Unit Four Exam Essay

Essay: Using the documents on the documents sheet, information learned in class, and your notes, write a four part essay (introduction and three body paragraphs) that makes a claim answering the following question:

“Has the status of women in the US changed significantly since the creation of the United States?”

The first paragraph should introduce your essay and have a clear thesis that answers the question posed by the prompt (save your arguments and evidence for the next paragraph).

The second paragraph should explore and explain one reason supporting your thesis and should be supported by evidence from the documents and examples from class. This paragraph should contain at least two specific examples/quotations supporting your argument. Examples and quotations should be well explained.

The third paragraph should explore and explain another reason supporting your thesis and should be supported by evidence from the documents and examples from class. This paragraph should contain at least two specific examples/quotations supporting your argument. Examples and quotations should be well explained.

The fourth paragraph should explain why some people might disagree with your claim (counter argument). This paragraph should include a topic sentence that indicates that the paragraph that follows will explore and resolve a counter argument. If you wish, you may use the following sentence frame: “Some people might argue that because of (the counter claim) that the status of women (has/has not) changed.” This disagreement should be supported by one example/quote from the class or documents. After you explain your counter argument, you should refute this counter argument and explain why it does not significantly harm your claim.

Please cite all sources used.
A. *The Declaration of Sentiments* 1848

The history of mankind is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations on the part of man toward woman, having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over her. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has never permitted her to exercise her inalienable right to the elective franchise.

He has compelled her to submit to laws, in the formation of which she had no voice.

He has withheld from her rights which are given to the most ignorant and degraded men—both natives and foreigners.

Having deprived her of this first right of a citizen, the elective franchise, thereby leaving her without representation in the halls of legislation, he has oppressed her on all sides.

He has made her, if married, in the eye of the law, civilly dead.

He has taken from her all right in property, even to the wages she earns. . . .

He has monopolized nearly all the profitable employments, and from those she is permitted to follow, she receives but a scanty remuneration. He closes against her all the avenues to wealth and distinction which he considers most honorable to himself. As a teacher of theology, medicine, or law, she is not known. . . .

He has created a false public sentiment by giving to the world a different code of morals for men and women, by which moral delinquencies which exclude women from society, are not only tolerated, but deemed of little account in man. . . .

He has endeavored, in every way that he could, to destroy her confidence in her own powers, to lessen her self-respect, and to make her willing to lead a dependent and abject life.

B. Comstock Laws, 1876

“Every obscene, lewd, or lascivious book, pamphlet, picture, paper, writing, print or other publication of an indecent character, and every article or thing designed or intended for the prevention of conception or procuring of abortion, and every article or thing intended or adapted for any indecent or immoral use, and every written or printed card, circular, book, pamphlet, advertisement, or notice of any kind giving information, directly or indirectly, where, or how, or of whom, or by what means, any of the hereinafore mentioned matters, articles, or things may be obtained or made, and every letter upon the envelope of which, or postal card upon which, indecent, lewd, obscene, or lascivious delineations, epithets, terms, or language may be written or printed, are hereby declared to be non-mailable matter, and shall not be conveyed in the mails, nor delivered from any post-office, nor by any letter-carrier.”

C. Excerpts from *Muller v. Oregon*, 1908

This Court takes judicial cognizance of all matters of general knowledge -- such as the fact that woman's physical structure and the performance of maternal functions place her at a disadvantage which justifies a difference in legislation in regard to some of the burdens which rest upon her. As healthy mothers are essential to vigorous offspring, the physical wellbeing of woman is an object of public interest. The regulation of her hour of labor falls within the . . . power of the State, and a statute directed exclusively to such regulation does not conflict with the due process or equal protection clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment.

The right of a State to regulate the working hours of women rests on . . . the right to preserve the health of the women of the State, and is not affected by other laws of the State granting or denying to women the same rights as to contract and the elective franchise as are enjoyed by men. While the general liberty to contract in regard to one’s business and the sale of one’s labor is protected by the Fourteenth Amendment, that liberty is subject to proper restrictions under the . . . power of the State.

D. Margaret Sanger "Notes on Address before the Woman Rebel Trial," 1916

Because [the]twentieth century sees woman emerge from the cave of ignorance into the light of knowledge. She demands that she shall have control over her own body; that she shall be a mother when she desires to be one, consciously and voluntarily. In order to do this she must have the knowledge to control birth. Man has seen fit to place the most sacred function of her body on a footing with pornography and he calls any education bearing upon it as ‘Filthy, vile, obscene’. Woman must undo that crime. She must raise Man’s standards in this as she has done in the past to a still higher level and place the function of motherhood and its physiology where it rightly belongs. She can only do this through education.

E. 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, 1920

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”


“If I am right, the problem that has no name stirring in the minds of so many American women today is not a matter of loss of femininity or too much education, or the demands of domesticity. It is far more important than anyone recognizes. It is the key to these other new and old problems which have been torturing women and their husbands and children, and puzzling their doctors and educators for years. It may well be the key to our future as a nation and a culture. We can no longer ignore that voice within women that says: "I want something more than my husband and my children and my home."
G. Data from the status of women in 2018 activity, 2018

Women employed made $.80 for every $1.00 made by men in 2017 [1]

1/5 women will be raped over the course of a lifetime [2]

91% of sexual assault victims are women [2]

The US elected a President who bragged on tape about sexually assaulting women [3]

A celebrated movie producer and liberal activist was credibly accused of more than 20 acts of rape and assault in the past 30 years. Despite widespread knowledge of this behavior dating to the 1990s, he continued to work in Hollywood until last October [8].

A California judge sentenced a Stanford student convicted of sexual assault to six months in jail because “A prison sentence would have a severe impact on him” [7].

In 1997, the US ranked 52nd worldwide in terms of women in government. In 2017 we rank 97th [5]

The US has never had a female president, only 19.8% of Congress is female, 23.7% of state executives and 21% of mayors [4]

4.2% of Fortune 500 companies are run by women [6]


Introduction:
   Attention grabber:
   Context:
   Thesis:

**Paragraph 2 (about 7 sentences when written)**
   TS: (This should be phrased as a specific reason in support of your thesis)
   Evidence/Example supporting this claim:
   Evidence/Example supporting this claim:
   Explanation of how this evidence supports your topic sentence and how the topic sentence supports your thesis:

**Paragraph 3 (about 7 sentences when written)**
   TS: (This should be phrased as a specific reason in support of your thesis)
   Evidence/Example supporting this claim:
   Evidence/Example supporting this claim:
   Explanation of how this evidence supports your topic sentence and how the topic sentence supports your thesis:

**Paragraph 4 (about 7 sentences when written)**
   TS: (This should describe a counter argument to your thesis.)
   Some people might argue that because of
   ____________________________________________________________
   that the status of women (has/has not) changed.
   Evidence/Example supporting this counter claim:
   Explanation of the counter claim
   Refutation of the counter claim: