

The History of Women in Europe, 1870_Present

This course will be a chronological and thematic survey of the history of women and gender in Europe since 1870. On the one hand, it will explore the changing context of women's lives over the course of the 20th century, and how women negotiated the choices and constraints they were faced with. We will examine both the everyday reality for women of different social classes and races, and their participation in the broader social and political movements that defined the 20th century. In a century that witnessed dramatic changes in women's roles, we will look at these changes but also at the more subtle continuities. In order to frame a history of European women in this period, women's historians have long argued that it is important to both understand the household life that many women defined themselves through, and to recognize the often-hard-to-see roles they played in public life as well as the connections between these "private" and "public" lives. These connections will be made by asking how normative concepts of masculine and feminine--ie, gender-- affected broader historical processes, events and public policies.

The following texts for the course have been ordered through Groundworks:

Lives and Voices: Sources in European Women's History, Lisa DiCaprio and Merry Wiesner
Becoming Visible: Women in European History, Third Edition, eds. Claudia Koonz, Renate Bridenthal

All other readings are contained in a supplementary packet, which is available for purchase through www.universityreaders.com.

There are two different options for course assignments. The first option consists of a midterm and a final, as well as a short, 5_7 page essay. All assignments must be completed to receive a final grade.

The second option is for those students who enroll in a discussion section. There are two sections, both on Thursdays, from 9:30-10:20 and from 2:00 to 2:50. Enrolling in a section is OPTIONAL, but attendance is mandatory once enrolled. Those who enroll will have section participation count as part of their grade in place of the midterm. Their two written assignments will be the final exam and the paper. Sign-up for sections is "first come, first serve."

Introduction

Sept 21 Doing Women's History: From "Herstory" to Changing History
Gisela Bock, "Women's History and Gender
History" in Gender and History in Western Europe

Part I: A Social History of European Women, 1870-1914

Sept 26 Life and Work: Middle Class Women
Victorian Women, docs.#13,17,19,28,33,63
History of Her Own,ch.2,"Women in the Parlors" pp.129_166

Sept 28 Life and Work: Working Class Women
Becoming Visible, ch. 11
Marjory Spring Rice, Working Class Wives, ch.5, "The
Day's Work"
Victorian Women, doc.#83

Part II: Women, Gender and the State, 1870-1914

October 3 Citizenship and the Liberal State: the Suffrage Debate
J.S.Mill, "On the Subjection of Women", in The Feminist
Papers, ed. Alice Rossi
Lives and Voices, doc. #107, Barbara Leigh Smith
Bodichon
Women, the Family and Freedom, William Gladstone letter,
doc.#55
Before the Vote was Won, John Bright speech (pp 247-256)

October 5 Nationalism and Motherhood
Selections from Maternity: Letters from Working Women,
ed. Margaret L.Davies
Ellen Ross, "The Value of Babies: Transforming
Motherhood, 1900-1918", in Love and Toil: Motherhood in
Outcast London,
Lives and Voices, doc.#135

October 10 Prostitution, Sexuality and Moral Reform

Judith Walkowitz, "Dangerous Sexualities", ch. 14 of
History of Women, IV
VW, doc.#89 (i William Acton), 91
Lives and Voices, doc #123

October 12 Gender, Race and Empire
Becoming Visible, ch.14

Lives and Voices, docs #112-114

October 17 A Science of Woman: Biology as Destiny

Lorna Duffin, "Prisoners of Progress: Women and Evolution", in The Nineteenth Century Woman, eds. Delamont and Duffin

Walter Bagehot, "Biology and "Women's Rights", Popular Science Monthly, 1879

Herbert Spencer, "Psychology of the Sexes", Popular Science Monthly, 1873

Part III: Politics by Women: Radicals and Reformers

October 19 Middle Class Feminism: Difference or Equality?

Becoming Visible, ch. 12

WFF, docs.#47-48

Lives and Voices, docs.# 119,121-122, 128-130, 134

October 24 Women in Socialist Movements

Becoming Visible, ch.13

WFF, doc.#13

Lives and Voices, docs. #125-127

Alexandra Kollantai, "The Social Basis of the Woman Question"

October 26 Women in Revolution: Russia

Becoming Visible, ch.15

Alexandra Kollantai, "Sexual Relations and the Class Struggle"

Lives and Voices, doc.#141, 153

WFF, docs.#76

October 30 Midterm

Part IV: Transitions

November 2 & 7 The Interwar Period: A New Woman?

Ute Frevert, Women in German History, ch.13, "The First World War: The Father of Women's Emancipation?"

Ann-Marie Sohn, "Between the Wars in France and England", History of Women, ch.3, V.5

Maude Royden, "Modern Love" (1917)

Lives and Voices, docs.# 133, 138, 144

November 9 Women and Fascism

WFF, docs.# 105_6
Becoming Visible, ch. 17
Lives and Voices, doc.#155, 158

Part V: A Divided Europe: Women under Democracy and Communism

November 14 Women in Western Europe: Citizens in the Welfare State

Becoming Visible, ch. 18
Lives and Voices, doc.# 171, 177

November 16 Race, Ethnicity and Gender in the "New" Europe

Lives and Voices, doc.#183-184
Becoming Visible, ch. 20, pp. 552-564

Clare Krojzl, "Refusing to be Invisible: Turkish Women in Berlin", in Women and Political Conflict

November 21 Second Wave Feminisms

Gisela Kaplan, "Contemporary Feminist Movements in Western Europe: Paradigms for Change?", in The Idea of Europe

Becoming Visible, ch. 20, pp.564-570
Lives and Voices, docs.# 173-176

Hazel Carby, "White Women Listen! Black Feminism and the Boundaries of sisterhood", in Black British Feminism

"Towards a Queer Planet", in Queer Notions

November 28 Women Under "Communism" in Eastern Europe

Becoming Visible, ch.19

Maria-B. Watson-Franke, "I am Somebody!: Womens' Changing Sense of Self in the GDR", ch.13 in Connecting Spheres

November 30 Women in Post-Communist Eastern Europe

Zuzana Kiczko and Etela Farkasova, "The Emancipation of Women: A Concept that Failed", in Gender, Politics and Post-Communism

Christina Schenck, "Lesbians and their Emancipation in the Former GDR", in We are Everywhere
Lives and Voices, doc.#181, 182