

## **HIS 9803A Critical Moments in Women's and Gender History**

**Wednesday 1:30-4:30 pm Lawson 2270C**

**Professor: Katherine McKenna**

Office hours:

Email: kmckenna@uwo.ca

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.

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 on November 1. Students will be expected to deliver a 10-15 minute summary of their work in progress to the class at the end of term. The major paper will be due on December 15, 2017.

### **Mark Breakdown:**

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

**CLASS SCHEDULE (Subject to revision by September)**

- 1. September 13 Introduction: The Social Construction of History**
- 2. September 20 Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives on Women's/Gender History**
- 3. September 27 Pre-History and the Ancient World: The Goddess Debate**
- 4. October 4 Women, Work and Power in the Middle Ages**

October 11 Reading Week

- 5. October 18 Women in the Renaissance and After: A Period of Decline?**
- 6. October 25 Witchcraft: The 'Women's Holocaust'?**
- 7. November 1 The Enlightenment Debate on Gender**

**Essay Proposals Due**

- 8. November 8 Early Victorianism: The Gender Divide**
- 9. November 15 Suffrage and Social Reform**
- 10. November 22 Lesbian and Queer History**
- 11. November 29 Colonialism in Action: The Case of the "Women's War" in Nigeria**
- 12. December 6 Unconventional Sources and Interpretive Issues for the History of Women and Gender**