

**The American First Lady in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries**  
**COM 390**  
**3 Credits**

Summer I Evening May 12-June 25, 2008

Instructor: Dr. Myra G. Gutin

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Class Meetings: Monday and Wednesday evening, 6:30-9:30 PM

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 6:00-6:30 PM and by appointment

**Course Description**

This class will examine the women who served as First Lady of the United States during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Lectures, discussions, presentations, audiotapes, videotapes and DVDs will be utilized in considering the ceremonial, political and advocacy roles played by these women in their husbands' administrations. The role of the press, the relationship between the president and the first lady and the first lady's access to presidential decision making will be explored.

**Course Objectives**

1. The class will examine the Office of the First Lady, an institution that can be tremendously influential or strictly ceremonial in scope.
2. The class will analyze the communication stances of and strategies employed by twentieth and twenty-first century first ladies.
3. The class will assess the importance of mass media in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries as it relates to the first lady and the way in which they have framed each first lady.
4. The class will analyze the growing political influence of the first lady.
5. The class will familiarize students with the scholarly literature that has emanated from first lady research.
6. The class will trace the emerging roles of women in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

**Attendance/Make Up Policy**

There is no policy regarding absences during the Summer I Evening Term. Miss class if

you need to; your final grade will not be effected by absences. There are only twelve instructional classes during the course of the semester and students would be well advised to attend as many as possible. Each night's class equals approximately one week of standard semester class work. Research has shown that students who attend class regularly do better work than those who miss repeatedly.

Please understand that a great deal of material will be covered during each class session. **Students are responsible for all material, readings and assignments covered in their absence.** "I didn't know it was due" isn't an acceptable excuse. Call or email Dr. Gutin or classmates to find out what you've missed.

It is expected that students will arrive on time and remain for the entire session. Leaving at the break is unacceptable unless there are serious medical problems.

Examinations and written assignments must be taken/submitted when scheduled. If you are absent or unprepared for any reason other than a documented medical problem on the day a test or assignment is due, you will be graded down one full letter grade. The next class day when the written assignment is submitted, the highest grade you might attain is a B. If you are unprepared a second time, you will receive an F for the assignment.

### **Academic Integrity**

\_\_\_\_\_ I take this matter very seriously. I will not only assign a grade of F to a student found to have committed an act of academic dishonesty, but I will report this incident describing the details and circumstances of academic dishonesty which led to my action. Copies will be sent to the student's Dean and to the Chairman of the Department of Communication and Journalism.

The following are definitions of various forms of academic dishonesty:

Cheating: Cheating occurs when a student intentionally uses or attempts to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in an academic exercise.

Falsification: Falsification occurs when a student intentionally fabricates or invents information or citations in any academic exercise.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism occurs when a student intentionally and knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as his or her own.

Facilitating Academic Dishonesty: Facilitating academic dishonesty occurs when a student intentionally and knowingly helps or attempts to help another commit an act of academic dishonesty.

Plagiarism is the use of the words and ideas of another as if they were one's own and without acknowledgment of their source. Plagiarism is stealing and constitutes a serious offense against any ethical code, be it scholastic, artistic or professional. Plagiarism can either be committed intentionally or it can happen inadvertently, due to careless note taking, a lack of knowledge regarding how sources should be cited or even because of a misunderstanding about what constitutes original thinking. The instructor will be glad to discuss any potential problems with students.

Students who are found guilty of plagiarism or cheating will receive the grade of F for the course and an official record of such action will become part of the student's permanent file.

### **Grading Options/Final Grade**

The final grade in COM 390 will be a function of the following elements:

1. Mid Term Examination	25%
2. Final Examination or book review	25%
3. Three thinkpieces	40%
4. Class participation	<u>10%</u>
	100%

### **Textbook**

A textbook will not be used in this class. Instead, the instructor will provide students with handouts that will be read over the course of the semester.

### **Misc.**

If you carry a beeper or cell phone, please turn it off during class. Please do not text message during class.

Please keep an extra copy of all written assignments.

Wikipedia is not an acceptable source for research papers.

Important websites: [www.firstladies.org](http://www.firstladies.org) The National First Ladies Library;  
[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov) The White House website. Click on to the Office of the First Lady;  
[www.archives.org](http://www.archives.org) The National Archives. Click on to presidential libraries.

