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—i.e., gender—affected broader historical processes, events and public policies.

The following text for the course has been ordered at the UCSD bookstore:

Ann Taylor Allen, Women in 20th Century Europe (Palgrave, 2008)

All other readings (“primary” texts from the era are marked with a * on the syllabus) are on electronic reserves at the UCSD library, accessed by the password: pr149

Course assignments consist of a midterm and a final (final exam schedule), as well as a short, 5-7 page essay. All assignments must be completed to receive a final grade.

Introduction
March 31 Doing Women’s History: From “Herstory” to Changing History
Gisela Bock, “Women’s History and Gender History” in Gender and History in Western Europe pp 25-42.

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

April 2 Life and Work: Middle Class Women
History of Her Own, ch.2, “Women in the Parlors” pp.129-166
April 7  Life and Work: Working Class Women

Primary Documents:
*Marjory Spring Rice, Working Class Wives, ch.5, "The Day's Work" (pp 94-127)
*Victorian Women, doc.#83(386-392)

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

April 9  Citizenship and the Liberal State: the Suffrage Debate

Primary Documents
*J.S.Oil, "On the Subjection of Women", in The Feminist Papers, ed. Alice Rossi (pp 196-238)
*Barbara Leigh Smith Bodichon,"Female Suffrage", in Lives and Voices, doc. #107 (pp301-309),
*William Gladstone, doc #55 (pp 222-225) in Women, the Family and Freedom
*John Bright, (pp 247-56) in Before the Vote was Won

April 14  Nationalism and Motherhood
Ellen Ross, “The Value of Babies: Transforming Motherhood, 1900-1918", Ch 7, Love and Toil: Motherhood in Outcast London (pp 195-221, 281-9)

Primary Documents:
*Selections from Maternity: Letters from Working Women, ed. Margaret L.Davies (Preface, pp1-49,124-34,150-55)
*Ellen Key, in European Women: A Documentary History, edited by Eleanor Riemer and John Fout, doc #40, (p 171-6)

April 16  Gender, Race and Empire
Lynn Abrams, The Making of Modern Woman, ch. 9 (pp243-65)

Primary Documents:
*Lives and Voices, docs #112-114(323-338)

April 21  A Science of Woman: Biology as Destiny
Primary Documents:

Part III: Politics by Women: Radicals and Reformers

April 23  Middle Class Feminism: Difference or Equality?
Rachel Fuchs, Women in 19th Century Europe, ch.9 (pp155-74)

Primary Documents:
* WFF, docs.#47-48 (pp191-200)
* Lives and Voices, doc# 119 (pp347-351)
* "The Making of a Militant", "The Vote for Women", and "Call to Women", in European Women, docs # 18-21 (pp71-84)

April 28  Women in Socialist Movements
Rachel Fuchs, Women in 19th Century Europe, ch.9 (pp174-6)

Primary Documents:
* WFF, doc.#13(pp73-81)
* Clara Zetkin, in Lives and Voices, doc #125 (pp371-76)
* Alexandra Kollantai, "The Social Basis of the Woman Question", Selected Writings of AK, pp 58-73
* "A Socialist Platform", "Becoming a Socialist", and "The Meaning of Work", in European Women, docs #15, 23, 24 (pp 55-6, 87-93)

April 30  Women in Revolution: Russia
Allen, Women in 20th Century Europe, pp 42-48

Primary Documents:
* Alexandra Kollantai, "Sexual Relations and the Class Struggle" and "Communism and the Family", Selected Writings of AK, pp 237-260
* Debates on the Family Code, in Lives and Voices, doc #153(471-480)
* Lenin, in WFF, doc.#76(pp286-89)

May 5  Midterm

Part IV: Transitions

May 7&12  The Interwar Period: A New Woman?
Allen, chapters 1&2
Primary Documents:
* Maude Royden, "Modern Love" (ch 2, pp 36-63, 1917 edition)
* Elsa Hermann, “This is the New Woman”, in Lives and Voices, doc# 144 (pp455-457)
* Sylvia Pankhurst, “How to Meet Industrial Conscription”, In L&V, doc #133 (pp410-13)

May 14  Women, Fascism and World War II
Allen, pp 51-59

Primary Documents:
* Adolf Hitler and Gertrud Scholtz-Klink, in WFF, docs.# 105-6 (pp375-381)
  * Guida Diehl, “A New Type of Woman” in European Women, doc 26 (pp106-110)

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

May 19  Women in Democratic Europe to 1970: Citizens in the Welfare State
Allen, chapters 4&5

May 21 & 26 Second Wave Feminisms
Allen, chapter 7

Primary Documents:
* French Connections, ch.6, “Radical Lesbianism” (p78-100), “Feminist and Communist” (p.116-123)
  * German Feminism, #22(178-80)“Aid for Battered Women,” and #45(307-0)“Speech by the Action Council for Women’s Lib
  * Pragna Patel, ‘Third Wave Feminism and Black Women’s Activism in Britain”, in Lives and Voices, #183(pp612-16)

May 28 Race, Ethnicity and Gender in the “New” Europe
Irene Donohoue Clyne, “Muslim Women: Some Western Fictions”, in Muslim Women in the UK and Beyond, edited by Haifaa Jawad and Tansin Benn, (pp 19-37)
Clare Krojzl, “Refusing to be Invisible: Turkish Women in Berlin”, in Women and Political Conflict, edited by Rosemary Ridd and Helen Callaway (pp 193-213)

Primary Documents:
* German Feminism, #26(pp 190-92)“Turkish Women in Berlin”
June 2  The Other Europe: Women Under Communism
Allen, chs 6 & 8

**Primary Documents:**
* Daughters of Eve: Women’s Writing from the GDR, edited by Nancy Lukens and Dorothy Rosenberg, pp 169-177, 251-62
* Zuzana Kiczkova and Etela Farkasova, "The Emancipation of Women: A Concept that Failed", in Gender, Politics and Post-Communism (pp 84-94)
* Christina Schenck, “Lesbians and their Emancipation in the Former GDR”, in We are Everywhere: A Historical Sourcebook of Gay and Lesbian Politics, pp 817-823

June 4  Women at the End of the 20th Century
Allen, ch.9 and Conclusion