

## **WGS. 101 Spring 2023 Lecture 9 Outline**

**Reminder:** Essay 1 Version 1 and cover letter due; Include a “Works Cited” page and cover letter describing the strong points and problem areas of the essay.

Sending emails confirming oral presentation dates, topic areas + partners.

Next Class: Jen Greenleaf, WGS librarian-finding sources for oral pres; Thera Webb, Women@MIT Project Archivist

### **Background to the Documentary Film: *The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter* (Connie Field, 1980)**

#### **1. “Rosie The Riveter” –Contemporary Appeal as Cultural Icon-**

posters, coffee mugs, pins, tattoos. Rosie the Riveter National Park- California; Rosie the Riveter camps and programs; Rosie the Riveter reunions

**2. Influence on the Second Wave of American Women’s Rights Activism**, dating either from 1963 (Friedan’s *The Feminine Mystique*) or 1966 (Formation of NOW)

#### **3. Gender Role Change and the Complex Legacy of World War II- Mobilization of U.S. Women for Defense Work**

Absence of men in military service: Atlantic and Pacific Fronts

Single womanhood and single motherhood as normative

Greater acceptance of woman-centered households and groups

More cultural genres, e.g., the Hollywood “women’s film”, created for a primarily female audience

Significant geographic and economic mobility for women

#### **4. Race, ethnicity and gender during WWII**

From domestic and agricultural work to skilled industrial

Production: significant mobility for African-American women

Outside the female progress narrative of WWII:

Japanese-American women from West Coast in internment camps.

**5. *The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter* (Connie Field, 1980)** –classic Second Wave documentary

Field chose the five “Rosies” profiled in the film from hundreds of interviews of former female defense workers in the late 1970s. Most of these interviews were conducted, at least partly, at Rosie the Riveter reunions at various locations of former defense plants.

6. See HW questions on separate sheet.

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WGS.101 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies  
Spring 2023

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