## **Tentative Class Schedule**

### **Class #1: Monday, May 12**

Introduction and orientation to the course. General information about the first lady and the White House. The media's role in framing the first lady's activities. Researching the first lady. Gutin's schema for the study of first ladies. Themes that emerge in the study of the first lady.

Video: *The First Ladies*

### **Class #2: Wednesday, May 14**

The Early First Ladies: Edith Roosevelt, Nellie Taft, Ellen Wilson, Edith Bolling Galt Wilson. The White House Keepers: Florence Harding, Grace Coolidge, Bess Truman, Mamie Eisenhower.

### **Class #3: Monday, May 19**

The White House Keepers concluded: Bess Truman and Mamie Eisenhower. The Emerging Spokeswomen: Lou Hoover, Jacqueline Kennedy

Videos: *A Tour of the White House with Mrs. John F. Kennedy*; *FourDays in November*

### **Class #4: Wednesday, May 21**

The Emerging Spokeswomen concluded: Pat Nixon, Barbara Bush, Laura Bush

Videos: *Nixon* (excerpts); *A Tour of the White House with George and Barbara Bush*; Barbara Bush's speeches at Wellesley and the 1992

Republican National Convention. A and E biography of Barbara Bush. Laura Bush's speech at the 2000 Republican Convention.

Audio: Barbara Bush reads stories over the radio to children

### **No class, Monday, May 26--Memorial Day**

**Eat hot dogs and hamburgers, relax, watch movies, forget about COM 390!**

### **Class #5: Wednesday, May 28**

The Activist First Ladies: Eleanor Roosevelt.

Videos: *Eleanor Roosevelt* (A & E biography); *Eleanor and Franklin* (excerpts)

### **Class #6: Monday, June 2**

The Activist First Ladies: Lady Bird Johnson

Video: *LBJ: The Early Years*. Lady Bird Johnson interviewed by Barbara Walters on 20/20

**Class #7: Wednesday, June 6**

**Mid Term Examination.** The Activist First Ladies: Betty Ford.

Video: *The Betty Ford Story*.

**Class #8: Monday, June 9**

The Activist First Ladies: Betty Ford concluded. Rosalyn Carter.

Video: Betty Ford interviewed by Morley Safer on *60 Minutes*.

**Class #9: Tuesday, June 11**

The Activist First Ladies: Rosalynn Carter concluded. A First Lady in Transition: Nancy

Reagan

Video: Nancy Reagan interviewed by Dinah Shore. The funeral of Ronald Reagan.

**Class #10: Monday, June 16**

The Activist First Ladies: Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Videos: Mrs. Clinton's speeches at Wellesley College and the 1996 Democratic National Convention. Interview with Barbara Walters upon the publication of *Living History*.

Audio: *It Takes a Village* (excerpts)

**Class #11: Wednesday, June 18**

How do they see her? The first lady in film and television.

Excerpts from: *Commander in Chief*; *The West Wing*, *DAG*

**Class #12: Monday, June 23**

The First Lady in the Twenty-First Century: What does the future hold? Course synthesis.

Course evaluation.

**Class #13: Wednesday, June 25**

**Final Examination**

May 16, 2006

Dear COM 390 Students:

There are two travel options that I believe will enrich our class experience.

**Option #1: A trip to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Home and Library and Eleanor Roosevelt's home in Hyde Park, NY.** This is an all day trip. We'd leave Rider about 8:00 AM: the drive is approximately two to two and one half hours. We'd visit the FDR presidential library (we'd probably meet with an archivist) and museum and then go on a tour of the former president's home. After this, we'd drive over to Valkill, Eleanor Roosevelt's home, for a film about the former first lady and then a tour. The FDR Library is adjacent to the American Culinary Institute (an internationally respected school for training chefs and restaurant personnel); it boasts four different restaurants. We'd make reservations at one and would have an early dinner before returning to Lawrenceville about 9:00 PM. Cost: \$20.00 plus dinner.

**Option #2: A trip to Washington, DC with visits to the White House, Smithsonian Institution's First Lady Exhibit, Edith Wilson's home and a discussion with a reporter or member of the staff of the Office of Presidential Libraries.** This is also an all day trip. We'd leave Rider very early, probably by 6:00 AM to arrive for a White House tour by 8:30 AM. After the tour we'd drive over to the Smithsonian. Lunch in the Smithsonian cafeteria. A visit to Mrs. Wilson's home and a chance to chat with a reporter or member of the presidential library staff will round out the day. A "rolling picnic" dinner should get us back to Rider by 8:00 PM. Cost: \$50 (includes light breakfast on the bus) plus the cost of lunch and dinner.

