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:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Presentation (on course readings)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Essay (based on class presentation)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>(approx 8 pages)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay proposal and annotated bibliography</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(approx 8 pages, citing minimum 10 sources)</td>
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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:


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

Required Readings:


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:


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

**Required Readings:**


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

**Required Readings:**


6. October 19 Witchcraft: The ‘Women’s Holocaust’?

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

Required Readings:


7. October 26 The Enlightenment Debate on Gender

Required Readings:


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**


9. **November 16 Suffrage and Social Reform**

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


10. November 23 Non-Conforming Sexuality


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


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


Final Essays Due