

Note that there may be revisions to this outline before September

Historical Views of Women in the Western World
HIS 9406 2012-13

Professor: Katherine M.J. McKenna

Tuesday 10:30-12:30 am

Room: Lawson 1218

Office Hours:

1-2 pm Tuesday Lawson Hall 1204

1-2 pm Thursday Lawson Hall 3246 (Fall Term)

10:00-11:00 am Thursday Lawson Hall 3246 (Winter Term)

or by appointment:

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This course is not only the story of how women have lived over time in different contexts and from different perspectives in the history of the western world. Rather, it is as much about how feminist historians have written about the female gender, and about the theoretical debates that have informed their writings. The broad expanse of history covered in this course allows for only some select 'flashpoints' to be examined. These will allow us to focus on key issues both in the historical debate and in the history of women in the western world. This will provide an overview or framework for understanding the complexities of changes in women's roles in the western world over time. This course primarily focuses on Europe and the UK.

Attendance and preparation for class will be essential. Each student will be marked on their class participation. Additionally, each will be required to submit two short papers in the first term. One will be a book review, chosen from readings on the recommended reading list (which will be provided in the first class) marked with a *. (approx 6-8 pages or 1500-2000 words) The other will be a summary paper based on the required class reading (approx 10-12 pages or 2500-3000 words). Both of these papers will be presented in class on the relevant day, and are due the following week. There will also be an in-class test based on the first term readings on January 15, 2013.

In the second term, students are required to write a major essay (approx 25 pages, or 6000 words). This can either be a paper based on primary research, or an historiographical paper summarising the literature in a particular area of historical interest. All topics must be approved by the professor in advance. A 2-4 page outline of this essay with bibliography must be submitted by November 27. Students will be expected to deliver a 10 minute summary of their proposed paper to the class on January 22, 2013. Copies of the paper must be made available for others in the class to read on the Friday previous to the class in which they are to be presented. Each student will have approximately 45 minutes in which to present their papers and receive questions and comments from the class.

The mark breakdown will be as follows:

Book Review	10%
Summary Paper	15%
In-Class Test	15%
Research Paper	35%
Class Participation	25%

There are no textbooks for this course, but three sources available in the library are recommended as background readings. They are:

Sue Morgan, ed. *The Feminist History Reader*. London, UK ; New York, NY : Routledge, 2006.

Bonnie S. Anderson and Judith P. Zinsser. *A History of Their Own: Women in Europe from Prehistory to the Present*. New York : Oxford University Press, 2000 (Revised edition).

Renate Bridenthal, Claudia Koonz and Susan Stuard eds. *Becoming Visible: Women in European History*. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 1987 (Second edition).

Required readings will be available either through the library, or copies will be made available to students in electronic format. All sources listed on this outline and the recommended reading list are either available in Weldon Library or can be borrowed from the professor.

FALL TERM SCHEDULE

1. September 11 Introduction: The Social Construction of History

Video: Women in the Shadows

2. September 18 Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives on Women's/Gender History

Required Readings:

Judith M. Bennett. "Feminist History and Women's History." *History Matters: Patriarchy and the Challenge of Feminism*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006, 13-29, 153-5

Sharon Block and David Newman. "What, Where, When and Sometimes Why: Data Mining Two Decades of Women's History Abstracts." *Journal of Women's History* 23, No. 1, 81-109.

Catherine Hall. "Feminism and Feminist History." in *White, Male and Middle-Class: Explorations in Feminism and History*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 1992, 1-26, 33-40.

Sue Morgan. "Introduction: Writing Feminist History: Theoretical Debates and Critical Practices." in Sue Morgan ed. *The Feminist History Reader*. New York: Oxford, 2006, 1-48.

3. September 25 Women in Pre-History and the Ancient World: The Goddess Debate

Video: The Goddess Remembered

Required Readings:

Eva Canterella. "Matriarchy in Prehistory, Myth and History." *Pandora's Daughters: The Role and Status of Women in Greek and Roman Antiquity*. Baltimore: John Hopkins, 1981, 11-23.

