

Wayland Mission Statement

Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused, and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, and service to God and humankind.

Contact Information

Course: HIST 5340 VC01: FLOTUS – Ethnic and Gender History

Campus: WBUonline

Term/Session: Spring 2 2026

Instructor: Dr. Rebekah Crowe

Office Phone Number: (806) 291-1185

WBU Email Address: rebekah.crowe@wbu.edu

Office Hours, Building, and Location: Monday through Friday, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., Central Time or by appointment; Zoom sessions can be arranged

Class Meeting Time and Location: Blackboard asynchronously

Course Information

Catalog Description: Selected topics and issues in the history of women and ethnic minority groups; may be repeated for credit when the topic changes.

There is no prerequisite for this course.

Textbook Information

Required Textbook(s) and/or Required Materials:

- Carlin, Diana B., Anita B. McBride, and Nancy Kegan Smith. *U.S. First Ladies: Making History and Leaving Legacies*. San Diego, CA: Cognella, 2024, ISBN: 978-1793545244.
- Caroli, Betty Boyd. *First Ladies: The Ever Changing Role, from Martha Washington to Melania Trump*. 5th Edition. Oxford University Press, 2019. ISBN: 9780190669133.
- Turabian, Kate. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 9th Edition. University of Chicago Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-0-22643-057-7.

*The textbooks for this course are part of the **Wayland's Automatic eBook** program. You will have access to the eBooks on the first day of class through your Blackboard course site. The cost of these Automatic eBooks will be billed directly to your student account when you register for the course. You will be notified via email with access instructions and additional information. If you do not wish to participate in the Automatic eBook program, you will have the first 12 days of class to opt-out of the program (additional details will be outlined in your email instructions). For more information on the Automatic eBook program, visit the Wayland Bookstore [Automatic eBook FAQ](#) page.*

Optional Materials: All other materials will be available on the Blackboard course, through the Wayland library, or, at the student's discretion, to purchase, rent, or check out from other sources.

Course Outcome Competencies: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the major political, social, and economic issues that have affected women/minority groups in American history
- Analyze and account for differences in the lives of minority populations within the larger group
- Show how and why the lives of women/minority populations have changed over time
- Describe the historical scholarship related to the topic being studied
- Demonstrate the ability to write graduate level essays, reports and research papers

Attendance Requirements

WBUonline

Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses. Online courses are no different in this regard; however, participation must be defined in a different manner. Student "attendance" in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus. Instructors in online courses are responsible for providing students with clear instructions for how they are required to participate in the course. Additionally, instructors are responsible for incorporating specific instructional activities within their course and will, at a minimum, have weekly mechanisms for documenting student participation. These mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, participating in a weekly discussion board, submitting/completing assignments in Blackboard, or communicating with the instructor. Students aware of necessary absences must inform the professor with as much advance notice as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements. Any student absent 25 percent or more of the online course, i.e., non-participatory during 2 or more weeks of an 8-week session, may receive an F for that course. Instructors may also file a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress for students with excessive non-participation. Any student who has not actively participated in an online class prior to the census date for any given session is considered a "no-show" and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record. To be counted as actively participating, it is not sufficient to log in and view the course. The student must be submitting work as described in the course syllabus. Additional attendance and participation policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the university's attendance policy.

University Policies

[Link to Statement on Academic Integrity](#) , and reference one of the following in regard to how generative artificial intelligence (GAI) such as ChatGPT may or may not be used in this course:

- a. No use of any generative AI tools permitted.
 - i. Students are required to create and produce all work themselves or with assigned group members. Any work submitted that has used an AI generative tool like Chat GPT will be in immediate violation of the academic integrity policies for the course and WBU.
 - ii. All assignments must be fully created, designed, and prepared by the student(s).
 - iii. Any work that uses generative AI will be treated as plagiarism.

Disability Statement: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Disability Services Coordinator and Academic Coach serves as the coordinator of students with disabilities and must be contacted concerning accommodation requests (office (806) 291-1057. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

Accessibility issues with content in WBUonline courses or in Blackboard should be addressed to the WBU accessibility coordinator, Dr. Rick Hammer, hammerr@wbu.edu or call (806) 292-9150.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

Weekly Discussion Boards (120 points)

Each student will contribute original discussion threads for each weekly assignment (varies by week) and comments on classmates' discussion threads for a total of 15 points per week based on the assigned reading. Original posts will be due by **11:59 p.m. (Central Time) on Wednesdays**. Comments will be due by **11:59 p.m. (Central Time) on Sundays**. Late posts will be penalized 1 point per every 24-hour period past the due date. Late comments will not be accepted.

