams (March 31, 1776)
Declaration of the Rights of Woman, Olympe de Gouges (1791)
- Session 2: The Watershed: Seneca Falls
Declaration of Sentiments, Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1848)
Discourse on Woman, Lucretia Mott (1850)
- Session 3: Slavery, Suffrage, and Civil War
Speech at Pennsylvania Hall, Angelina Grimké Weld (1838)
A Petition for Universal Suffrage (1865)
Address to the First Annual Meeting of the American Equal Rights Association, Sojourner Truth (May 9, 1867)
- Session 4: Trial
Remarks by Susan B. Anthony in the Circuit Court (June 1873)
Declaration of Rights of the Women of the United States (1876)
- Session 5: World War
Freedom or death, Emmeline Pankhurst (1913)
Why Women Should Vote, Jane Addams (1915)
- Session 6: Universal Rights
Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution (1920)
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS: This series invites participants to examine, discuss, and revel at the history of women’s suffrage movement on the 100th anniversary of New York State passage of women’s suffrage. We will read about the women’s suffrage movements in the United States and around the world from the American Revolution to the modern era, track changes within the movement, study important speeches, delight over misadventures and anecdotes, listen to recordings from the phonograph to the digital era, and ultimately transform the last 250 years of history into a lens for better appreciating and understanding the nation we live in today.

Audience participation is both welcome and encouraged! Please feel free to bring questions for open discussion.

SELECT TEXT: (for in-class readings)

All texts listed on this syllabus are available for free online.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS: (for supplemental/further reading)

Abigail Adams: Letters: Library of America #275, by Abigail Adams (Library of America, 2016).

Seneca Falls and the Origins of the Women’s Rights Movement, Sally McMillen (Oxford University Press, 2008).

Eighty Years And More: Reminiscences 1815-1897, by Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

INSTRUCTOR:

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PUBLISHED WORKS (under the pen-name “Jacopo della Quercia”):

License to Quill (St. Martin’s Griffin. 2015)

The Great Abraham Lincoln Pocket Watch Conspiracy (St. Martin’s Griffin, 2014)

“Abraham Lincoln’s Steampunk Presidency” (Slate Magazine, 2014)