

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 structures 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 Tuesday 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 registration week.

Freshmen may be admitted with the permission of the instructor.

4 credits - undergraduates

3 credits - graduate students

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century U.S. societies

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

I. ANCIENT SOCIETIES

Week I No reading assignment.  
(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 every-  
thing; 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

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TEXTBOOK REQUIREMENTS FOR SEMESTER I, 1986-87

History 392

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and 19th century U.S. societies"

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS: (All paperbacks)

James B. Pritchard, The Ancient Near East, vols. 1 & 2, (Princeton University Press)

Georges Roux, Ancient Iraq, (Pelican, 1976)

Emmanuel LeRoy-Ladurie, Montaillou: The Promised Land of Error, (Vintage Books)

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)

Winthrop Jordan, Black Image in White Mind, White Over Black: American Attitudes Toward the Negro, 1550-1812, (Norton)

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.