
HISTORY 891
The Rise and Fall of the Domestic System:
Women and Gender in Modern Europe

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Tuesdays, 3-30-5:25
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1-3

Course Description

This seminar explores the rise and fall of the “domestic system” in the long nineteenth century. By “domestic system,” I mean the set of cultural norms confining women to the domestic home, which were interpellated across class and race to form a complex social system. The success of the domestic system demonstrates how 19th c. cultural norms were generated, deployed, and reiterated in particular lives. Its instability and decline reveals how such norms were undermined by uneven development and urbanization, and resisted by individuals. Authorized by the liberal fiction of “nature,” the belief that a woman’s primary role was domestic and maternal arose in the late 18th century, particularly in the discourses of science and Jacobin politics. Female domesticity, and the associated belief in women as passionless and sexually pure, were primarily white, middle-class ideals. But they profoundly affected the cultural practices of the working-class, as well as non-European peoples both at home and in colonial societies.

Structure and workload:

This is a 3-credit course which meets as a group for 2 hours per week and carries the expectation that you will spend an average of 3 hours outside of class for every hour in the classroom. In other words, in addition to class time, plan to allot an average of 6 hours per week for reading, writing, preparing for discussions, and/or studying for quizzes and exams for this class.

Learning Goals:

This course is primarily meant to prepare students for a preliminary exam in the field of Modern Women and Gender. It is a “reading” seminar. You will be asked to do three things to prepare yourself for the exam: 1) construct a field list of your choice based on the bibliography at the back of the syllabus (as well as any other readings which are pertinent.) 2) To prepare you to write a preliminary exam question, you will be asked to complete three 5-7 page essays on assigned questions. 3) The final paper will ask you to take one theme important to your own research and write an historiographical essay concerning previous work on that theme.

Books to Purchase

Frances Lee Bernstein, *The Dictatorship of Sex: Lifestyle Advice for the Soviet Masses*

Anna Clark, *The Struggle for the Breeches: Gender and the Making of the British Working Class*

Suzanne Desan, *The Family on Trial in Revolutionary France*

Tom Laqueur, *Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud*

Mary Poovey, *Uneven Developments: The Ideological Work of Gender in Mid-Victorian England*

Erica Rappaport, *Shopping for Pleasure: Gender in the Making of London's West End*

Nancy C. Reagin, *Sweeping the German Nation*

Joan Scott, *Only Paradoxes to Offer*

Joan Scott, *The Fantasy of Feminist History*

Judith Surkis, *Sexing the Citizen: Morality and Masculinity in France, 1870-1920*

Judy Walkowitz, *City of Dreadful Delight*

Work

- Active participation in class discussion and preparation of discussion questions for classes **(30%)**. Three times this semester you will be asked to collate questions. You will start the discussion but not lead the discussion.
- Three preliminary exam essays due **February 14, March 6, April 10 (45%)** 5-7 page essays answering an assigned question, which will be distributed 10 days before due date. Essays can be both historical and/or historiographical depending on the questions asked.
- Final Historiographical Essay due **May 1 (25%)** The final paper will ask you to take one theme important to your own research and write an historiographical essay reviewing 5-7 books, including those we have read together and those you draw from the field list at the back of the syllabus

Class Schedule

I. Introduction

January 22:

Required:

Joan Scott, *The Fantasy of Feminist History*, Introduction, Chaps. 1-3

II. The Late Eighteenth Century Sexualization of Woman

January 28: The Scientific Production of Sexual Difference

Required:

Tom Laqueur, *Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud*, Chaps. 1, 2, 5

Londa Schiebinger, "Why Mammals are called Mammals: Gender Politics in Eighteenth-Century Natural History," *American Historical Review*, 98,2 (April 1993): 382-411

Schiebinger, "Skeletons in the Closet: The First Illustrations of the Female Skeleton in Eighteenth-Century Anatomy" *Representations*, 14, Spring 1986

