

**Women in History**  
Session 3, 2020-2021  
Tuesdays, 9:00 - 10:30  
**Instructor: Melanie Ware**

**Course Objective:**

This course is shifting for 2021 from a performance-based class, but it will still deliver as much enthusiasm for the year's selected historic women, opportunities for public speaking, confidence development, and teamwork. Each class will focus on a major period of women's suffrage, movements, and/or one of our select women. Students will also commit to **studying a first-person script**, creating a modified costume and props, and presenting a speech to the class via Zoom. In addition, a public presentation (also via Zoom) will be arranged during Women's History Month (March) with the local chapter of AAUW (American Association of University Women). Our students will also be invited to present a modified/shortened version of their speech or discuss what was learned in the course (date TBD). The AAUW National Women's History Month theme for 2020-2021 is "Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to be Silenced." Some of the women in focus this year include Maya Angelou, Jane Addams, Shirley Chisholm, Sojourner Truth, and Delores Huerta. Women in History truly **changes and inspires** our future female leaders, and all who lift them up. **Independent work is required: a bit of reading, research, practicing, and prop/costume creation.**

The list below is a tapestry of women who represent our diversity, tell our history, and inspire our future. Clearly these are women who would not be silenced.

- **Sojourner Truth** (1797 - 1883) Abolitionist
- **Jane Addams** (1860 - 1935) Social Worker, Nobel Peace Prize Recipient
- **Ida B. Wells** (1862 - 1931) Anti-lynching Crusader, Journalist
- **Shirley Chisholm** (1924 - 2005) Politician, Educator
- **Patsy Mink** (1927 - 2002) U.S. Congresswoman, Co-Author Title IX
- **Maya Angelou** (1928 - 2014) Writer, Lecturer
- **Dolores Huerta** (1930 - ) Political Activist, Union Organizer
- **Wilma Mankiller** (1945 - 2010) Chief of the Cherokee Nation

**Course Expectations:**

- Be open to ideas, discussion, collaboration, and sharing in a positive, supportive environment.
- Be ready to research more information on your selected woman, and practice on your own each week.
- Be willing to create a costume and assist with the creation of the presentation boards.
- Be actively engaged, willing to take and give feedback during weekly practice breakout rooms.
- Materials needed EACH week: Script, spiral notebook, folder, and pencil/pen.

***Syllabus:*** (specific activities subject to change)

**1/12** Introduction to the program, expectations and selected women. Begin selection process for our scripts. (There is a possibility that scripts will not be chosen today. We will decide together who performs which script, or scripts will be assigned). Assignment: Fact finding mission.

**1/19** We will discover the important roll women played in the abolishment of slavery, focusing on **Sojourner Truth**. Additionally, we will practice how to effectively speak publicly over Zoom: eye contact, pronunciation, enunciation. Breakout rooms will be utilized to read over scripts for the first time. Assignment: read through scripts, look up unfamiliar words, find a few more interesting points about your selected woman.

1/26 We will explore how women helped better the lives of those who were often forgotten, nationally and internationally, focusing on **Jane Addams**. We will go over props and costumes and practice in breakout rooms. Assignment: practice script using skills learned and start exploring costume ideas.

2/2 We will study how women helped shape labor reforms, focusing on **Dolores Huerta**. Work on “cue cards,” though this will look different from previous years (Still brainstorming ideas.) Breakout room practice. Assignment: collect props and materials for costumes.

2/9 We will understand the importance of women in Native American communities, as well as the nation as a whole, focusing on **Wilma Mankiller**. Discuss how to create an effective slideshow. Breakout room practice. Assignment: practice script and collect pictures of assigned women for presentation boards.

2/16 Female writers: We will explore the challenges that female writers, particularly of color, have overcome, focusing on **Ida B. Wells** and **Maya Angelou**. Assignment: work on slideshow.

2/23: Female Politicians: We will learn about how women of all races and backgrounds have broken through the predominantly white, male world of politics, focusing on **Patsy Mink** and **Shirley Chisholm**. Assignment: continue practicing scripts, finalizing costumes and slideshows.

3/2: Everyone will share what they learned about the important roles of women throughout history and what they specifically loved about their own woman. We will discuss how they have impacted others who are making a change in the world today. Finalize speeches and personal speaking goals. Bring costumes and slideshows. Practice in breakout rooms and as a class.

3/9: Final presentations during our last class. Parents and students will be welcome to watch, though they will need to have cameras and sounds off.

Additional performances in March to be arranged. Not all speakers are required to participate, and sometimes, only a limited number of speeches are requested. All this will be decided during the course.