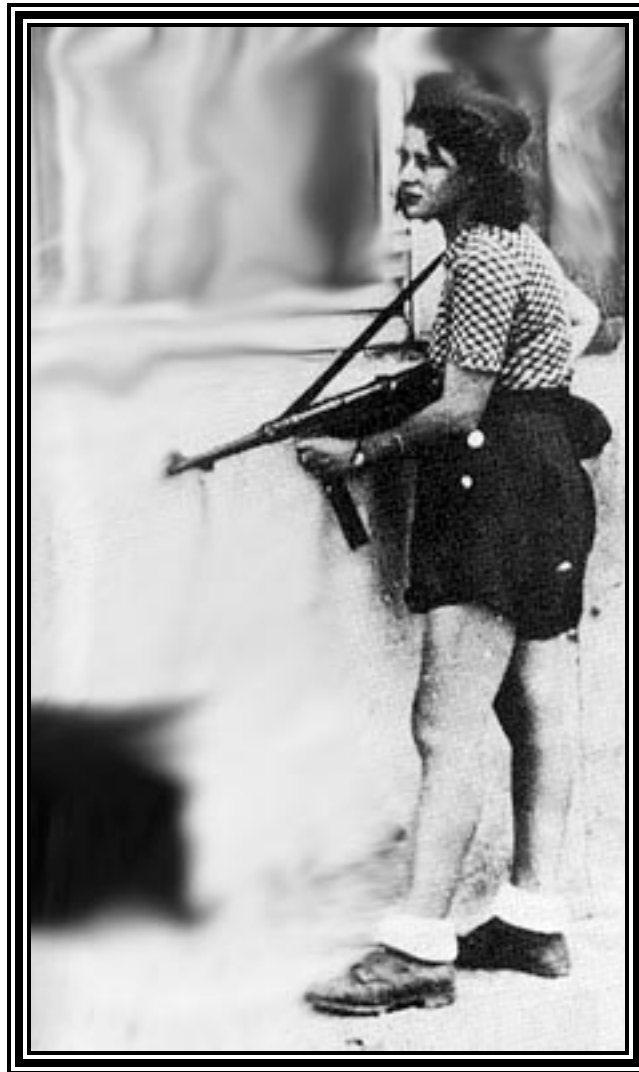

History 392
Women and Gender in Modern Europe,
1750 to the Present

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Spring 2020 MW2:30-3:45, 1641 Humanities



Description: This course is a survey of women's lives from the mid-seventeenth century to the present in Europe. It focuses equally on the ways in which gender constructed power and identity in all spheres of life during this period, including work, politics, science, Empire-building and war. In the first part of the course, we focus on the creation of the domestic model established in the wake of the twin revolutions. This model, which dictated that a woman's "natural" role was domestic and maternal, was primarily middle-class. Working-class women dealt with a whole other set of expectations concerning love and work. In the second part of the course, we focus on a diversity of ways in which women throughout the nineteenth century subverted this domestic model, not only through organized politics such as feminism, but also through unconventional sexual behavior, female "exceptionality," and the opportunities provided by a growing urban, consumer culture. In the final part of the course, we study women and war, more specifically the roles played by women on the battlefield and the home front, and the way in which total war undermined certain gendered constructions of politics and work. Still another important theme will be sexuality, including the medical insistence on one "true" sex, the construction of race through sexuality, the creation of a homosexual identity, and the sexual revolution of the 1960s.

Goals: By the end of the class, students should understand the daily activities, activism and achievements of women in Europe from the 18th century to present day; and the emergence of modern gender norms and the role of gender in European politics and culture. The students should have developed the following skills: how to interpret historical primary sources and write about them within a specific historical context; how to critically analyse gender issues in the past as well as in our contemporary world.

This class meets for two, 75-minute class periods each week over the spring semester and carries the expectation that students will work on course learning activities (reading, writing, problem sets, studying, etc) for about 3 hours out of the classroom for every class period.

Requirements:

Attendance and Participation in all Lecture and Section Discussions (20%)

Two short papers, due **February 17** and **April 20** (15% and 20%)

One midterm in-class exam : **March 1**–Essay and Identifications (20%)

One final exam: **May 4**: Essays and Identifications (25%)

Books to Purchase:

Lucie Aubrac, *Outwitting the Gestapo*

Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth*

Colette, *The Vagabond*

Michel Foucault, *Herculine Barbin*

Heda Kovaly, *Under a Cruel Star*

Crais and Scully, *Sara Baartman and the Hottentot Venus*

Additional Materials:

READER, available at L & S Copy, Social Sciences building. ® = In Reader

FILM “**Suffragette**” available on Canvas via L & S Learning Support Services.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

I. INTRODUCTION

Week One

1.22: What is Gender History?