Mary Condren, "Crushing the Serpent." **The Serpent and the Goddess: Women, Religion and Power in Celtic Ireland*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1989, 23-43.

Maija Gimbutas. "Women and Culture in Goddess-Oriented Old Europe." in Judith Plaskow and Carol Christ, eds. *Weaving the Visions: New Patterns in Feminist Spirituality*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1989, 63-71.

Gerda Lerner. "Introduction." "Origins." "A Working Hypothesis." **The Creation of Patriarchy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1986. 3-53.

Lynn Meskell. "Goddesses, Gimbutas and 'New Age' Archaeology." *Antiquity* 69, (1995): 74-86.

Rosemary Radford Ruether, "Conclusion." **Goddesses and the Divine Feminine: A Western Religious History*. Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2005, 299-308.

4. October 2 Women in the Middle Ages

Required Readings:

Judith M. Bennett. "Public Power and Authority in the Medieval English Countryside." in Mary Erler and Maryanne Kowaleski, eds. *Women and Power in the Middle Ages*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia press, 1988, 18-36.

Martha C. Howell. "A Framework for Understanding Women's Work." "Women's Work and Social Change." *Women, Production and Patriarchy in Late Medieval Cities*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1986, 9-26, 174-83.

Jo Ann McNamara. "Women and Power through the Family Revisited." In Mary C Erler and Maranne Kowalski, eds. *Gendering the Master Narrative: Women and Power in the Middle Ages*. Ithica: Cornell University Press, 2003, 17-30.

Jacqueline Murray. "Thinking About Gender: The Diversity of Medieval Perspectives." in Jennifer Carpenter and Sally-Beth MacLean. *Power of the Weak: Studies on Medieval Women*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995, 1-26.

Judith M. Bennett. "Forgetting the Past." *Gender and History* 20, No.3 (2008) 669-77.

5. October 9 Women in the Renaissance and After: A Period of Decline?

Required Readings:

Joan Kelly. "Did Women Have a Renaissance?" "Early Feminist Theory and the *Querelle des Femmes*." *Women, History, Theory: The Essays of Joan Kelly*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1984, 19-50, 65-109.

Merry E. Wiesner. "Women's Defense of Their Public Role." in Mary Beth Rose, ed. *Women in The Middle Ages and Renaissance*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1986, 1-27.

Susan Cahn. "Women and the New Economic Order." *Industry of Devotion: The Transformation of Women's Work in England, 1500-1660*. New York: Cornell University Press, 1987, 33-63.

Merry Wiesner-Hanks. "Women's History and Social History: Are Structures Necessary?" in Ann J. Shutte, Thomas Kuehn and Silvana Menchi, eds. *Time, Space and Women's Lives in Early Modern Europe*. Kirksville, MI: Truman State University Press, 2001, 2-16

Marjorie Keniston McIntosh. "Conclusion." **Working Women in English Society, 1300-1620*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005, 250-3.

6. October 16 Witchcraft: The 'Women's Holocaust'?

Video: The Burning Times

Required Readings:

Robin Briggs. "Women as Victims?: Witches, Judges and the Community." *French History* 5, (1991): 438-50.

Marianne Hester. "The Conclusion." *Lewd Women and Wicked Witches: A Study in the Dynamics of Male Domination*, New York: Routledge, 1992, 198-204.

Carolyn Merchant. "Nature as Disorder: Women as Witches." *The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology and the Scientific Revolution*, San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1980, 127-148.

Merry E. Wiesner. "Witchcraft." *Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993, 218-238.

Elsbeth Whitney. "The Witch 'She' / The Historian 'He': Gender and the Historiography of the European Witch Hunts." *Journal of Women's History* 7 (1995): 77-101.

7. October 23 The Enlightenment Debate on Women

Required Readings:

Barbara Caine. "Feminism and the Rights of Women." *English Feminism, 1780-1980*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997, 11-43

Dena Goodman. "Women and the Enlightenment." in Bridenthal et al, 233-264.

Carolyn Merchant. "Dominion Over Nature." *The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology and the Scientific Revolution*, San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1980, 164-191.