Possible trip dates: Wednesday, May 24, Wednesday, May 31, Monday, June 5, Wednesday, June 7, Monday, June 12, Wednesday, June 19. The costs of the trips are approximate. A minimum of five people would have to sign up for the trip to Hyde Park to make it worthwhile. Twelve people would have to sign up for the Washington trip to make that trip a go. We could include non-class members in the group if you have a friend or significant other or relative that you'd like to include.

Now it's your turn. Please email me at **drгутin@aol.com** and let me know if you have the interest and time to go on either trip. Please provide the following information:

**Hyde Park Trip**

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I'm not interested or I'm working or taking other classes at that time.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I am interested. Here are my two date preferences

Ist Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in bringing someone else along? \_\_\_\_\_

**Washington, DC Trip**

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I'm not interested or I'm working or taking other classes at that time.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I am interested. Here are my two date preferences:

1st Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in bringing someone else along? \_\_\_\_\_

Your decision to go isn't binding and has no effect of your final grade. I won't be hurt if you decide that you'd rather not go on either trip. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to call me at home at 856-667-6909.

Please email me by June 28. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you on July 8.  
Regards.

Sincerely,

Myra G. Gutin, Ph. D.

**American First Ladies  
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**Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis**  
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**COM 390/Mid Term Examination  
Study Guide  
Tuesday May 30, 2006**

Our mid term examination will take place on **Tuesday, June 6**. The test will cover class lectures, video and audio material and readings through Laura Bush. There will be a review session during the second part of class on June 1.

**Areas/Topics for Review:**

**1. The Early Twentieth Century First Ladies**

**A. Edith Roosevelt:** Second wife of Theodore Roosevelt. She “controlled” the press by providing posed still photos of herself and the children. Hired caterers to prepare and serve meals. Had meetings of the wives of cabinet officers and laid down rules for behavior, entertaining and decorating. Hired the first first lady social secretary, Belle Hagner. White House renovation included the building of the West Wing. The White House China Collection, the First Ladies Portrait Gallery.

**B. Helen Taft:** Opposition to her husband’s appointment to the Supreme Court. Rode back to the White House with her husband after his inauguration. Suffered a stroke. Good relationship with the press. She attended cabinet meetings. She was responsible for the planting of cherry trees in Washington. She introduced a stronger first lady model. The first first lady to publish her memoirs.

**C. Ellen Wilson:** An artist. She advocated but didn’t take a public stand on the vote for women. Started her own investigation of Washington’s slums culminating in the passage of the “Alley Bill” or “Mrs. Wilson’s Bill” which provided better housing. She died of Bright’s Disease at the age of 54.

**D. Edith Wilson:** A wealthy widow, she married President Wilson. She became his closet confidant and regularly discussed issues with him. Went to Paris with Wilson for the signing of the peace treaty. Wilson suffered a stroke in October, 1919. For more than a year, Edith controlled access to the president. Their marriage last eight years until his death in 1923.

**2. Social Hostesses and Ceremonial Presences**

**A. Florence Harding:** Divorced. Married Warren (“Wurr’n”) Harding. The Duchess. The “Little Red Book.” Instituted tours of the White House, visited wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Medical Center, started the Easter Egg Roll down the White House lawn. Advised the president not to propose one six-year term for the president; opposed legislation for a home for the vice president; suggested parole for certain convicts. Some people believed she was a murderess, that she had killed the president to spare him the embarrassment of Tea Pot Dome.



Destroyed a vast quantity of her husband's papers.

**B. Grace Coolidge:** The first first lady in the 20th century to graduate from college, U. of Vermont. Became a teacher of the hearing impaired. Married Calvin Coolidge, they had two sons. While he was busy with politics, she stayed at home with the boys. Very popular in Washington. The president forbade Grace from speaking to the press, smoking in public, dancing, flying in an airplane. Had no access to presidential decision making. Restored the Lincoln Bedroom in the White House. Third floor servants quarters added to the White House. Son Calvin, Jr. died of blood poisoning after playing tennis on the White House lawn. "I choose not to run for President in 1928."

**C. Bess Truman:** Came from a wealthy family in Independence, Missouri. Met Harry Truman when they were both in Sunday school. Attended finishing school. Bess' mother, Madge Gates Wallace detested Harry. Married Harry Truman after World War I; they had one child, Margaret. Bess disliked politics. They went to Washington in 1934 when Harry was elected to the US Senate; he became FDR's VP in 1945. FDR died three months into his term. Mrs. Truman didn't talk to the press, didn't give speeches. The campaign of 1948. The Trumans had to move out of the White House because it was almost literally falling down. Incident with Hazel Scott. Publicly quiet, but very active in private.

