

## WGS 101 SESSION #10 OUTLINE

1. *The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter*: Discussion:  
The Complex Legacy of Women's Experience of the World War II Period
2. The Postwar Gender Backlash: A New "Cult of Domesticity"?  
1950s Domesticity---similar to and different from 19th century  
"Cult of True Womanhood"; Race, Class and the Suburban Ideal
3. Mid to late 1950s: A diffuse gender discontent: *Man in the Gray Flannel Suit*  
(novel, Sloan Wilson, (1955) film adaptation (1956)  
The mid-late 1950s: Emergence of the Civil Rights Movement with  
Strategies of Non-Violent Resistance  
Strong female leaders/activists—Rosa Parks, Ella Baker  
Parallels with abolitionism and 19<sup>th</sup> century women's rights movement  
Early Gay/Lesbian Rights Activism in the 1950s
4. The Postwar Ideal of Domesticity: Challenges  
Race, class, female employment and the postwar ideal of domesticity  
Increase in U.S. women's labor force participation and divorce rate by late 1950s-  
early 60s  
Developments in contraception-oral contraception - "the pill" (1960)  
Simone de Beauvoir- *The Second Sex* (in French-1949; in English-1953)  
Betty Friedan's *Feminine Mystique* (1963) as popular "catalyst text"  
  
Kennedy's "New Frontier" and American Women: Commission  
On the Status of Women (1963)-"Momentous Changes Quietly Taking Place"  
Growth of Popular Psychology and Theories of Self-Actualization (Maslow)
5. The *Feminine Mystique* (1963): Its Appeal Then and Now: "The Problem That  
Has No Name"; Catalyst text  
The Era of the Paperback bestseller  
Friedan as Insider/Outsider- Power of "Personal Politics"  
Comparison with *The Yellow Wallpaper*  
Writing Exercise: Historical and Contemporary relevance

MIT OpenCourseWare  
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

WGS.101 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies  
Fall 2014

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.