February 4: The Liberal Production of Sexual Difference

Suzanne Desan, *The Family on Trial in Revolutionary France*

Jennifer Heuer, "Celibacy, Courage, and Hungry Wives: Debating Military Marriage and Citizenship in Pre-Revolutionary France," *European History Quarterly*. Oct 2016, Vol. 46 Issue 4, p647-667

First Essay due February 14

III. The Domestic System

February 11: The Middle Class

Mary Poovey, *Uneven Developments: The Ideological Work of Gender in Mid-Victorian England* Chaps. 1,2,3, Conclusion

Nancy Reagan, *Sweeping the German Nation*, Introduction, Chaps. 1-3

February 18: The Working Class

Anna Clark, *The Struggle for the Breeches: Gender and the Making of the British Working Class*

Joan Scott, "L'Ouvrière! Mot impie, Sordide...": Women Workers in the Discourse of French Political Economy, 1840-1860," in *Gender and the Politics of History*

March 3 Masculinity

Judith Surkis, *Sexing the Citizen: Morality and Masculinity in France, 1870-1920*

Victoria Thompson, "Creating Boundaries: Homosexuality and the Changing Social Order in France, 1830-1870," in Scott, *Feminism and History*

Second Preliminary Essay due March 6.

March 10: Race

Elisa Camiscioli, *Reproducing the French Race*

Nimisha Barton, "Gender, Immigration and the Everyday practice of social Citizenship, in Barton and Hopkins, *Practiced Citizenship: Women, Gender and the State in Modern France*

IV. Resistance and the Decline of the Domestic System

March 31 The Feminist Response

Joan Scott, *Only Paradoxes to Offer*

April 7: Shopping

Erica Rappaport, *Shopping for Pleasure: Gender in the Making of London's West End* (Princeton University Press, 1999)

Third Preliminary Essay Due April 10

V. Women, Gender and Modernity

April 14: The New Woman

Judy Walkowitz, *City of Dreadful Delight*

April 21: The Modern Woman
The Modern Woman Around the World

April 28 New Sexual Codes
Marhoefer, *Sex and the Weimar Republic*, Chaps. 1 and 2.
Frances Bernstein, *The Dictatorship of Sex*

Final Essay due May 1

Preliminary Examination List – Women and Gender in Modern Europe

Theory and Method

- Butler, Judith and Elizabeth Weed, *The Question of Gender: Joan W. Scott's Critical Feminism* (2011).
(especially Butler, "Speaking up, talking back: Joan Scott's critical feminism")
"Forum: Rethinking Key Concepts in Gender History." *Gender & History*, Volume 28, Issue 2
(August 2016), 358-366.
- Downs, Laura Lee. *Writing Gender History* (2005)
- Foucault, Michel. *History of Sexuality, Volume One* (1978)
- Harris, Victoria. 'Sex on the Margins: New Directions in the Historiography of Sexuality and Gender', *Historical Journal*, Vol. 53, No. 4 (Dec. 2010)
- Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses," in Mohanty et al., *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism* (1991)
- Riley, Denise. "Am I That Name?" *Feminism and the Category of 'Women' in History* (1988)
- Scott, Joan. "Unanswered Questions" in AHR Forum: Revisiting "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis" 113, 5 (December 2008): 1422-1430
- Scott, Joan, *Gender and the Politics of History* (1990)
- Scott, Joan. *The Fantasy of Feminist History* (2011)

The Scientific Production of Difference

- Duden, Barbara *The woman beneath the Skin* (1991)
- Jordanova Ludmilla, *Sexual Visions: Images of Gender in Science and Medicine between the Eighteenth and Twentieth Centuries*
- Tom Laqueur, *Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud* (maybe find overview of the response to him).
- Londa Schiebinger, *Nature's Body: Gender in the Making of Modern Science* or *The Moral Sex: Women's Nature in the French Enlightenment* and her articles.