**D. Mamie Eisenhower:** Her father made a fortune and moved the family to Denver. Mamie was sent to exclusive private schools and finishing school. She married Lieutenant Dwight Eisenhower. "My country comes first and always will. You come second." Death of their son Doud "Icky" Dwight Eisenhower. Birth of second son, John. Eisenhower becomes Supreme Commander of US forces during World War II. Rumors of his infidelities. Columbia University presidency, return to the army and then politics as Ike runs for president. Mamie loved the White House: lots of teas and parties until Ike has a heart attack. She encourages him to run for a second term. She spoke to him about personnel and the federal budget. "Ike fights the wars, I turn the lambchops."

### **3. Emerging Spokeswomen**

**A. Lou Hoover:** Graduated from Stanford U. as a Geology major. Married Herbert Hoover and went to China. *De Re Metallica*. Mr. Hoover gave her \$1,000,000 to use in any way she saw fit. National President of the Girl Scouts. Involved with amateur athletics for women and law enforcement. Their partnership. Did away with "card calling" and felt that pregnant women should not "retire" from public life. Her personal relief efforts during the Depression. The first first lady to speak over the radio. Gave 14 or 15 formal speeches. The first systematic cataloguing of White House furnishings. The DePriest incident. Camp Rapidan. Poor relationship with the press. Bitterness over her husband's loss in the 1932 election.

**B. Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis:** Aristocratic and wealthy. Attended private schools, Vassar College, the Sorbonne and graduated from George Washington U. She became the "Inquiring Camera Girl." Married John F. Kennedy. Helped Kennedy with *Profiles in Courage*.

During the 1960 campaign wrote *Campaign Wife*. The first first lady project--refurbishment of the White House. Support of the arts. Dislike of politics and being first lady. Use of television. The hiring of the first first lady press secretary, Pamela Turnure.

**C. Pat Nixon:** Orphaned at 17 years. Drove a couple to New York to raise money for college. Graduated from USC. Taught business in high school. Married Richard M. Nixon. Active in his congressional and senate campaigns. The "Checkers" address. The 1960 campaign for president. Nixon's 1962 campaign for governor of California. Rumors of divorce. Volunteerism. Lack of support for project. Her role in her husband's various campaigns. White House refurbishment efforts continued and expanded. Signing correspondence. Reactions to Watergate and resignation. Stroke and poor health during the post-presidential years.

**D. Barbara Bush:** Came from a privileged background. Met George Bush at a country club dance--love at first sight. They were married when she was 19, he was 20 years. They moved to Texas and he began a career in the oil business. Five children, Robin died of leukemia. In politics: Harris County Republican Chairman, appointed Chair of the Republican National Committee, UN Ambassador, Envoy to China, Director of the CIA. Lost Republican nomination for President in 1980 to Ronald Reagan; became his VP. Literacy project. Fear of speaking. "Rhymes with. . . ." Won the presidency in 1988. BB Foundation for Family Literacy. Read childrens' stories on the radio. Sharp wit and tongue. Speeches at Wellesley and the Republican National Convention. Bitter about Bush's defeat in 1992. Wife and mother of an American president.

**E. Laura Bush:** Graduated from SMU, got a Master's degree in Library Science from U. of Texas. Married George W. Bush. Criticism of his speech. Twin daughters Barbara and Jenna. "Bushie." Helped husband with problems. They moved to Washington to help Bush's father run for president in 1988. Bush elected Governor of TX in 1995. Early childhood education and literacy became her issues. Texas Book Festival. 2000 campaign: "W Stands for Women." Barbara Bush was her model of a first lady. "Ready to Read, Ready to Learn" White House initiative. September, 2001--what do you say to children? Gave one of her husband's radio addresses. Testified before the Senate on the need for early childhood education. Pleasant and respectful relationship with Barbara Bush. Gangs, support for young boys. Made fun of her husband at a White House Correspondent's Dinner. Higher popularity ratings than her husband.

