Spring 2005
History 229: Gender in Modern Europe

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Office Hours: Monday 10-11am; Tuesday 2-3pm; and by appointment

Course Description

In this course, we will be looking at the history of Europe through the lens of gender. In particular, we will be looking at how gender roles, gender expectations and the opportunities for participation for men and women changed over the course of the 19th and 20th centuries. In part, we will be using gender as a way of gaining greater insight into different forms of social and political organization. In part we will be using these forms of social and political organization as a way of understanding how ideologies of gender function in diverse contexts. We will look at a wide variety of political trends from feminism to the development of the welfare state to liberalism, communism and fascism, as well as looking at the influence of powerful events such as the world wars on the development of gender roles in modern Europe.

The course format is a combination of lecture and discussion.

Prerequisites and Requirements:

This course assumes a background in European history (either through taking AP European history or History 102). If you do not have this background, please come see me as soon as possible so that we can determine if this course is right for you.

Your grade is based on a combination of several requirements that are spelled out as follows:

10% Reading Intro
10% Class Participation
25% Review Essay #1
30% Review Essay #2
25% Final Exam

10% of your grade is based on your reading introduction. Within the second week of class, everyone will have to sign-up to do a reading intro. You will do this intro in pairs of two. For a reading intro, you will sign-up to introduce the readings for a given class session. To do this, you will send reading questions to the class by 5pm two days before the readings are due (so for a discussion on Friday, you
will send them out by Wednesday, etc.). In class, you will introduce the readings giving a five to ten minute account of your responses to the arguments, how you think they fit together, etc. This should **not** be a summary of the reading but rather an analysis. You will also briefly suggest a question or two for us to begin our discussion with. Prior to doing a reading intro it is suggested (but not required) that you meet with me.

55% of your grade (cumulatively) is based on two review essays. Each essay will be 6-8 pages in length and address the literature on a specific topic in the gender history of modern Europe. You will be given several topic choices as well as suggested readings for each topic; these topics will build upon the topics we will have already addressed in class. You must analyze two sources, at least one of which must be from the list provided. This review essay is intended not to summarize the books/articles you discuss, but rather to critically analyze them. If you are unsure of the distinction between the two, you should definitely come and talk to me. In any event, we will discuss these essays in more detail over the course of the semester.

**ALL late papers will be downgraded 1/3 of a grade for every 24-hour period they are late.**

25% of your grade is based on a final exam. This will be comprised of several short ids, and two longer essays. These essays will address some of the larger narratives that we have been discussing over the course of the term.

All work for this class is governed by the honor code. You must write and sign the honor code pledge at the end of each assignment. We will talk briefly about the honor code in class, but if you have further questions, please go to: [http://www.oberlin.edu/students/links-life/rules-regs.html#honor](http://www.oberlin.edu/students/links-life/rules-regs.html#honor).

Please follow the following citation form: [http://www.oberlin.edu/faculty/svolk/citation.htm](http://www.oberlin.edu/faculty/svolk/citation.htm).

**Readings**

The following books have been ordered at the Oberlin College Bookstore (and placed on reserve).


Additionally many readings have been placed on ERes. Readings on ERes are marked with an *.

Finally, many readings are to be found on either JSTOR, EJC (the OhioLink Electronic Journals Collection), INGENTA or other online databases.
The best way to locate journal articles is to do an Obis search for the title of the journal (NOT the article title). You can then usually browse to find the specific issue you need.

Schedule of Lectures & Readings

February 7

Introduction

February 9

What is Gender History?, pt. 1

Recommended (but NOT required):


February 11

What is Gender History?, pt. 2

Virginia Woolf, *Three Guineas*

Reading Intro #1

February 14

Catching Up on Early Modern Women’s History

February 16

French Revolution, pt. 1

February 18

French Revolution, pt. 2

Lynn Hunt, *The Family Romance of the French Revolution*,

Reading Intro #2

February 21

French Revolution, pt. 3

Joan Scott, *Only Paradoxes to Offer*, Chapter 2

Reading Intro #3

February 23

Separate Spheres/Domestic Ideology

February 25

Industrialization & Class, pt. 1
Laura Frader, “Doing Capitalism’s Work: Women in the Western European Industrial Economy,” BV, 295-326

February 28  Industrialization & Class, pt. 2


March 2  The Revolutions of 1848

March 4  Nineteenth-Century Feminism
Joan Scott, Only Paradoxes to Offer, Chapter 3-5. Karen Offen, “Contextualizing the Theory and Practice of Feminism in Nineteenth-Century Europe (1789-1914),” BV, 327-356
Reading Intro #4

March 7  Criminality & Deviance: Prostitution

March 9  Criminality & Deviance, pt. 2

Reading Intro #5

March 11  Criminality & Deviance, pt. 3

March 14  Imperialism

Margaret Strobel, “Gender, Race, and Empire in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Africa and Asia,” BV, 389-416
*Lora Wildenthal, “Race, Gender and Citizenship in the German Colonial Empire,” Tensions of Empire
Reading Intro #6

March 16  Sexuality at the Fin de siècle

March 18  Sexuality, pt. 2

March 21  
**World War I and Women’s Agency**

March 23  
**World War I & Trauma**


March 25  
**NO CLASS—BUT FIRST PAPER DUE, 1:30PM**

**SPRING BREAK**

April 4  
**Revolution in Europe**

Deszos Kostalyani, *Anna Edes*  

April 6  
**Post-War & Revolutionary Crisis**

April 8  
**The New Woman in Germany and France**


Film: *Pandora’s Box* (1928), screening: April 7 7-9pm, location: tba

April 11  
**Post-World War I Crisis and Male Anxieties**

April 13  
**Fascism & Gender**

Claudia Koonz, “The ‘Woman Question’ in Authoritarian Regimes,” BV, 463-492

April 15  
**DAY OFF**
April 18  Fascism & Sexuality


Reading Intro #11

April 20  World War II

April 22  World War II


Elizabeth Harvey, “‘We Forgot All About Jews and Poles’: German Women and the ‘Ethnic Struggle’ in Occupied Poland,” Contemporary European History vol 10, no. 3, 447-461. Available on EJC.


Reading Intro #12

April 25  Gender & The Holocaust

April 27  Post-War Crisis

April 29  The 1950s in Western Europe & “Normality”


Reading Intro #13

May 2  Gender under Communism: Paradigms and Models

ESSAY #2 DUE AT THE START OF CLASS
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Gender under Communism: Experiences</td>
<td>Christa Wolf, <em>The Quest for Christa T.</em></td>
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<td>Reading Intro #14</td>
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<td>May 9</td>
<td>Youth Rebellion in Western Europe</td>
<td>*Dagmar Herzog, “‘Pleasure, Sex, and Politics Belong Together”: Post-Holocaust Memory and the Sexual Revolution in West Germany,” in <em>Critical Inquiry</em> 24/2 (Winter 1998): 393-444</td>
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<td>Film: <em>Quadrophenia</em> (1979)—screening, May 8, 2-4pm, location tba</td>
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<td>Reading Intro #15</td>
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<td>May 11</td>
<td>Decolonization &amp; Immigration</td>
<td>Film: <em>Angst Essen Seele Auf</em> (Ali, or Fear Eats the Soul) (1974)—screening</td>
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<td>May 10, 7-9pm, location tba</td>
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<td>May 13</td>
<td>Final Exam Review</td>
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