French Revolution

- Baecque, Antoine de *The Body Politic: Corporeal Metaphor in Revolutionary France, 1770-1800* (1997)
- Desan, Suzanne *The Family on Trial in Revolutionary France* (2004)
- Heuer, Jennifer. *The Family and the Nation: Gender and Citizenship in Revolutionary France, 1789-1830* (2005) and her relevant articles
- Hunt, Lynn. *The Family Romance of the French Revolution* (1992)
- Reddy, William, *The Invisible Code: Honor and Sentiment in post-Revolutionary France*, 1997

Middle-class Domesticity

- Abrams and Harvey, *Gender Relations in German History* (survey of 19th and 20th centuries)
- Deborah Cohen, *Household Gods: The British and their Possessions*, 2006
- Davidoff, Leonore and Catherine Hall, *Family Fortunes: Men and Women of the English Middle Class*
- Marcus, Sharon, *Apartment Stories*
- Florence Nightingale, *Cassandra*
- Mary Poovey, *Uneven Developments*
- Surkis, Judith, *Sexing the Citizen*

Feminism, Socialism, Communism

Richard Evans, *The Feminist Movement in Germany*

Claire Moses, *French Feminism in the 19th Century*

Scott, Joan, *Only Paradoxes to Offer*

Barbara Taylor, *Eve and the New Jerusalem: Socialism and Feminism in the 19th Century*, 1993.

Industrial Revolution and Class/Labor

Canning, Kathleen. *Languages of Labor and Gender: Female Factory Work in Germany, 1850-1914* (1996)

Clark, Anna. *The Struggle for the Breeches: Gender and the Making of the British Working Class* (1995)

Chenut, Helen Harden. *The Fabric of Gender: Working-Class Culture in Third Republic France* (2005)

Rose, Sonya. *Limited Livelihoods: Gender and Class in Nineteenth-Century England* (1992)

Joan Scott, "L'Ouvrière! Mot impie, Sordide....": Women Workers in the Discourse of French Political Economy, 1840-1860," in *Gender and the Politics of History* (1989, 1999)

Stewart, Mary Lynn, *Women, Work, and the French State: Labour Protection and Social Patriarchy, 1879-1919* (1988)

Consumerism and Consumer society

Coffin, Judith. *The Politics of Women's Work: The Paris Garment Trades, 1750-1915* (1996)

De Grazia, ed. *The Sex of Things*

Rappaport, Erica. *Shopping for Pleasure: Gender in the Making of London's West End* (2000)

Tiersten, Lisa, *Marianne in the Market: Envisioning Consumer Society in Fin-de-siècle France*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.

Thompson, Victoria *The Virtuous Marketplace: Women and Men, Money and Politics in Paris, 1830-1870* (2000)

The Social, Women and the State

Barton and Hopkins, *Practiced Citizenship: Women, Gender and the State in Modern France*, 2019

Canning, Kathleen, *Gender History in Practice: Historical Perspectives on Bodies, Class and Citizenship*, particularly part II: "Bodies, the Social and Labor."

Cole, Joshua, *The Power of Large Numbers: Population, Politics and Gender in Nineteenth-Century France*, 2000

Rachel Fuchs, *Poor and Pregnant in Paris: Strategies for Survival in the Nineteenth Century*, Rutgers, 1992

Seth Koven and Sonya Michel, "Womanly Duties: Maternalist Politics and the Origins of Welfare States in France, Germany, Great Britain, and the United States, 1880-1920," in *AHR* 95:4 (1990)

Robcis, Camille, *The Law of Kinship: Anthropology, Psychoanalysis and the Family in France*

Schafer, Sylvia, *Children in "Moral Danger" and the Problem of Government in Third Republic France*. Princeton *Studies in Culture/Power/History*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1997.