### **Other People and Terms:**

Alice Roosevelt Longworth; "Coming out" (not a sexual reference); Finishing school: Card calling

The social season; normal school

## 5. Issues/Trends

- A. White House refurbishment:** Edith Roosevelt, Coolidge, Hoover, Truman, Kennedy, Nixon
- B. Civil Rights:** Hoover, Roosevelt, Truman
- C. Personal Tragedies:** Coolidge, Roosevelt, Eisenhower, Kennedy, B. Bush
- D. Evolution of a major project advocated by the first lady:** Kennedy, Nixon and Bush
- E. Legislation:** Ellen Wilson and Kennedy

## 6. Institutional Changes to the Office of First Lady

- A. Hiring of a social secretary**
- B. “ “ “ press “**
- C. Institution of major projects**
- D. Expansion of the first lady’s staff**

### Trivia Question for Tuesday, May 30, 2006

“What is the total number of children born to the first families (or future first families) in the twentieth century, who survived to maturity (21 years of age)?

<b>Edith Roosevelt</b>	All children born prior to 1900	0
<b>Helen Taft</b>	All children born prior to 1900	0
<b>Ellen Wilson</b>	All children born prior to 1900	0
<b>Edith Wilson</b>	Had no children	0
<b>Florence Harding</b>	Marshall DeWolfe (1880-1914)	0
<b>Grace Coolidge</b> John 1906-	Calvin, Jr. (1908-1924)	1
<b>Lou Hoover</b> Herbert (1903-1969) Alan 1907-		2

<b>Eleanor Roosevelt</b>		
Anna (1906-1975)	Franklin, Jr. (1909-1909)	
James 1907-		
Elliot 1910-		
Franklin, Jr. (1914-1988)		
John (1916-1982)		5
<b>Bess Truman</b>		
Margaret 1924-		1
<b>Mamie Eisenhower</b>	Doud Dwight (1921-1923)	
John 1923		1
<b>Jacqueline Kennedy</b>	Patrick Bouvier (1963)	
Caroline 1957-		
John, Jr. (1960-1999)		2
<b>Lady Bird Johnson</b>		
Lynda Bird 1944-		
Luci Baines 1947-		2
<b>Pat Nixon</b>		
Patricia (Trisha) 1946		
Julie 1948-		2
<b>Betty Ford</b>		
Michael 1950-		
John (Jack) 1952-		
Steven 1956-		
Susan 1957-		4
<b>Rosalynn Carter</b>		
John (Jack) 1947-		
James Earl III (Chip) 1950-		
Donnel Jeffrey (Jeff) 1952-		
Amy 1970-		4
<b>Nancy Reagan</b>		
Patricia (Patti) 1952-2001		
Ronald, Jr. 1958-		2
<b>Barbara Bush</b>	Robin 1949-1953	
George W. 1946-		

John (Jeb) 1953-  
Neil 1955-  
Marvin 1956-  
Dorothy (Doro) 1959- 5

**Hillary Rodham Clinton**

Chelsea 1980- 1

**Laura Bush**

Jenna and Barbara (twins) 1981 2

**Total Number of Children: 34**

**“It is the darndest war. . . “ Barbara Bush and the Persian Gulf War  
Myra G. Gutin, Rider University**

From January-June, 1991, the United States was engaged in the Persian Gulf War. Barbara Bush carefully followed the events leading up to the commencement of hostilities and dreaded the inevitable casualties. When ground action began, she visited various military installations around the country to talk to those who would be deployed to the Gulf and to the families of those already fighting against the forces of Saddam Hussein. The conflict that Mrs. Bush called “. . . the darndest war. . .” was the subject of over one dozen speeches. In these presentations, Mrs. Bush strongly supported her husband’s actions while trying to comfort the families of military personnel captured or killed during the war and the larger citizen body of the United States.

**Reading List: The American First Lady in the Twentieth Century and Beyond  
July, 2003**

- Christopher Anderson, *George and Laura: Portrait of an American Marriage*. (2002)
- Bonnie Angelo, *First Mothers. The Women Who Shaped the Presidents*. (2001)
- Carl S. Anthony, *First Ladies: The Saga of the Presidents’ Wives and Their Power. Vol. I: 1789-1960* (1990); *Vol. II: 1960---* (1991)

