

HIS 9803A Critical Moments in Women's and Gender History
Tuesday 1:30-4:30 pm Lawson 2270C
Professor: Katherine McKenna
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This course will focus on some critical moments in women's and gender history primarily in the history of North America/Europe, but also in other parts of the world. Key themes will be the evolution of women's/gender history over time, how history changes when we look outside of the political history of male elites, debates about historical periodization and interpretation, whether women's status has progressed or regressed over time, how women have been viewed historically in colonized states and debates over sexuality. Students will be given the opportunity to write an essay which will explore a topic in women's/gender history of their choice.

Attendance and preparation for class will be essential. Each student will be marked on their class participation. Everyone will be asked to come with points for discussion on a specific reading in classes where there is no presentation being given. Each class member will be responsible for giving a presentation based on the required class readings for one week. The following week, they will be required to submit a paper based on the class readings of approx 8 pages or 2000 words. This will be assigned based on student preference in the first week of class.

Students also are required to write a major essay (approx 20 pages, or 5000 words). This can either be based on primary research, or be an historiographical paper summarising the literature in a particular area of historical interest. All topics must be approved by the professor in advance. An essay proposal with annotated bibliography of 10 sources, explaining the relevance of these sources to your essay will be due around week 8 of the course. Students will be expected to deliver a 10 minute summary of their work in progress to the class at the end of term. The major paper will be due on April 30, 2016.

Proposed Topics to be Discussed:

An updated syllabus with a detailed class schedule and all readings in pdf form will be posted on the OWL course website by September 6, 2016. Students should feel free to e-mail me with questions before that time.

- Was there a "golden era" for women in the pre-Christian past?
- The Contagious Diseases Acts in England and India and female sexuality
- Colonial views of African women- myths and reality
- Debates in theories of women's and gender history
- Historical periodization- was there a Renaissance or Enlightenment for women?
- "The Cult of True Womanhood": myth or reality?
- Ideas about masculinity and femininity in colonial Canada

- The witchcraft craze: causes and significance
- Recovering the history of queer sexuality
- Historical debates about First Wave feminism
- Changes in women's class-based labour over time
- First Nations women in Canada as cultural brokers

Mark Breakdown:

Class Participation	25%
Class Presentation (on course readings)	10%
Short Essay (based on class presentation) (approx 8 pages)	10%
Essay proposal and annotated bibliography (approx 8 pages, citing 10 sources)	20%
Major Essay (approx 20 pages)	35%