Karen Offen. "Reclaiming the European Enlightenment for Feminism." in Tjitske Akkerman and Siep Stuurman, eds. *Perspectives on Feminist Political Thought in European History*. New York: Routledge, 1998, 85-103.

Jean Jacques Rousseau. *The Social Contract*. (1762) and *Émile; Or, On Education*. (1762) excerpted handout.

Mary Wollstonecraft. *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. (1792), excerpted handout.

8. October 30 Early Victorianism

Required Readings:

Leonore Davidoff. "Gender and the 'Great Divide': Public and Private in British Gender History." *Journal of Women's History* 15, No. 1 (2003): 11-27.

Catherine Hall. "The Early Formation of Victorian Domestic Ideology." in *White, Male and Middle-Class: Explorations in Feminism and History*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 1992, 75-93.

Catherine Hall. "Strains in the 'Firm of Wife, Children and Friends': Middle-Class Women and Employment in Early Nineteenth-Century England." in *Ibid.* 172-204.

Katherine M.J. McKenna. "Conduct Literature, The Ideology of 'True Womanhood' and Middle-Class Women, 1765-1840." unpublished paper.

Carroll Smith-Rosenberg. "The Female World of Love and Ritual: Relations Between Women in Nineteenth Century America." *Disorderly Conduct: Visions of Gender in Victorian America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1986, 53-76.

9. November 6 Case Studies of Middle-Class Victorian Women

Essay Proposals Due

Required Readings:

Barbara Caine, "Francis Power Cobbe." "Josephine Butler." *Victorian Feminists*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992, 103-149; 150-195.

Katherine M.J. McKenna. "'The Union Between Faith and Good Works': The Life of Harriet Dobbs Cartwright, 1808-1887." in Elizabeth Gillian Muir and Marilyn Färdig Whitely, eds. *Changing Roles of Women Within the Christian Church in Canada*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1995, 284-298.

Mary Poovey, "Covered But Not Bound: Caroline Norton and the 1857 Matrimonial Causes Act." "A Housewifely Woman: The Social Construction of Florence Nightingale." *Uneven Developments: The Ideological Work of Gender in Mid-Victorian England*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1988, 51-88; 164-198.

10. November 13 The First Women's Movement

Video: Women n the March

Required Readings:

Valerie Bryson, "Liberalism and Beyond: Mainstream Feminism in the Nineteenth Century."

"Mainstream Feminism: The Vote and After, 1880s-1939." *Feminist Political Theory: An Introduction*. London: Macmillan, 1992, 36-66; 84-108.

Ellen Carol Dubois. "A Vindication of Women's Rights." *Woman Suffrage and Women's Rights*.

New York: New York University Press, 1998, 283-99.

John Stuart Mill. *The Subjection of Women*. 1869, excerpted handout.

Veronica Strong-Boag, “‘Ever a Crusader’: Nellie McClung, First-Wave Feminist.” in Veronica Strong-Boag and Anita Clair Fellman, eds. *Rethinking Canada: The Promise of Women’s History*. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1997 (3rd Edition), 271-284.

Vicinus, Martha. “Male Space and Women’s Bodies: The Suffrage Movement.” *Independent Women: Work and Community for Single Women 1850-1920*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1985, 247-280.

11. November 20 The Historical Construction of Love Between Women

Required Readings:

Harriette Andreadis. “The Erotics of Female Friendship in Early Modern England.” in Susan Frye and Karen Robertson, eds. *Maids and Mistresses, Cousins and Queens: Women’s Alliances in Early Modern England*. New York: Oxford, 1999, 241-258.

Judith M. Bennett. “The L-Word in Women’s History.” *History Matters: Patriarchy and the Challenge of Feminism*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006, 108-127.

Judith C. Brown. “Lesbian Sexuality in Medieval and Early Modern Europe.” in Martin Bauml Duberman, Martha Vicinius and George Chauncey, Jr., eds. *Hidden From History: Reclaiming the Gay and Lesbian Past*. New York: New American Library, 1989, 67-75.

