

HIS 9803A 2022 Critical Moments in Women's and Gender History
Draft may be subject to change by September 2022

Wednesday 1:30-4:30 pm

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Office hours: On-line by appointment

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This course will focus on some critical moments in women's and gender history primarily in the history of North America/Europe, but also in other parts of the world. Key themes will be the evolution of women's/gender history over time, how history changes when we look outside of the political history of male elites, debates about historical periodization and interpretation, whether women's status has progressed or regressed over time, how women have been viewed historically in colonized states and debates over sexuality. Students will be given the opportunity to write an essay which will explore a topic in women's/gender history of their choice.

Attendance and preparation for class will be essential. Each student will be marked on their class participation. Contributions to discussion must address themes in or raise questions about the assigned readings. Everyone will be asked to come with points for discussion on a specific reading in classes where there is no presentation being given. Each class member will be responsible for giving a presentation based on the required class readings for one week. The following week, they will be required to submit a paper based on the class readings of approx 8 pages or 2000 words. This will be assigned based on student preference. In weeks without a presenter, students will be asked to introduce one of the assigned readings.

Students also are required to write a major essay (approx 20 pages, or 5000 words). This can either be based on primary research, or be an historiographical paper summarising the literature in a particular area of historical interest. All topics must be approved by the professor in advance. An essay proposal with annotated bibliography of a minimum of 10 sources, explaining the relevance of these sources to your essay will be due on . The major paper will be due on .

Mark Breakdown:

Class Participation	25%
Class Presentation (on course readings)	10%
Short Essay (based on class presentation) (approx 8 pages)	15%
Essay proposal and annotated bibliography (approx 8 pages, citing minimum 10 sources)	20%

Major Essay
(approx 20 pages)

30%

CLASS SCHEDULE

1. September 14 Introduction

Video: Women in the Shadows (linked through Weldon Library) Note that both the video and reading will be discussion material for class.

Background Reading:

Katherine M.J. McKenna. "Mary Brant Konwatsi'tsiaienni Degonwadonti: 'Miss Molly', Feminist Role Model or Mohawk Princess?" in Nancy L. Rhoden and Ian Steele, eds. *The Human Tradition in the American Revolution*. Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources Inc, 2000, 183-202.

2. September 21 Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives on Women's/Gender History

Required Readings:

Judith M. Bennett. "Feminist History and Women's History." *History Matters: Patriarchy and the Challenge of Feminism*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006, 13-29, 153-5.

Catherine Carstairs and Nancy Janovicek. "The Dangers of Complacency: Women's History/Gender History in Canada in the *Women's History Review* 27, No. 1 (2018) 29-40.

Groot, Joanna. "Women's History in many Places: Reflections on Plurality, Diversity and Polyversality." *Women's History Review* 27, No. 1 (2018) 109-119.

June Purvis. "A Glass Half Full? Women's History in the UK." *Women's History Review* 27, No. 1 (2018) 88-108.

Chen Yan and Karen Offen. "Women's History at the Cutting Edge: A Joint Paper in Two Voices." *Women's History Review* 27, No. 1 (2018) 6-28.

3. September 28 Pre-History and the Ancient World: The Goddess Debate

Video: *The Goddess Remembered* Available through Weldon Library and nfb.ca.

Required Readings:

Mary Condren, "Crushing the Serpent." *The Serpent and the Goddess: Women, Religion and Power in Celtic Ireland*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1989, 23-43.

Marija Gimbutas. "Women and Culture in Goddess-Oriented Old Europe." in Judith Plaskow and Carol Christ, eds. *Weaving the Visions: New Patterns in Feminist Spirituality*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1989, 63-71.

Gerda Lerner. "Introduction." "Origins." *The Creation of Patriarchy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1986. 3-35.

Lynn Meskell. "Goddesses, Gimbutas and 'New Age' Archaeology." *Antiquity*. 69 (1995) 74-86.

Rosemary Radford Ruether, "Conclusion." *Goddesses and the Divine Feminine: A Western Religious History*. Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2005, 299-308.

Ramona Wanless. "The Goddess, Syncretism, and Patriarchy: Evolution and Extinction of the Goddess during the Creation of Patriarchy in Ancient Israel." *Women in Judaism: A Multidisciplinary Journal*. 8 (2011) 1-16.

