Susan Pearson
History 395-0-24
WOMEN’S HISTORY AND WIKIPEDIA
Day/Time: TTH 3:30-4:50
Office Address: Harris Hall Room 338
Office Phone: (847) 471-3744
Email Address: sjp@northwestern.edu
Maximum Enrollment: 15

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is a research seminar in United States Women’s History. Our goal is to make the web-based encyclopedia Wikipedia more inclusive of the experiences and contributions of American women throughout history. Students will learn how to create and edit Wikipedia entries and each student will prepare an entry on a woman from United States History. Preparation of the entry will require primary and secondary source research. Students will learn how to use online databases to conduct primary research, how to compile a record of a woman’s life, and how to explain her historical significance. Subject to approval, the final product will become part of the permanent record of Wikipedia. At present, only 10% of contributors to Wikipedia are female and studies show that in both content and personnel, women are severely underrepresented on the platform. By learning how to use the platform and bringing historical research skills to bear on its content, our course will join the effort to change how knowledge is produced. All are welcome.

AREA OF CONCENTRATION: Americas

TEACHING METHOD: Seminar

EVALUATION METHOD: Research paper, short assignments

GRADING BASIS: ANC

INSTRUCTOR PROFILE: Susan J. Pearson is an historian of nineteenth-century America with special interest in cultural and intellectual history.