WGS. 101 SESSION #2 OUTLINE

1. Women’s and Gender Studies: Identifying, Analyzing and Critiquing Gendered Systems of Power and Performance; Influence of Women’s/Gender Rights Movements

2. Writing Exercise/Discussion: Factors Leading to the Emergence of Gender Rights/Equality Movements

3. The American Revolution, Enlightenment Ideals and The Seeds of Change
   - “The Declaration of Independence” -- a manifesto of rights and liberty with limits and potential- the rhetoric of democracy
   - Enslaved women: double erasure
   - “Free” women: call to patriotism without promise of rights
   - Traditional Roles for Women in Colonial and Revolutionary America: e.g., Jane Franklin Mecom (sister of Benjamin Franklin)
   - Crossing the Gender Boundary/”Passing”: Deborah Sampson (1760-1827)
   - After the Revolution: The Idea of Republican Motherhood

4. Nineteenth Century America: “The Cult of True Womanhood” (“Cult of Domesticity”), the Centrality of Religion and Female Reform Movements
   - Piety, Purity, Domesticity and Obedience: Four Cornerstones of the “Cult of True Womanhood”; Race, Class and The Cult of Domesticity: e.g., Harriet Jacobs, Sojourner Truth
   - Contradictions Within this Ideology, Enlightenment Ideas and the Birth of Women’s Reform Movements: Secular and Religious Influences

5. 1830s-1850s: Abolitionism and Women’s Rights Activism: The “School of Anti-Slavery”; Sequential and Parallel Movements; From Gender-Conscious to Women’s Rights Activism
   - Social Movement Theories: Resource Mobilization, Relative Deprivation
   - Roles within Movements: Beneficiary Constituents, Conscience Constituents

6. The Grimke Sisters: Sarah Grimke (1792-1873) and Angelina Grimke Weld (1805-1879): Beginning to Set a Women’s Rights Agenda
   - Unique Role as exiles: Southern white ex-plantation women
   - Defending Women’s Political Roles as Writers/Speakers
   - Prefigurative Politics: the personal as political

7. Discussion: Angelina Grimke- “Human Rights Not Founded on Sex” (1837)

Women’s and Gender Studies/Social Movements Terminology:
- Gender-conscious social movement/gender-conscious activity
- Resource mobilization
- Absolute and relative deprivation
- Conscience constituent
- Beneficiary constituent
- Women’s rights activism
- Feminism/womanism/humanism