

## New History 346

### replaces \*History of Gender in Modern America\*

Spring 2014

Professor K. Brown

M-W 12-1

#### **Tentative Syllabus: BODIES, RACE, AND RIGHTS:**

#### **SEX AND CITIZENSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES 1865 to the present**

What did it mean to be a man in the post-Civil War United States? Was being a man the same as being a citizen? If African-American men were to be fully embraced as both men and citizens in the aftermath of slavery, where did that leave women, white and black? Why did a nation built on immigration become so hostile to certain groups of immigrants during this period? In this course, we consider how the meanings and experiences of womanhood, manhood, citizenship, and equality before the law changed during the period immediately after the Civil War until the present day. We look at political battles over the meaning of citizenship, the use of terror to subdue African Americans politically and economically, and the fears of white Americans that they would lose their political and economic dominance to immigrant groups they deemed irreconcilably different from themselves. We also consider the repercussions of these conflicts for medical, legal, and economic efforts to regulate the bodies of women, children, poor people, immigrants, working class laborers, military men, and African Americans. The course is organized around a series of historical problems, dynamic leaders, and controversies that illuminate these issues. Topics include:

- \*Debates over voting rights for newly freed slaves and white women
- \*Ida B. Wells and the anti-lynching campaign
- \*The deaths of 146 garment workers in the tragic Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire
- \*The culmination of the suffrage movement in a women's suffrage amendment
- \*the use of new tests to determine immigrant health and fitness
- \*The flamboyant career and persecution of boxer Jack Johnson
- \*The legacy of the Social Security Act for how we view wage work, "entitlements," and welfare in the present day
- \* the effort to legalize interracial marriage
- \*The impact of military service on men's relationships during World War II

\*how vaccination became a requirement for attending public school

\*Hugh Hefner and Playboy

\*Gay liberation and the politics of gay marriage

\*The impact of Title Nine on women's athletics

\*Transgender identities

**Course requirements:** weekly reading assignments, recitation attendance, three 3-4 page papers, an oral history assignment, a take-home final examination.