- Allida M. Black, (ed.), *What I Want to Leave Behind: The Essential Essays of Eleanor Roosevelt*. (1995); *Courage in a Dangerous World. The Political Writings of Eleanor Roosevelt*. (1998).
- Hamish Bowles (ed.) *Jacqueline Kennedy: the White House Years. Selections from the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum* (2001)
- Sarah Bradford, *America's Queen: The Life of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis*. (2001)
- Barbara Bush, *The Memoirs of Barbara Bush*. (1994)
- Liz Carpenter, *Ruffles and Flourishes* (1969, reissued in 1994)
- Betty Boyd Caroli, *First Ladies* (1989/1995); *Inside the White House*. (1992)
- Rosalynn Carter, *First Lady From Plains*. (1977)
- Hillary Rodham Clinton, *It Takes a Village and Other Lessons Children Teach Us* (1996); *At Home in the White House* (2000); *Living History* (2003)
- Blanche Weisen-Cook, *Eleanor Roosevelt, Vol. I* (1992); *Vol II, 1933-1938* (1999)
- Julie Nixon Eisenhower, *Pat Nixon: the Untold Story*. (1991)
- Antonia Felix, *Laura: America's First Lady, First Mother*. (2002)
- Betty Ford with Chris Chase, *The Times of My Life* (1978); *Betty: A Glad Awakening*. (1980)
- Doris Kearns Goodwin, *No Ordinary Times: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, the Home Front in World War II*. (1994)
- Lewis L. Gould (ed.), *America's First Ladies* (1997/2001); *Lady Bird Johnson and the Environment* (1988); *Lady Bird Johnson: Our Environmental First Lady*. (1999)
- Myra G. Gutin, *The President's Partner: the First Lady in the Twentieth Century*. (1989)
- Beth J. Harpaz, *The Girls on the Van*. (2003)
- Lady Bird Johnson, *A White House Diary*. (1970)

Joseph P. Lash, *Eleanor and Franklin* (1970); *Eleanor: the Years Alone*. (1972)

Kati Marton, *Hidden Power. Presidential Marriages that Shaped Our Recent History*. (2001)

Joyce Milton, *The First Partner* (1999)

Bill Minutaglio, *First Son: George W. Bush and the Bush Family Dynasty*. (2000)

Nancy Reagan, *My Turn: The Memoirs of Nancy Reagan*. (1989); *I Love You, Ronnie: The Letters of Ronald Reagan to Nancy Reagan*. (2000)

Eleanor Roosevelt, *This is My Story* (1936); *The Autobiography of Eleanor Roosevelt* (1962) ; *Love, Eleanor*. (1982)

Gail Sheehy, *Hillary's Choice* (1999)

Helen Thomas, *Front Row at the White House. My Life and Times*. (1999)

Gil Troy, *Affairs of State: The Rise and Rejection of the Presidential Couple Since World War II*. (1997)

Robert P. Watson and Anthony J. Eksterowicz, *The Presidential Companion. Readings on the First Lady*. (2003)

Sheila Weidenfeld, *First Lady's Lady*. (1977)

John Hoff Wilson and Marjorie Lightman, *Without Precedent: The Life and Career of Eleanor Roosevelt*. (1984)

Social Hostess

Emerging Spokesperson

Activist



Eleanor Roosevelt

Jacqueline Kennedy

Lady Bird Johnson

Pat Nixon

Betty Ford

Rosalynn Carter

Nancy Reagan

Barbara Bush

Hillary Clinton

Laura Bush

## **Instructor Biography**

**Myra G. Gutin**

**October 2017**

Myra G. Gutin received B.A. and M.A. degrees in Communication from Emerson College, Boston, MA. She earned a Ph. D. in the same discipline from the University of Michigan.

Myra is a Professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism at Rider University, Lawrenceville, NJ. She is the author of *The President's Partner: The First Lady in the Twentieth Century* and *Barbara Bush: Presidential Matriarch*. She is currently at work on a biography of Betty Ford, tentatively scheduled for publication in 2019.

In a career that has spanned almost 40 years, Myra has authored numerous articles, book chapters and essays on the topics of American first ladies, women in politics and political communication. She contributed two articles to *Report to the First Lady, 2009*, a study of the history and Office of the First Lady, which was presented to Michelle Obama. She served as a consultant to the Smithsonian Institution's traveling first lady's exhibit when it was on display at the National Constitution Center.

In January 2014, Myra appeared on C-SPAN's series: "American First Ladies: Influence and Image," discussing Barbara Bush. Myra was consulted frequently during the 2016 presidential campaign about Melania Trump and Bill Clinton. Over the course of her career, Myra has responded to over 700 media calls. A member of the Center for the Study of the Presidency, Myra is a recipient of Emerson College's Distinguished Alumni Award.

