1. Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1860-1935) and *The Yellow Wallpaper*
   Gilman: An Expansive Voice within First-Wave Women’s Movement; member of “The Feminists”

2. *The Yellow Wallpaper* (1892): Bridging Text between First Wave (1848-1920) and Second + Wave (1966 -) of American Women’s Rights Activism

3. Small Group Discussion: *The Yellow Wallpaper* - Charlotte Perkins Gilman

4. Meanings of this text in the contemporary period; relationship to other accounts of women and mental/emotional disturbance (e.g., Sylvia Plath – *The Bell Jar*, Susanna Kaysen- *Girl, Interrupted*). Is *The Yellow Wallpaper* a “feminist” text?

5. The Conceptual Legacy of the “First Wave” of American Women’s Rights Activism for Women’s and Gender Studies
   a. Critiquing the “Lenses of Gender”—(Psychologist Sandra Bem, *The Lenses of Gender*-
   (Grimke, Stanton, Truth, Anthony, Stone-Blackwell, Douglass)
   1. Biological Essentialism/Determinism-views gendered roles/hierarchy and
   male domination as rooted intrinsically in biology, esp. reproductive biology
   2. Androcentrism (male-centeredness)- defines males and male experience as the norm and
   females and female experience as a deviation from that norm.
   3. Gender polarization- assumes the gender binary, and that male and female are opposite
   in nature;
   This lens may be superimposed on many aspects of dress, behavior, language, family
   roles, work and sexuality.
   b. Articulating a critique of the gender system as one of performance and
   power: Describing a model of a system in which the parts (social/cultural, legal/economic) not only work together to maintain a gendered hierarchy, but also can be targeted separately for change (“Dec. of Sentiments…”)
   c. Identifying contradictions within the political, economic and familial system
   that promote conflict, questioning and change (Smith-Rosenberg); rejecting monolithic
   concepts of culture; affirming model of cultural conflict
   d. Establishing models of social change that include diverse political, social
   and economic strategies
   (Stanton, Anthony, Truth, Douglass, Stone-Blackwell, Cooper, Wells-Barnett, Gilman)
   e. Questioning the meaning of gender equality: sameness or difference?
   f. Creating connections and affirming differences among various groups of
   women; theorizing intersectionality of race/gender/ethnicity/class
   (Davis, Truth, Boydston, Stanton, Cooper, Wells-Barnett)
   g. Conceptualizing the role of men as allies and beneficiaries in women’s rights movements
   (“Sentiments” male signers, Douglass, Blackwell);

6. The Years Between the Waves of U.S. Women’s Rights Activism: 1920-60-
   “Unobtrusive Mobilization” (Katzenstein) or “Lull Between the Waves”? Understanding Influence of WWII