Moeller, Robert. *Protecting Motherhood: Women and the Family in the Politics of Postwar West Germany*, (1993)

Fin de siècle/New Woman

Berenson, Edward, *The Trial of Madame Caillaux*

Datta, Venita. *Heroes and Legends of Fin-de-Siècle France: Gender, Politics, and National Identity* (2011)

Engelstein, Laura, *The Keys to Happiness: Sex and the Search for Modernity in Fin-de-siècle Russia*

Forth, Christopher, *The Dreyfus Affair and the Crisis of Manhood* Silverman Debora, *Art Nouveau and the Fin-de-siècle in France: Politics, Psychology, and Style* (1989)

Jo Burr Margadant, *Madame le Professeur: Women Educators in the Third Republic*

Patricia Mazon, *Gender and the modern research university: the admission of women to German higher education, 1865-1914*.

Nye, Robert, *Masculinity and Male Codes of Honor in Modern France* (Oxford, 1993)

David Pomfret, "A Muse for the Masses": Gender, Age and Nation in France, Fin de Siècle," *American Historical Review*, 109, 5 (December 2004)

Roberts, Mary Louise. *Disruptive Acts: The New Woman in Fin-de-siècle France* (2002)

Walkowitz, Judy, *City of Dreadful Delight*

Modern Woman

Whitney Chadwick and Tirza Latimer, *The Modern Woman Revisited: Paris between the Wars*

Kent, Susan, *Making Peace: The Reconstruction of Gender in interwar Britain*

MOGA, *Modern Girl Around the World*

Roberts, Mary Louise, *Civilization without Sexes: Reconstructing Gender in Postwar France, 1917-1927*(1994)

Birgitte Soland, *Becoming Modern: Young Women and the Reconstruction of Womanhood in the 1920s*.

Von Ankum, *Women in the Metropolis: Gender and Modernity in Weimar Culture*, particularly Sabine Hake, "In the Mirror of Fashion" and Lynne Frame, "Gretchen, Girl, Garçonne? Weimar Science and Popular Culture in Search of the Ideal New Woman"

Russian Women in the 19th and 20th centuries

Atkinson, Dallin and Lapidus, eds., *Women in Russia*

Barbara Clements, *Bolshevik Women* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997).

Clements, Engel and Worobec, *Russia's Women: Accommodation, Resistance, Transformation*

Choi Chatterjee, *Celebrating Women: Gender, Festival Culture, and Bolshevik Ideology, 1910-1939* (Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh University Press, 2002).

Wendy Goldman, *Women at the Gates: Gender and Industry in Stalin's Russia* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002).

Kollontai, Alexandra, *Love of Worker Bees*

Masculinity and Manliness

Aaron Belkin, *Bring Me Men: Military Masculinity and the Benign Façade of American Empire* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012).

Barbara Evans Clements, Rebecca Friedman, and Dan Healey, eds., *Russian Masculinities in History and Culture* (London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2002).

John Haynes, *New Soviet Man: gender and Masculinity in Stalinist Soviet Cinema* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2003).

Mosse, George, *The Image of Man: The Creation of Modern Masculinity*, 1996

Sexuality

Corbin, Alain. *Women for Hire: Prostitution and Sexuality in France After 1850* (1990)

Forth, Christopher, *The Dreyfus Affair and the Crisis of Manhood*

Dan Healey, *Homosexual Desire in Revolutionary Russia*

Herzog, Dagman, *Sexuality in Europe: A Twentieth-Century History*

Matlock, Jann, *Scenes of Seduction: Prostitution, Hysteria and Reading Difference in 19th c. France* (1994)

Merrick, Jeffrey and Bryant T. Ragan, Jr. *Homosexuality in Modern France*

Victoria Thompson, "Creating Boundaries: Homosexuality and the Changing Social Order in France, 1830-1870," in Scott, *Feminism and History* and the other essays on Europe.

