UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History  
FALL, 1986  

HISTORY 392  
Tues. & Thurs. 9:30-10:45 A.M.*  

Professor Gerda Lerner  
5123 Humanities Bldg.  
Office Hours: Wednesday,  
1:30-3:30 P.M. or by appointment.  

Women in History  
"Gender, race and class in ancient, medieval  
and 19th century U.S. societies"  

COURSE DESCRIPTION  
In this class we will examine the origin of hierarchical structures in  
patriarchal society in the second millennium B.C. in Mesopotamia. We will  
study the connections between gender, race, and class, and the ways they  
become institutionalized and incorporated into the ideas and values of  
Western civilization. We will then follow the development of these struc­
tures and the idea systems that sustained them in medieval Europe and  
antebellum United States.  

Students will work with primary and some secondary sources. The emphasis  
will be on critical evaluation of unstated assumptions in traditional  
history. Students will be expected to think historically, comparatively,  
and analytically.  

Each lecture will be followed by class discussion. Additional section  
meetings will be scheduled during the first week of classes. *Discussion  
sections have tentatively been scheduled to follow the class periods Tues­
day and Thursday, 10:45-11:35 A.M.  

The course is open to sophomores to seniors, including honors students, and  
to graduate students not in American History. American History graduate  
students wishing to take this course may register for AUDIT credit and  
should contact the instructor to arrange for 999 credit during registra­
tion week.  

Freshmen may be admitted with the permission of the instructor.  

4 credits - undergraduates  
3 credits - graduate students
HISTORY IN HISTORY
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Gender, race and class in ancient, medieval and 19th century U.S. societies

All reading assignments are due the first day of the week.

I. ANCIENT SOCIETIES

Week I
(L) denotes lecture.
1. Introduction
2. (L) Pre-state societies in the Ancient Near East

Week II
1. (L) The urban revolution: temple-towns and city-states
2. (L) The emergence of national states

Assigned readings:
Roux, ch. 5 (pp. 72-85); ch. 7-8 (pp. 102-134)

Week III
1. (L) The invention of slavery
2. (L) Slavery and sex

Assigned readings:
Pritchard, vol. 1, p. 268, "Akkadian text RA XXXI"
Roux, ch. 12-13 (pp. 178-220)
Lerner, "Women and Slavery" (Xerox)

Week IV
1. (L) The institutionalization of patriarchy in Mesopotamian and Hebrew Law
2. (L) Slavery in Mesopotamian and Hebrew law

Assigned Readings:
Pritchard, vol. 1, chap. V, pp. 138-166. Do not read everything; only the laws indicated. The succeeding numbers refer to the laws, not the pages. 14-19; 108-111; 116-119; 127-164; 170-175; 194-201; 209-218; 229-231.
Week IX

1. (L) Marriage and property
2. (L) The regulation of sexuality as a means of social control

Assigned readings:

Ladurie, chaps. 8-13, pp. 139-217; chap. 16, pp. 251-266

Week X

1. (L) Religion and gender
2. (L) Christianity, heresy and "the others"

Assigned readings:

Ladurie, chap. 19 & 20, pp. 306-341
Bennett, (Poston, Kempe), pp. 124-150

Week XI

No assigned readings

1. Review
2. Exam

III. 19th CENTURY UNITED STATES

Week XII

1. (L) Democracy and racism -- the North
2. (L) Democracy and racism -- the antebellum South

Assigned readings:

Jordan, pp. 44-48; 52-56; 63-98; 542-569
Franklin, ch. XII, ch XIII, pp. 166-213

Week XIII

1. (L) Gender in class and race perspective
2. Thanksgiving Holiday

Assigned readings: Notice - this assignment pertains to

Jordan, p. 136-178
Genovese, pp. 413-431
History 392

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REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS: (All paperbacks)


Georges Roux, Ancient Iraq, (Pelican, 1976)


Eileen Power, Medieval People, (Barnes and Noble) (xerox)

(Xerox Reader)

OPTIONAL:

Eugene Genovese, Roll, Jordan, Roll, (Vintage)

H.S. Bennett, Six Medieval Men and Women (Atheneum, 1968)

Lawrence Levine, Black Culture and Black Consciousness (Oxford University Press)


Gerda Lerner, The Creation of Patriarchy (Oxford University Press)

NOTE: Books are on reserve in Helen C. White Library. Books may be purchased at Brown's Book Store. Xerox reader available at Kinkos. There will be one copy of the xeroxed readings available in the History Library, Room 4257 Humanities Building.