Lillian Faderman. **Surpassing the Love of Men: Romantic Friendship and Love Between Women from the Renaissance to the Present*. New York: William Morrow, 1998, 239-53, 314-331.

Additional Sources:

Brown, Judith C. *Immodest Acts: The Life of a Lesbian Nun in Renaissance Italy*. New York: Oxford, 1986.

Dekker, Rudolph M. and Lotte C. van de Pol. *The Tradition of Female Transvestism in Early Modern Europe*. Houndmills, Basingstoke : Macmillan, 1989.

*Doan, Laura. *Fashioning Sapphism: The Origins of a Modern English Lesbian Culture*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2001.

Donoghue, Emma. *Passions Between Women: British Lesbian Culture 1668-1801*. New York:

Harper Collins, 1995.

Faderman, Lillian. *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers: A History of Lesbian Life in Twentieth-Century America*. New York: Penguin, 1991.

Faderman, Lillian. *To Believe in Women: What Lesbians Have Done For America- A History*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1999.

Jeffereys, Sheila. *The Spinster and Her Enemies: Feminism and Sexuality 1880-1930*. London: Pandora, 1985.

Morgan, Sue, ed. "Part III Searching for the Subject: Lesbian History." *The Feminist History Reader*. New York: Oxford, 2006, 203-270.

Rich, Adrienne. "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence." *Signs* 5 (1980): 631-60.

Traub, Valerie. *The Renaissance of Lesbianism in Early Modern England*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Vicinus, Martha. "Feminists and Sex: How to Find Lesbians at the Turn of the Century." in Tjitske Akkerman and Siep Stuurman, eds. *Perspectives on Feminist Political Thought in European History*. New York: Routledge, 1998, 186-202.

* Vicinus, Martha. *Intimate Friends: Women Who Loved women, 1778-1928*. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2004.

*Wheelwright, Julie. *Amazons and Military Maids: Women Who Dressed as Men in the Pursuit of Life, Liberty and Happiness*. London: Pandora, 1989.

12. November 27 The Legacy of Colonialism

Research Paper Proposals Due

Required Readings:

Margaret Strobel and Marjorie Bingham. "The Theory and Practice of Women's History and Gender History in Global Perspective." in Bonnie G. Smith, ed. *Women's History in Global Perspective Volume I*. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2004, 9-47.

Himani Bannerji. "Politics and the Writing of History." in Ruth Roach Pierson and Nupur Chaudhuri, eds. *Nation, Empire, Colony: Historicizing Gender and Race*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1998, 287-301.

Antoinette M. Burton. "The White Women's Burden: British Feminists and 'The Indian Woman,' 1865-1915." in *Nupur Chaudhuri and Margaret Strobel, eds. *Western Women and Imperialism*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1992, 137-57.

Nell Irvin Painter. "Soul Murder and Slavery: Toward a Fully Loaded Cost Accounting." Linda K. Kerber, Alice Kessler-Harris and Kathryn Kish Sklar, eds. *U.S. History as Women's History: New Feminist Essays*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1995, 125-146.

13. December 4 The Politics of Historical Memory in Canadian History

Required Reading:

Ruth Roach Pierson. "Experience, Difference, Dominance and Voice in the Writing Of Canadian Women's History." in Karen Offen, Ruth Roach Pierson and Jane Rendal, eds. *Writing Women's History: International Perspectives*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1991, 79-106.

Veronica Strong-Boag. "Contested Space: The Politics of Canadian Memory." *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association* (1994): 3-17.

Franca Iacovetta, "Gendering Transnational Historiographies: Feminists Rewriting Canadian History." *Journal of Women's History* 19, No. 1 (2007): 206-213.

Katherine M.J. McKenna. "Women's History, Gender Politics and the Interpretation of Canadian Historic Sites." *Atlantis: A Women's Studies Journal* 30, No.1 (2005): 21-30.

January 8 Review Class

Students should e-mail me in advance with specific questions or themes that they would like to have addressed in the review class.

January 15 In-Class Test

January 22 Presentation of Proposed Essay Topics

January 22- March 26 Essay Preparation

March 26 - April 9 Presentation of Research Essays (Exact schedule TBA)

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