4. October 5 Women, Work and Power in the Middle Ages

Required Readings:

Judith M. Bennett. "Forgetting the Past." *Gender and History*. 20, No. 3 (2008) 669-77.

Judith M. Bennett. "Public Power and Authority in the Medieval English Countryside." in Mary Erler and Maryanne Kowaleski, eds. *Women and Power in the Middle Ages*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 1988, 18-36.

Jacqueline Murray. "Thinking About Gender: The Diversity of Medieval Perspectives." in Jennifer Carpenter and Sally-Beth MacLean. *Power of the Weak: Studies on Medieval Women*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995, 1-26.

Michelle M. Sauer. *Gender in Medieval Culture*. London and New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2015, 125-48.

Sally V. Smith. "Women and Power in the Late Medieval English Village: A Reconsideration." *Women's History Review*. 16, No. 3 (2007) 311-321.

5. October 12 Women in the Renaissance and After: A Period of Decline?

Required Readings:

Susan D. Amussen. "The Contradictions of Patriarchy in Early Modern England." *Gender & History*. 30, No. 2 (2018) 343-353.

Joan Kelly. "Did Women Have a Renaissance?" "Early Feminist Theory and the *Querelle des Femmes*." *Women, History, Theory: The Essays of Joan Kelly*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1984, 19-50, 65-109.

Merry E. Wiesner. "Women's Defense of Their Public Role." in Mary Beth Rose, ed. *Women in The Middle Ages and Renaissance*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1986, 1-27.

Merry Wiesner-Hanks. "Women's History and Social History: Are Structures Necessary?" in Ann J. Shutte, Thomas Kuehn and Silvana Menchi, eds. *Time, Space and Women's Lives in Early Modern Europe*. Kirksville, MI: Truman State University Press, 2001, 2-16

6. October 19 Witchcraft: The 'Women's Holocaust'?

Video: *The Burning Times* Available through Weldon Library and nfb.ca.

Required Readings:

Marianne Hester. "Patriarchal Reconstruction and Witch Hunting." in Jonathan Barry, Marianne Hester and Gareth Roberts, eds. *Witchcraft in Early Modern Europe*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1996, 289-306.

Christina Larner. "Was Witch-Hunting Woman-Hunting?" in Darren Oldridge, ed., *The Witchcraft Reader*. 2nd ed. London and New York: Routledge 2008, 253-6.

Carolyn Merchant. "Nature as Disorder: Women as Witches." *The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology and the Scientific Revolution*, San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1980, 127-148.

Merry E. Wiesner. "Witchcraft." *Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993, 218-238.

Laurel Zwissler. "In *Memorium Maleficarum*: Feminist and Pagan Mobilizations of the Burning Times." In Laura Kounine and Michael Ostling, eds. *Emotions in the History of Witchcraft*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016, 249-268.

7. October 26 The Enlightenment Debate on Gender

Required Readings:

Barbara Caine. "Feminism and the Rights of Women." *English Feminism, 1780-1980*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997, 11-43

Dena Goodman. "Women and the Enlightenment." in Renate Bridenthal, Claudia Koonz and Susan Stuard eds. *Becoming Visible: Women in European History*. 2nd ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1987, 233-264.

Ellen Pollack. "Introduction: Women Daring to Know in the Age of Enlightenment." in *A Cultural History of Women*. vol. 4, London and New York : Bloomsbury Academic, 2013, 1-27.

Jean Jacques Rousseau. *The Social Contract*. (1762) and *Émile; Or, On Education*. (1762) excerpted handout. 470-1, 363-4, 220-7.

Mary Wollstonecraft. *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. (1792), excerpted handout.

Essay Proposals Due

November 2 Reading Week

8. November 9 Early Victorianism: The Gender Divide

Leonore Davidoff. "Gender and the 'Great Divide': Public and Private in British Gender History." *Journal of Women's History* 15, No. 1 (2003) 11-27.

Catherine Hall. "The Early Formation of Victorian Domestic Ideology." in *White, Male and Middle-Class: Explorations in Feminism and History*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 1992, 75-93.

