

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Fall Semester, 1989

History 261

Professor Gerda Lerner
5123 Humanities Building
Office Hours: Wed. 1-3 p.m.
by appointment

Gender, Race, Ethnicity, Class in Comparative Perspective

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, ethnicity, and class, and the ways they become institutionalized and incorporated into the ideas and values of Western civilization. The problem of "difference" and the designation of groups as "deviant" is examined by using three case studies: the Ancient Near East in the second millennium B.C.; medieval France; and 19th century U.S.A.

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.

The course is open to sophomores to seniors, including honors students. Graduate students wishing to take this course should contact the instructor one week in advance of the first class to discuss possible procedures for registration.

Freshmen may be admitted with the permission of the instructor.

4 credits - undergraduates

REQUIREMENTS

Attendance at lectures and participation in class discussion following the lectures; reading preparation in advance of each lecture; participation in weekly section discussion and the taking of all exams.

Undergraduates will earn four credits for this course by completing the requirements.

Honors students will have to do a short (5-6 page) paper based on reading one of the books on the reading list in its entirety, in addition to the requirements cited above for all students.

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

ANCIENT SOCIETIES

Week I No reading assignment.
 (L) denotes lecture.

Tues., 9/5 1. Introduction
 Thur., 9/7 2. (L) Pre-state societies in the Ancient Near East

Week II

Tues., 9/12 1. (L) The urban revolution: temple-towns and city-states
 Thur., 9/14 2. (L) The emergence of national states

Assigned readings:

Roux, ch. 5 (pp. 75-89); ch. 7-8 (pp. 106-139)
 Maps and Charts - (Xerox 1)

Week III

Tues., 9/19 1. (L) The invention of slavery
 Thur., 9/21 2. (L) Slavery and sex

Assigned Readings:

Pritchard, vol. 1, (p. 268), "Akkadian text RA XXXI"
 Roux, Ch. 12-13 (pp. 184-207)
 Lerner, Creation, ch. 4, (pp.76-100)

MEDIEVAL EUROPE

Thur., 10/19 (L) The structure of society

Assigned Readings:

Joseph Strayer, *Western Europe in the Middle Ages*, ch. 3 (pp. 91-106); (pp. 172-140); ch. 4 (143-157, 176-185)
Ladurie, Montaillou, Intro. (xii-xvii), ch. 3 (pp. 53-68)

Week VIII

Tues., 10/24 Slide Show on Ancient Goddesses
Thur., 10/26 Lecture and discussion - Medieval Life; Church and State

Assigned Readings:

Ladurie, chs. 6 and 7 (pp. 103-135)
Strayer, ch. 5, (pp. 189-212)
Gies & Gies, chs. 3 and 4 (pp. 27-62)

Week IX

Tues., 10/31 1. (L) The role and status of women
Thur., 11/2 2. (L) The regulation of sexuality as a means of social control

Assigned Readings:

Gies and Gies, Women in the Middle Ages, ch. 5 (pp. 63-96); chs. 7 and 8 (pp. 120-164)
Ladurie, chs. 8-12 (pp. 139-203)

Week X

Tues., 11/7 1. (L) Heretics
Thur., 11/9 2. (L) Outsiders, deviants, "Others"

Assigned Readings:

Gies and Gies, ch. 11 (pp. 210-228)
Ladurie, ch. 19 (pp. 306-326)
H.S. Bennet, "Margery Kempe" (pp. 124-150)
Marguerite Porete (Xerox 7)

Week XI

No assigned readings

Tues., 11/14 Review
Thur., 11/16 **EXAM**

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REQUIRED READINGS

- *Xerox Reader available at Kinko's on University Avenue
- *Georges Roux, Ancient Iraq, 2nd ed., (Pelican, 1976) CS71R78
- *James B. Pritchard, The Ancient Near East, vol. 1 (Princeton University Press BS1180P82
- *Gerda Lerner, The Creation of Patriarchy (Oxford University Press)
- *Joseph R. Strayer, Western Europe in the Middle Ages (Appleton-Century-Crafts, Inc., 1955)
- *Emmanuel L. Ladurie, Montaillou: The Promised Land of Error (Vintage Trade Books, 1979) DC801M753L4713
- *Frances and Joseph Gies, Women in the Middle Ages (Barnes & Noble, 1978)
- Winthrop Jordan, White over Black (W.W. Norton, 1968) E185.61J65
- Eugene D. Genovese, Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World the Slaves Made (Vintage Books, 1976) E443G461976
- Lawrence Levine, Black Culture, Black Consciousness (Oxford University Press) GR103L48

*Books suggested for purchase

GL:abo
 WP50
 7/12/89