

**Women in History**  
Session 3, 2011-2012  
**Lori Peters, Instructor**

**Course Objective:**

Students will learn about the lives, accomplishments, and challenges of five groundbreaking women: Queen Rania Al-Abdullah, Grace Murray Hopper, Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz, Caroline Jones, and Dorothy Kamenshek. Our group will break up the scripts, study their chosen script, practice public speaking skills, create a costume and props, and then prepare for a major presentation at the Thousand Oaks Library on March 14th, which will be held in conjunction with a Seneca Falls film presented by AAUW (American Association of University Women). The film “**Seneca Falls**” (shown immediately after the portrayals) will take the audience on a life-changing journey with nine high school girls to the birthplace of women’s rights in America. Directed by Louise Vance, this one hour documentary breathes life into a revolutionary act barely mentioned in history books: America’s first women’s rights convention held in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848.

Should students want to give more presentations, we can arrange them at various locations (such as the Chamber of Commerce). Parents will be called upon to assist with costumes and with the March 14<sup>th</sup> presentation night.

**Course Expectations:**

- Be open to ideas, discussion, collaboration, and sharing in a positive, supportive environment.
- Be ready to research more information on your selected woman, and practice on your own each week.
- Be willing to create a costume and assist with the creation of the presentation boards.
- Be on time (5:15 PM) and ready to perform on Wednesday, March 14.
- Materials needed EACH week: Script, spiral notebook, folder, and pencil/pen. Optional: laptop (WiFi included)

***Syllabus: (specific activities subject to change)***

**1/24** Introduction to the program and selected women. Watch a film on various groundbreakers; Los Cerritos participants will arrive by 2:15. Select our scripts and decide how they will be broken up or shared. Assignment: read through scripts, look up unfamiliar words, find a few more interesting points about selected woman.

**1/31** Read scripts aloud and discuss what was learned. Inspirational video will focus on one of the women. Assignment: practice script.

**2/7** Work on public speaking skills: body movement, eye contact, inflection, voice, pacing and poise. Inspirational video will focus on one of the women. Assignment: practice script using skills learned.

**2/14** Discuss props and costumes and continue speaking practice. Inspirational video will focus on one of the women. Assignment: collect props and materials for costumes.

**2/21** Work on cue cards. Inspirational video will focus on one of the women. Assignment: practice script using cue cards, and collect pictures of assigned woman for presentation boards.

**2/28** Work on presentation boards. Inspirational video will focus on one of the women. Assignment: work on costume and props. Assignment: If desired, make any connections to present your script to public or private audiences.

**3/6** More practice! Finalize speeches and personal speaking goals.

**3/13** Full dress rehearsal for March 14<sup>th</sup> event. Post-event celebration date TBA.