Reading

Paisley Currah and Lisa Moore, “We won’t Know who you are” ®

II. THE DOMESTIC SYSTEM

Week Two: The Patriarchal Model and its Transformation

1.27 Women’s Lives in 1750—the Patriarchal Model

1.29 The Enlightenment and Science

Readings:

Walter Laqueur, “Discovery of the Sexes,” Chapter Five, *Making Sex*, pp.149-192. ®

Londa Schiebinger, “Skeletons in the Closet: The First Illustrations of the Female Skeleton in Eighteenth-Century Anatomy” ®

Week Three: The Impact of the Revolutions

2.3: The French Revolution and Liberal Feminism

2.5: The Transformation in Women’s work

Readings:

Rousseau, “Emile,” excerpt ®

“Declaration of the Rights of Man”; Olympe de Gouges, “Declaration of the Rights of Women”; and “The National Convention Outlaws Clubs and Popular Societies of Women” all in ®; Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, Chaps. 2, 5 ®

Week Four: Domesticity and Class

2.10 The Domestic Ideal

2.12 Motherhood, Prostitution and the Working Class Woman

Reading:

“Textile Workers in Leeds and Nottingham,” “Women Miners in the English Coal Pits,” ®

Friedrich Engels, *The Condition of the Working Class in England*, excerpts, all in ®

Florence Nightingale, *Cassandra*, on Canvas

William Acton, “Want of Sexual Feeling in the Female” and “Causes of Prostitution” ®

Week Five: Sexuality

Monday, February 17 FIRST PAPER DUE

2.17 Sexuality/Sexual Orientation

2.19 : Orientalism

Reading

Josephine Butler, “The Double Standard of Morality,” (The *Philanthropist*, 1886) ®

Foucault, *Herculine Barbin*

II. RESISTANCE TO THE DOMESTIC SYSTEM

Week Six: Race and Politics

2.24 Gender, Nationalism and Empire

2.26 Feminism

Reading:

Crais and Scully, *Sara Baartman and the Hottentot Venus*, Chaps. 1-6

Week Seven: Working the Margins

3.2. Militant Feminism

3.4 Exceptional Women

Reading:

Movie: “Suffragette”

Friedrich Engel, “Bourgeois Marriage” ®

Lytton Strachey, “Florence Nightingale,” from *Eminent Victorians* ®

Week Eight : Fin-de-siècle Transformations

3.9: **MIDTERM EXAM**

3.11: The New Woman

Reading:

Colette, *The Vagabond*

SPRING VACATION MARCH 14– MARCH 23

IV. WOMEN, GENDER AND TOTAL WAR

Week Nine—A World at War

3.23 Urbanization/Consumption

3.25: The Great War

Reading:

Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth*, Chaps 1-2,. 4-5

Week Ten: New Constructions of Female Identity

3:30 The Russian Revolution

4.1 The 1920s: Fashion and the Modern Body

Reading

Alexandria Kollontai, “Theses on Communist Morality in the Sphere of Marital Relations” ®
MOGA, “The Modern Girl Around the World” ®

M.L. Roberts, “Samson and Delilah Revisited: the Politics of Fashion in 1920s France” ®

Week Eleven—Towards Total War

4.6 New Sexualities, the Modern Woman and the Fascist Mother

4.8 Women on the Battlefield

Reading:

Katie Sutton, “We too Deserve Our Place in the Sun” ®

Start reading Aubrac, *Outwitting the Gestapo*

Week Twelve—Women in Total War

4.13 Inside Nazi Europe

4.15 Women and the Holocaust

Reading

Finish Aubrac, *Outwitting the Gestapo*

Liana Millu, “Lili Marlene” and “High Tension,” *Smoke over Birkenau*

Week Thirteen: Recovering from the War

SECOND PAPER DUE, MONDAY APRIL 20

4.20 Women under Stalinism

4.22 Recovering From the War

Reading:

Heda Kovaly, *Under a Cruel Star*

V. THE SECOND WAVE

Week Fourteen: Feminism and Sex

4:27 : Simone de Beauvoir and Second Wave Feminism

4.29 The Sexual Revolution

Reading:

The Second Sex, xix-xxxvi, 267-299, 716-732

Final Exam May 4, 5:05 pm