

21H.418
Fall 2005

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT # 7
Book Clubs: Women and the Uses of Reading in Everyday Life

*Please submit responses to the following questions to the professor by 5PM
on the day of Lec #11.*

- 1) If one is trying to understand the political, social, and cultural dimensions of reading in contemporary America, what are the advantages of studying book clubs? The disadvantages?
- 2) What motivates women to join reading groups today, according to Long? Why are women more likely to join reading groups than men?
- 3) Study the web site for Oprah's Book club. Has Oprah succeeded, through her media conglomerate's use of print, television, and the web, in creating a national version of the localized clubs Long studies in Houston? Or is Oprah's Book Club qualitatively different than the groups Long has researched? Be prepared to discuss in class specific web pages on the Oprah site in support of your response.