

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

Semester 2 Year 78-79

<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 women 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 the Church Fathers, Canon Law and the position of women; the status of women in the Germanic world; Viking women; courtly love and its traditions, medieval queenship; Christine de Pisan, the first feminist, etc..

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
- Aristophanes, The Congresswomen
- N. Cohn, Europe's Inner Demons
- E. Power, Medieval Women
- B. Radice, The Letters of Abelard and Heloise
- S. Undset, Kristin Lavransdatter I: The Bridal Wreath
- F. & J. Gies, Women in the Middle Ages