Project Proposal (40 points)

Each student will choose a particular First Lady as the basis for all elements of the final project. First, each student will submit a one-page proposal and 3-5 suggested scholarly works in a bibliography on a second page. Late assignments will be penalized 5 points for every 24-hour period past the due date (**Saturday, April 4, 11:59 p.m., Central Time**). This assignment should be formatted and cited in *Turabian* Notes-Bibliography style, utilizing the Submission Guidelines.

Chapter Reviews (50 points each, 100 points total)

Each student will submit two 500 to 1,000-word reviews based on the choices provided on Blackboard. Reviews must follow the Submission Guidelines and utilize *Turabian* Notes-Bibliography style footnotes. Reviews will be due at **11:59 p.m. (Central Time)** on the following **Saturdays**: Review #1 - **April 11** and Review #2 - **April 25**. Late papers will be penalized 5 points per 24-hour period after the due date. Papers sent through Multidisciplinary Tutorial Services will get 3 bonus points on that assignment.

Encyclopedia Entries (90 points)

Each student will prepare three encyclopedia entries of different lengths on his/her chosen FLOTUS.

Each one will be worth 30 points. This assignment should be formatted and cited in *Turabian Notes-Bibliography* style, using footnotes. The entries will be due on the following **Saturdays at 11:59 p.m.**

(Central Time): 750 words – **April 18**; 1,000 words – **May 2**; 500 words – **May 9**. Late assignments will be penalized 5 points for every 24-hour period past the due date.

Annotated Bibliography (100 points)

Each student will submit an annotated bibliography containing at least 20 scholarly sources. This assignment must include at least five books from academic presses and at least five articles from peer-reviewed journals, but also should contain a variety of other sources such as children's books, websites, documentaries, etc. More information about appropriate sources is on Blackboard. Annotations should be no longer than one paragraph of five to seven sentences each; should include the thesis, major arguments, and historiographical contribution the author adds to this particular field. This assignment should utilize the Submission Guidelines and *Turabian Notes-Bibliography* style; it is due on **Saturday, May 16, at 11:59 p.m., (Central Time)**. Late assignments cannot be accepted since this is the end of the course. I will add 5 points for assignments taken through the MTS.

Method of determining course grade:

Weekly Discussion Boards	120 points
Chapter Reviews	100 points
Proposal	40 points
Encyclopedia	90 points
Bibliography	100 points
Total	600 Points

The University has a standard grade scale:

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = below 60, W = Withdrawal, WP = withdrew passing, WF = withdrew failing, I = incomplete. An incomplete may be given within the last two weeks of a long term, within the last week of an 8-week session, or within the last two days of a microterm to a student who is passing, but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required work for reasons beyond the student's control. A grade of "incomplete" is changed if the work required is completed prior to the last day of the next long 16-week term or 8-week session, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion. If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the I is converted to an F.

Student Grade Appeals: Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog.

Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations.

Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Vice President of Academic Affairs to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

Tentative Schedule

Week/Date	Topic	Assignment
Week 1: March 23-29	Introduction	Choose Books & Topics
Week 2: March 30-April 5	Caroli, Ch. 1-3	Proposal
Week 3: April 6-12	Caroli, Ch. 4-8	Review #1
Week 4: April 13-19	Caroli, Ch. 9-11	Encyclopedia Entry #1
Week 5: April 20-26	Carlin, Ch. 2-7	Review #2
Week 6: April 27-May 3	Carlin, Ch. 8-12	Encyclopedia Entry #2
Week 7: May 4-10	Carlin, Ch. 13-18	Encyclopedia Entry #3
Week 8: May 11-16	Projects	Annotated Bibliographies

Additional Information

My Academic Dishonesty Policy: Any time you use the words of another and do not make it clear that they are not yours, you are engaging in plagiarism – which is Academic Dishonesty. The first time I discover Academic Dishonesty in an assignment, I will give you a zero on the assignment and file a report with the University. The second instance of Academic Dishonesty will result in an automatic F in the course and another report to the University.

My Communication Policy: I communicate via the course Blackboard site and through Wayland email. It is your responsibility to check both forms of communication on a daily basis. I answer emails between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and until 4:00 p.m. on Friday. Between 4:00 p.m. Friday and 8:00 a.m. Monday, I do occasionally check my email, but only will respond if it is an emergency. I do not respond to emails from non-WBU email addresses and I do NOT use Blackboard Messenger. Assignments work best on a full computer instead of a tablet or phone. I am not responsible for technical difficulties of any kind. If you experience anything of this nature, please let me know right away and contact Blackboard Help and/or IT.