Sex, Gender and Empire

- Laura Briggs, *Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science, and U.S. Imperialism in Puerto Rico* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003).
- Hall, Catherine. *Civilizing Subjects Metropole and Colony in the English Imagination, 1830-1867*
- Philippa Levine, *Prostitution, Race, and Politics: Policing Venereal Disease in the British Empire* (London: Routledge, 2003).
- Philippa Levine, *Gender and Empire*
- Anne McClintock, *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Conquest* (London: Routledge, 1995).
- Julia Roos, "Women's Rights, Nationalist Anxiety, and the 'Moral' Agenda in the Early Weimar Republic: Revisiting the 'Black Horror' Campaign against France's African Occupation Troops," *Central European History*, 42 (2009), 473-508.
- Said, *Orientalism*, in particular "Introduction" and "Knowing the Oriental"
- Mrinalini Sinha, *Colonial Masculinity: The 'Manly Englishman' and the 'Effeminate Bengali' in the Late 19th century*
- Ann Laura Stoler, *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010).

World War I

- Joanna Bourke, *Dismembering the Male: Men's Bodies, Britain, and the Great War*, (1996)
- Laura Doan, *Disturbing Practices: History, Sexuality and Women's Experience of Modern War, 1914-18*, (2013)
- Susan Grayzel, *Women's Identities at War: Gender, Motherhood, and Politics in Britain and France during the First World War*, (1999)
- Nicky Gullace, *The Blood of our Sons: Men, Women and the Renegotiation of British Citizenship during the Great War*, (2004)
- Martha Hanna, *Your Death Would be Mine: Paul and Marie Pireaud in the Great War* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2006).
- Kienitz, Sabine "Body Damage: War Disability and Constructions of Masculinity in Weimar Germany," in *Homefront: The Military, War and Gender in Twentieth-Century Germany*, (2002) ed. by Karen Hagemann et al, 181-204

Interwar

- Kate Fisher and Simon Szreter, *Sex Before the Sexual Revolution: Intimate Life in England 1918-1963*, (2010)
- Laura Levine Frader, *Breadwinners and Citizens: Gender in the Making of the French Social Model*, (2008)
- Atina Grossmann, *Reforming Sex: The German Movement for Birth Control and Abortion Reform, 1920-1950* (1995)
- Siân Reynolds, *France Between the Wars: Gender and Politics*, (1996)
- Katharina von Ankum, ed., *Women in the Metropolis: Gender and Modernity in Weimar Culture*, (1997)
- Adam Stanley, *Modernizing Tradition: Gender and Consumerism in Interwar France and Germany*, (2008)

Second World War

- Alexievich, *The Unwomanly Face of War*
- Lucie Aubrac, *Outwitting the Gestapo* (Omaha: University of Nebraska Press, 1994).
- Claire Andrieu, "Women in the French Resistance: Revisiting the Historical Record," *French Politics, Culture, and Society* vol. 18, no. 1 (Spring, 2000): 13-27.

- Goldenberg, Myrna. "Food Talk: Gendered Responses to Hunger in the Concentration Camps," in *Experience and Expression: Women, the Nazis and the Holocaust* (2003), eds. Elizabeth Baer and Myra Goldenberg, 161-179
- Victoria de Grazia, *How Fascism Ruled Women* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992).
- Dagmar Herzog, ed., *Brutality and Desire: War and Sexuality in Europe's Twentieth Century* (London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2008).
- Heineman, Elizabeth. "Gender, Sexuality, and Coming to Terms with the Past in Germany," *Central European History*, 38/1 (2005): 41-74.
- Anna Krylova, *Soviet Women in Combat: A History of Violence on the Eastern Front* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011).
- Thomas Kuhne, *The Rise and Fall of Comradeship*
- Millu, *Smoke over Birkenau*
- Miranda Pollard, *Reign of Virtue: Mobilizing Gender in Vichy France* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998).
- Sonya Rose, *Which People's War? National Identity and Citizenship in Wartime Britain, 1939-1949* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003)
- Ahn Yonson, "Taming Soldiers: The Gender politics of Japanese soldiers in Total War," in *Gender Politics and Mass Dictatorship: Global Perspectives*.
- Virgili, Fabrice, *Shorn Women*