Catherine Hall. "Strains in the 'Firm of Wife, Children and Friends': Middle-Class Women and Employment in Early Nineteenth-Century England." in *Ibid.* 172-202.

Anna Krylova. "Gender Binary and the Limits of Poststructural Method." *Gender and History* 28, No. 2 (2016) 307-12.

Deborah Simonton. *Women in European Culture and Society: Gender, Skill and Identity from 1700*. New York: Routledge, 2011, 131-7.

Carroll Smith-Rosenberg. "The Female World of Love and Ritual: Relations Between Women in Nineteenth Century America." *Disorderly Conduct: Visions of Gender in Victorian America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1986, 53-76.

9. November 16 Suffrage and Social Reform

Video: *Women on the March Part 1* Available through Weldon Library and nfb.ca

Antoinette M. Burton. "The White Women's Burden: British Feminists and 'The Indian Woman,' 1865-1915." in Nupur Chaudhuri and Margaret Strobel, eds. *Western Women and Imperialism*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1992, 137-57.

Louise Shapiro Sanders. “‘Equal Laws Based Upon an Equal Standard’: The Garret Sisters, the Contagious Diseases Acts, and the Sexual Politics of Victorian and Edwardian Feminism Revisited.” *Women’s History Review* 24, No. 3 (2015) 389-409.

Morgan Simon. “‘A Sort of Land Debateable’: Female Influence, Civic Virtue and Middle-Class Identity, c. 1839 - c. 1860” *Women’s History Review* 13, No.2 (2004) 183-209.

Vicinus, Martha. “Male Space and Women’s Bodies: The Suffrage Movement.” *Independent Women: Work and Community for Single Women 1850-1920*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1985, 247-280.

10. November 23 Non-Conforming Sexuality

Harriette Andreadis. “The Erotics of Female Friendship in Early Modern England.” in Susan Frye and Karen Robertson, eds. *Maids and Mistresses, Cousins and Queens: Women’s Alliances in Early Modern England*. New York: Oxford, 1999, 241-258.

Judith M. Bennett. “The L-Word in Women’s History.” *History Matters: Patriarchy and the Challenge of Feminism*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006, 108-127.

Jona Roelens. “A Woman Like Any Other: Female Sodomy, Hermaphroditism, and Witchcraft in Seventeenth-Century Bruges.” *Journal of Women’s History* 29, No. 4 (2017) 11-34.

Michelle M. Sauer. *Gender in Medieval Culture*. London and New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2015, 67-100.

11. November 30 Colonialism in Action: The Case of the “Women’s War” in Nigeria

Nwando Achebe. *Farmers, Traders, Warriors, and Kings: Female Power and Authority in Northern Igbo land, 1900-1960*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2005, 161-195.

Himani Bannerji. “Politics and the Writing of History.” in Ruth Roach Pierson and Nupur Chaudhuri, eds. *Nation, Empire, Colony: Historicizing Gender and Race*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1998, 287-301.

Toyin Falola. *Colonialism and Violence in Nigeria*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2009, 108-130.

Marc Matera, Misty L. Bastian and Susan Kingsley Kent. *The Women’s War of 1929: Gender and Violence in Colonial Nigeria*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013, 188-227, 235-9.

Lynn M. Thomas. “Historicising Agency.” *Gender and History* 28, No. 2 (2016) 324-39.

12. December 7 Unconventional Sources and Interpretive Issues for the History of Women and Gender

Maria Agren. *Making a Living, Making a Difference: Gender and Work in Early Modern European Society*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017, 1-23.

Jean Allman. "The Disappearance of Hannah Kudjoe: Nationalism, Feminism and the Tyrannies of History." *Journal of Women's History*. 21, No. 3 (2009) 13-35.

Nell Irvin Painter. "Soul Murder and Slavery: Toward a Fully Loaded Cost Accounting." Linda K. Kerber, Alice Kessler-Harris and Kathryn Kish Sklar, eds. *U.S. History as Women's History: New Feminist Essays*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1995, 125-146.

Jan Bender Shetler. "The Gendered Spaces of Historical Knowledge: Women's Knowledge and Extraordinary Women in the Serengeti District, Tanzania." *The International Journal of African Historical Studies*. 36, No. 2 (2003) 283-307.

Final Essays Due