

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History

Semester 1 Year 77-78

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
392	WOMEN IN HISTORY: From the Greeks to the Renaissance	Schulenburg

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course surveys woman's multifarious part in Western European society from Classical Greece to the Renaissance. In reevaluating the canons of traditional history, the course will focus on the pervasive influence of women in virtually every facet of the ancient and medieval worlds. It will examine cultural views of the proper sphere for woman as well as the actual societal functions available to her. Two of the main themes treated in the course are: the nature and influence of male conventional wisdom in regard to the "Woman Question"; and the shifting visibility of woman against a background of economic, social, and cultural change. The substance of the course consists of extensive readings from contemporary sources as well as secondary studies. Some of the topics to be covered include the following: Religion and Sexism; attitudes toward women in the Bible, the writings of Church Fathers, and Canon Law; The Status of Women in the Germanic World; Viking Women; Courtly Love and its Traditions; Medieval Queenship; The First Bluestocking -- Christine de Pisan.

LECTURES

Two 75 minute lectures per week, plus one discussion session.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

Mid-term, paper, and 2-hour final

GRADING SYSTEM

30% mid-term; 30% paper; 40% final exam

REQUIRED READINGS

Susan Bell, Women: From the Greeks to the French Revolution  
E. J. Putnam, The Lady  
Eileen Power, Medieval Women  
K. Fischer Drew, The Lombard Laws  
Betty Radice, trans., The Letters of Abelard and Heloise  
Anya Seton, Katherine  
R. W. Southern, Western Society and the Church in the Middle Ages