Myra's name appears in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who Among American Women*, *Who's Who in American Education* and *Who's Who in the East*.

**American First Ladies  
1977-2005  
A Bibliography  
(Covers Rosalynn Carter, Nancy Reagan, Barbara Bush, Hillary Rodham Clinton and  
Laura Bush)**

Christopher Anderson, *George and Laura: Portrait of an American Marriage*. (2002)

Carl S. Anthony, *First Ladies: The Saga of the Presidents' Wives and Their Power*. Vol. I: 1789-1960 (1990); Vol. II: 1960--- (1991)

Barbara Bush, *The Memoirs of Barbara Bush*. (1994). *Reflections. Life After the White House*. (2003)

Betty Boyd Caroli, *First Ladies* (1989/1995); *Inside the White House*. (1992)

Rosalynn Carter, *First Lady From Plains*. (1977)

Hillary Rodham Clinton, *It Takes a Village and Other Lessons Children Teach Us* (1996); *At Home in the White House* (2000); *Living History* (2003)

Antonia Felix, *Laura: America's First Lady, First Mother*. (2002)

Betty Ford with Chris Chase, *The Times of My Life* (1978); *Betty: A Glad Awakening*. (1980)

Ann Gearhart, *The Perfect Wife. The Life and Choices of Laura Bush*. (2004)

Lewis L. Gould (ed.), *America's First Ladies* (1997/2001)

John Robert Greene, *Betty Ford*. (2004)

Ann Grimes, *Running Mates. The Making of a First Lady.*(1990)

This book is about the 1988 presidential campaign. Grimes, a reporter for the *Washington Post* covered Barbara Bush and Kitty Dukakis.

Myra G. Gutin, *The President's Partner: the First Lady in the Twentieth Century.* (1989)

Beth J. Harpaz, *The Girls on the Van.* (2003).

This is a book about Hillary Clinton's campaign for the senate. I included it because I thought you might find the reporter's comments about Hillary to be useful.

Pamela Kilian, *Barbara Bush: Matriarch of a Dynasty.* (2002)

Kati Marton, *Hidden Power. Presidential Marriages that Shaped Our Recent History.* (2001)

Joyce Milton, *The First Partner* (1999)

This book is about Hillary Clinton.

Bill Minutaglio, *First Son: George W. Bush and the Bush Family Dynasty.* (2000)

Donnie Radcliffe, *Simply Barbara Bush.* (1989)

Nancy Reagan, *My Turn: The Memoirs of Nancy Reagan.* (1989); *I Love You, Ronnie: The Letters of Ronald Reagan to Nancy Reagan.* (2000)

James S. Rosebush, *First Lady, Public Wife.* (1987)

Jim Rosebush was Nancy Reagan's Chief of Staff in the White House. This book looks at a number of first ladies but primarily focuses on Mrs. Reagan

Gail Sheehy, *Hillary's Choice* (1999)

Helen Thomas, *Front Row at the White House. My Life and Times.* (1999)

Helen Thomas covered the White House for United Press International for almost 40 years. Her comments are very perceptive.

Gil Troy, *Affairs of State: The Rise and Rejection of the Presidential Couple Since World War II.* (1997)

Robert P. Watson and Anthony J. Eksterowicz, *The Presidential Companion. Readings on the First Lady*. (2003)

Sheila Weidenfeld, *First Lady's Lady*. (1979)  
Weidenfeld was Betty Ford's Press Secretary.

Molly Meijer Wertheimer (ed). *Inventing a Voice. The Rhetoric of American First Ladies of the Twentieth Century*. (2004)

**Dr. Myra G. Gutin**

**The Early 20th Century First Ladies**

Edith Roosevelt  
Helen Taft  
Ellen Wilson  
Edith Wilson

**The Social Hostesses and Ceremonial Presences**

Florence Harding  
Grace Coolidge  
Bess Truman  
Mamie Eisenhower  
?Melania Trump

**The Emerging Spokeswomen**

Lou Hoover  
Jacqueline Kennedy  
Pat Nixon  
Barbara Bush  
Laura Bush

**The Political Surrogates and Activists**

Eleanor Roosevelt  
Lady Bird Johnson  
Betty Ford  
Rosalyn Carter  
Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Michelle Obama

**A First Lady in Transition**

Nancy Reagan

**General Information about First Ladies**

**Florence Kling DeWolfe Harding (1860-1923)**

Married Henry "Pete" DeWolfe, 1879  
Eugene Marshall DeWolfe born 1879  
Divorced Pete DeWolfe  
Married Warren G. Harding, 1890  
No children  
Served as First Lady 1921-1923

