

Class #7

1. Discussion: *Ida B. Wells: Passion for Justice*: feminism/women's rights activism, womanism, humanism: conceptualizing the politics of race and gender
2. The Female Mind and Body: Contested Terrain in 19th Century America
 - a. Backlash, Biological Essentialism and the 19th Century Women's Rights Movement: Medical Discourses of Womanhood in the 19th Century.
 - b. The Anti-Suffragists and "Woman's Place": the threat of suffrage and jury service
 - c. The Debate about Women's Place in Higher Education and the Professions- Edward Clarke
 - d. The Growth of Women's Colleges and Co-Education
 - e. The Conflict Within: "Hysteria" and Women's Roles in the 19th Century (Smith-Rosenberg)-Writing Exercise
3. Resistance or Illness? Discourses of Women, Violence and Madness: The Case of Lizzie Borden (1892)
4. ***The Yellow Wallpaper*** (1892) - Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1860-1935)
 - a. Gilman's biography
 - b. *The Yellow Wallpaper* in the context of her nonfiction and fiction writing (e.g., *Women and Economics* (1898), *Human Work* (1904), *The Man-Made World* (1911), *Herland* (1915))
 - c. Interpretive debates around this text and around the question of women and madness; is this a "feminist" text?
 - d. Meaning of this text in the contemporary period; relationship to other accounts of madness (e.g. Susanna Kaysen- *Girl, Interrupted*, William Styron- *Darkness Visible*, Sylvia Plath – *The Bell Jar*)

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