Assignment Sheet 9: WOMEN IN THE THIRTIES

READING
Woloch: 423-461
Ware: 141-178
Handouts: “Women Organizing in the Depression;” J. Jones essay
Anne Moody: pages 11-117
Graduate students only: Handout of chapter on Lucy Mason and the Consumers’ League

NECESSARY BACKGROUND INFORMATION
1. The main economic, political, social, and cultural developments in the United States in the 1930s, especially concerning the Great Depression and the New Deal.

STUDY QUESTIONS
1. What were the main ways the Depression affected the lives of different groups of women; how did this vary for the different groups; and what were the main ways each group tried to solve these problems?
2. What were the main ways different programs of the New Deal affected women? What discrimination did some programs allow against some women?
3. What were the main concerns, actions, and impact of Eleanor Roosevelt as the First Lady during the New Deal?
4. Who were the main women (individuals and groups of women) who affected the New Deal and the Democratic Party during the Depression? What were their main concerns, official positions (for those appointed to specific positions), actions, and results?
5. To what extent and how did assumptions about femininity, family, and the roles of women in work and popular culture affect women’s opportunities and to what extent and how did these assumptions change in the 1930s?
6. What were the main ways that women in trade unions and other organizations of the working class tried to improve their lives during the 1930s? What were the results of their actions?

IDENTIFICATIONS
Eleanor Roosevelt as First Lady
Lorena Hickok
Ellen Woodward
women’s camps
Arthurdale
It’s Up to the Women
pin-money worker
Section 213, National Economy Act
National Recovery Administration (NRA) Codes
Fair Labor Standards Act
Section 7A, National Recovery Act (NRA)
Communist Party in the 1930s
Molly Dewson
Frances Perkins
network of New Deal women
Social Security Act
Aid to Dependent Children (A.D.C.)
Mary McLeod Bethune
“My Day”
Women’s Emergency Brigade of the Flint sit-down strike
Amelia Earhart
domestic “slave markets”
Domestic Workers’ Unions
Dorothea Lange
Unemployed Councils
National Labor Relations Act
Congress of Industrial Organizations (C.I.O.)
sit-down strikes