**Grace Goodhue Coolidge (1879 -1959)**

Graduated from the University of Vermont  
Married Calvin Coolidge, 1905  
Children: John (1906) and Calvin, Jr. (1908)  
Served as First Lady 1923-1929

**Lou Henry Hoover (1875 -1945)**

Graduated from Stanford University  
Married Herbert Hoover, 1901  
Children: Herbert (1903) and Allen (1907)  
Served as First Lady 1929-1933

**Eleanor Roosevelt Roosevelt (1884-1962)**

Married Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1905  
Children: Anna Eleanor (1906); James (1907); Franklin, Jr. (1909-1909):  
Elliott (1910); Franklin (1914); John (1916)  
Served as First Lady 1933-1945

**Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis (1929-1994)**

Graduated from George Washington University, 1951  
Married John F. Kennedy, 1953  
Children: Caroline (1957), John Jr., (1960-1999); Patrick (1963-1963)  
Served as First Lady 1961-1963

**Claudia Alta (Lady Bird) Taylor Johnson (1912-2007)**

Graduated from the University of Texas, 1933  
Married Lyndon B. Johnson, 1934  
Children: Lynda Byrd (1944) and Luci Baines (1947)  
Served as First Lady 1963-1969

**Patricia Ryan Nixon (1912-1993)**

Graduated from the University of Southern California, 1937  
Married Richard M. Nixon, 1940

Children Patricia “Tricia”(1946) and Julie (1947)  
Served as First Lady 1969-1974

**Elizabeth Bloomer Ford (1918-2011)**

Married William Warren, 1942; divorced in 1947  
Married Gerald R. Ford, 1948  
Children: Michael (1950); John (1952); Steven (1956); Susan (1957)  
Served as First Lady 1974-1977

**Rosalynn Smith Carter (Born 1927)**

Graduated from Georgia Southwestern College, 1945  
Married James Earl Carter, 1946  
Children: John (1947); James III (1950); Donnel Jeffrey (1952); Amy (1967)  
Served as First Lady 1977-1981

**Nancy Davis Reagan (1921 or 1923-2016)**

Graduated from Smith College, 1943  
Married Ronald Reagan, 1952  
Children: Patricia (1952); Ronald Jr. (1957)  
Served as First Lady 1981-1989

**Barbara Pierce Bush (Born 1925)**

Attended Smith College  
Married George H. W. Bush, 1945  
Children: George W. Bush (Jr.) (1946), Robin (1946-1950), John (1953), Neil (1955), Marvin (1956) and Dorothy (1959)  
Served as First Lady 1989-1993

**Hillary Rodham Clinton (Born 1947)**

Graduated from Wellesley College, 1969  
Graduated from Yale University Law School, 1973  
Married William J. Clinton, 1975  
Daughter Chelsea (1980)  
Served as First Lady 1993-2001

**Laura Welsh Bush (Born 1946)**

Graduated from Southern Methodist University, 1968  
Earned Master’s Degree from the University of Texas, 1972  
Married George W. Bush, 1977  
Children: Barbara and Jenna (twins) (1981)  
Served as First Lady 2001-2009

**Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama (Born 1964)**



Graduated from Princeton University, 1985  
Earned J.D. Degree from Harvard Law School, 1988  
Married Barack Obama, 1992  
Daughter Malia (1996) and Natasha “Sasha” (2001)  
Served as First Lady 2009-2017

**Melania (Knavs) Knauss Trump (Born 1970)**

Studied at the University of Ljubljana  
Marrued Donald Trump 2005  
Son Barron (2006)  
Incumbent First Lady

**Edith Carow Roosevelt (1861-1948)**

Married Theodore Roosevelt, 1886

Five children

Served as First Lady 1901-1909

**Helen Herron Taft**

Married William Howard Taft, 1886

Three children

Served as First Lady 1909-1913

**Ellen Axson Wilson (1860-1914)**

Married Woodrow Wilson, 1885

Children: Margaret, Jessie and Eleanor

Served as First Lady 1909-1914

**Edith Bolling Galt Wilson (1872-1961)**

Married Woodrow Wilson, 1915

No children

Served as First Lady 1915-1921

*Life Long Learning*

*The President's Partner: The American First Lady in  
the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries*

*Taught by*

*Dr. Myra G. Gutin*

*October 17, 24 and 31 2017*

