Assignment Sheet 12: WOMEN’S RIGHTS MOVEMENT

READING
Woloch: 486-496, 506-512, 517-532
Ware: 233-246, 268-277, 282-294
Handouts: Excerpt from The Feminine Mystique, “The Theft of Life”
Graduate students only: Sklar and Dublin: 227-239, 240-253

NECESSARY BACKGROUND INFORMATION
1. The main economic, political, social, and cultural developments in the United States in the 1960s and 1970s, including the turmoil over the war in Vietnam.

STUDY QUESTIONS
1. What were the main reasons and ways some women changed or tried to change their personal lives (including sexuality), their education, and their work lives in the 1960s and 1970s?
2. What were the main ways different activists in the “women’s liberation movement” wanted the government to help women? What were the actions taken by different branches of the U.S. government to help women? What were the general results of these actions?
3. What led some women involved in the “New Left” to begin speaking out about women’s rights and what were some of their main concerns and actions?
4. What were the main differences and disagreements between some women’s rights activists in the 1960s and 1970s?
5. What were some of the main ways some women in the 1960s and 1970s tried to improve the lives of women through community projects and organizations?
6. What were the main actions taken to improve the working conditions and options for women, including but not only within unions?
7. What were the main problems Jessie de la Cruz faced and how did involvement in the United Farmworkers’ Union affect her life?
8. What factors led to the sterilization of over a quarter of Native American women, as well as many other women? How else were Indian families under attack?
9. What problems did women on welfare (AFDC) often experience and how did some of them try to improve their lives?

IDENTIFICATIONS
Betty Friedan
The Feminine Mystique
President’s Commission on the Status of Women
Equal Pay Act of 1963
Masters and Johnson’s study
Helen Gurley Brown
Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964
Equal Employment Opportunities Commission
women’s liberation movement
consciousness raising groups
radical feminism
sexism
Ms. magazine
Gloria Steinem
struggle over the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in the 1970s
Roe v. Wade
bra-burning
Crystal Lee Sutton
Jessie de la Cruz
National Welfare Rights Organization