War and Sex: Prostitution and Sexual Violence

- K. H. Adler, "Reading National Identity: Gender and Prostitution during the Occupation," *Modern and Contemporary France*, 7, 1 (1999): 50-52.
- Anonymous, *A Woman in Berlin: Eight Weeks in the Conquered City, A Diary* (London: Picador, 2006).
- Beth Bailey and David Farber, "Hotel Street: Prostitution and the Politics of War," in *Radical History Review*, 52 (1992): 54-77.
- Birgit Beck, "The Military Trials of Sexual Crimes Committed by Soldiers in the Wehrmacht, 1939-1944," in *Homefront: The Military, War and Gender in Twentieth-Century Germany*, ed. Hagemann et. al, 255-274.
- Fogarty, Richard, *Race and War in France: Colonial Subjects in the French Army, 1914-1918*, chapter on sex with French women
- Atina Grossman, "A Question of Silence: The Rape of German Women by Occupational Soldiers," in *West Germany under construction: politics, society, and culture in the Adenauer era*, Robert G. Moeller, ed. (Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan)
- Elizabeth Heineman, "Gender Sexuality, and Coming to Terms with the Past in Germany," in *Central European History*, 38/1 (2005): 41-74.
- Maria Hohn and Seungsook Moon, ed., *Over There: Living with the US Military Empire from World War Two to the Present* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2010).
- Sarah Kovner, *Occupying Power: Sex Workers and Japanese Servicemen in Overseas Japan* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2012).

Postwar Europe

General

- Duchen and Bandhauer-Schoeffmann, *When the War was over: Women, War and Peace in Europe, 1940-1956*
- Joanna Regulska and Bonnie G. Smith (eds.), *Women and Gender in Postwar Europe: From Cold War to European Union*, (2012)

England

- Dyhouse, Carol, *Girl trouble: panic and progress in the history of young women*, (2013)
Angela Davis, *Modern Motherhood: Women and Family in England, 1945 – 2000*, (2012)
Rebecca Jennings, *Tomboys and bachelor girls: A lesbian history of post-war Britain 1945-71*, (2007)
Mendes, Kathleen, *Feminism in the News: Representations of the Women's Movement since the 1960s*, (2001)
Martin Pugh, *Women and the Women's Movement in Britain, 1914-1999* (2000)
Carolyn Steedman, *Landscape for a Good Woman*, (1987)
Jeffrey Weeks, *The World We Have Won: The Remaking of Erotic and Intimate Life*, (2007)

France

- Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex* and *The Prime of Life*
J. Bourg, 'Our Sexual Revolution is not Yours': French Feminist 'Moralism' and the Limits of Desire', in Lessie Jo Fraser and Deborah Cohen, *Gender and Sexuality in 1968: Transformative Politics in the Cultural Imagination*, (2009)
Rebecca Pulju, *Women and Mass Consumer Society in Postwar France* (2011)
Sandra Reineke, *Beauvoir and Her Sisters: The Politics of Women's Bodies in France*, (2013)

Germany

- Barbara Einhorn, *Cinderella Goes to Market: Citizenship, Gender, and Women's Movements in East Central Europe*, (2nd ed., 2002)
Donna Harsch, *Revenge of the Domestic: Women, the Family, and Communism in the German Democratic Republic*, (2007)
Elizabeth Heineman, *What Difference Does a Husband Make? Women and Marital Status in Nazi and Postwar Germany*, (2003)
Herzog, *Sex after Fascism: Memory and Morality in Twentieth-century Germany*
Moeller, Robert. *Protecting Motherhood: Women and the Family in the Politics of Postwar West Germany*, 1993)
Uta Poiger, *Jazz, Rock, and Rebels: Cold War Politics and American Culture in a Divided Germany*, (2000)