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.