Syllabus for Women in Modern Europe

In this course, we shall examine women’s roles in modern European history to discover how concepts of gender have affected our understanding of Europe’s past and influenced the fates of European women and men. Although we begin by looking at women in pre-industrial Europe, our focus will be on the ways that liberalism, feminism, industrialization, socialism, and urbanization contributed to the transformation of European society, and on how women went from chattels to citizens.

Required reading:

All other required readings are available on Sakai

Strongly recommended, especially if you have not taken a course in modern European history
A recent, reputable textbook on post-1700 European history. I recommend Lynn Hunt, Thomas R. Martin, Barbara H. Rosenwein, Bonnie G. Smith, The Making of the West, Volume C: Since 1750, but you may also use a recent edition of the text you used in Western or World Civilization, e.g., Jackson J. Spielvogel, Western Civilization, Volume II: Since 1500. Please do not hesitate to check with me about the suitability of the text you choose.

Requirements:
Conduct, attendance, and participation (10 points)
Students are expected to attend each and every scheduled class, to arrive on time, to come prepared in terms of the reading and writing assignments, and to participate in class discussions. If students use mobile devices in class, they are expected to use them only for taking notes or viewing materials for the course that are posted on Sakai. There are no excused absences. Courtesy dictates that students who cannot attend a scheduled class should let me know via email or voicemail prior to that class.

Written comments on each week’s assigned secondary source (50 points)
One peer-reviewed secondary source is part of each week’s required reading. Students will show their familiarity with each week’s assigned essay by writing a 2-3-page paper that (1) places the author’s main
argument in their own words; (2) comments on the primary sources mined by the author; and (3) steps back from the article in order to put it in perspective with regard to issues of gender and history. Only papers submitted via Sakai prior to the class on which they are due will count. Students can earn up to 5 points for each paper. There are 11 opportunities to write comments; the 10 papers with the highest grades will count towards the final grade. Detailed instructions for this paper will be posted on Sakai.

Midterm examination (15 points)
An exam on the first part of the course midway through the semester

Final examination (25 points)
An exam on the course as a whole.

When you complete this course you will have learned:
How historians treat primary and secondary sources
The basic contours of modern European history
How gender affects the historical experience

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Introduction: Gender and history
Tuesday, September 1

Constructing the role of women in modern Europe
Thursday, September 3
Read: Lives and Voices, 1-8 and sources #72 and 81

Labor Day – no class
Tuesday, September 8

Women in pre-industrial Europe
Thursday, September 10
Read: Lives and Voices, sources #75, 77, and 80

Tuesday, September 15
*Prior to the start of class, turn in comments on Easton via Sakai

Women and the Enlightenment
Thursday, September 17
Read: Lives and Voices, sources #89, 90, and 91
Recommended: Making of the West, chapter 18, or equivalent reading in Spielvogel, or another recent text on the Enlightenment

Tuesday, September 22

*Prior to the start of class, turn in comments on Goodman via Sakai

**Women and the French Revolution**

Thursday, September 24

Read: *Lives and Voices*, sources #92, 94, 95, and 98

Recommended: *Making of the West*, chapter 19, or equivalent reading in Spielvogel, or another recent text on the French Revolution

Tuesday, September 29


*Prior to the start of class, turn in comments on DiCaprio via Sakai

**Women, work, and the Industrial Revolution**

Thursday, October 1

Read: *Lives and Voices*, sources #100, 102, and 104

Recommended: *Making of the West*, chapter 21, or equivalent reading in Spielvogel, or another recent text on the Industrial Revolution

Tuesday, October 6


*Prior to the start of class, turn in comments on Galbi via Sakai

**Domesticity and its discontents**

Thursday, October 8

Read: *Lives and Voices*, sources #111, 112, and 118

Tuesday, October 13


*Prior to the start of class, turn in comments on Russell via Sakai

**The rise of a citizenry**

Thursday, October 15

Read: *Lives and Voices*, sources #107, 108, and 121

Recommended: *Making of the West*, chapter 22, or equivalent reading in Spielvogel, or another recent text on the rise of the nation-state
Tuesday, October 20

*Prior to the start of class, turn in comments on Fidelis via Sakai

**Midterm examination**
Thursday, October 22

**Socialism and feminism**
Tuesday, October 27
Read: *Lives and Voices*, sources #125, 126, and 127
Recommended: *Making of the West*, chapter 23, or equivalent reading in Spielvogel, or another recent text on imperialism and mass politics

Thursday, October 29

*Prior to the start of class, turn in comments on Eichner via Sakai

**Fin-de-siècle challenges**
Tuesday, November 3
Read: *Lives and Voices*, sources #119, 123, 124, and 129
Recommended: *Making of the West*, chapter 24, or equivalent reading in Spielvogel, or another recent text on modernity and pre-World War I culture and society

Thursday, November 5

*Prior to the start of class, turn in comments on Matysik via Sakai

**Women and the cataclysm**
Tuesday, November 10
Read: *Lives and Voices*, sources #133, 134, and 135
Recommended: *Making of the West*, chapter 25, pp. 836-844, or equivalent section in Spielvogel, or another recent text on the Great War (World War I)

Thursday, November 12
Read: Essay posted on Sakai – Daniela Rossini, “Feminism and Nationalism: The National Council of Italian Women, the World
Women in the wake of war
Tuesday, November 17
Read: Lives and Voices, sources #141, 153, and 154
Recommended: Making of the West, chapter 25, pp. 845-872, or equivalent reading in Spielvogel, or another text on the Treaty of Versailles and the revolutions in Russia

Thursday, November 19
*Prior to the start of class, turn in comments on Koenker via Sakai

Women and Nazism
Tuesday, November 24
Read: Lives and Voices, sources 155, 157, 158, and 159
Recommended: Making of the West, chapter 26, pp. 873-890, or equivalent reading in Spielvogel, or another text on the rise of fascism and Nazism

Thanksgiving – no class
Thursday, November 26

Women and Nazism (cont’d)
Tuesday, December 1
*Prior to the start of class, turn in comments on Timm via Sakai

Women and the Second World War
Thursday, December 3
Read: Lives and Voices, sources #164, 166, and 169
Recommended: Making of the West, chapter 26, pp. 890-901, or equivalent reading in Spielvogel, or another text on World War II

Tuesday, December 8
*Prior to the start of class, turn in comments on Feinstein via Sakai
Considering women in modern Europe
Thursday, December 10

Final exam