Women & Gender in Early Modern Europe:  
Winter 2008: HIEU 147/H&SS 1313/M-W-F 12-12:50

This course studies European women & gender from about 1500 to 1700, a time central to the modern era that includes the Renaissance, the Reformation, the rise of capitalism, & colonialism. The class is organized around three major themes: new trends in intellectual, political, & cultural life; the human body, sexuality, & work; and spiritual beliefs & experiences—all the issues examined in the course are crucial to understanding earlier & later historical eras. In the particular era under study women, as individuals & groups, both gained and lost autonomy in ways different from men.

Required Texts (at the University Bookstore and also on reserve at Geisel Library):
Behn, Aphra. Oroonoko or, the Royal Slave. [W.W. Norton ed.]
Brown, Judith C. & Robert C. Davis. Gender and Society in Renaissance Italy.
Davis, Natalie Zemon. The Return of Martin Guerre.
King, M.L. & A. Rabil. Her Immaculate Hand: Selected Works by & about the Women Humanists of Quattrocento Italy.
Lafayette, Madame de. The Princesse de Clèves (translated by Terence Cave).
Wiesner, Merry E. Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe.

Suggested Texts (at the University Bookstore and also on reserve at Geisel Library)
Algren, Gillian. Teresa of Avila and the Politics of Sanctity.

Also required (and on reserve at Geisel Library):
1. HIEU 147 Reader at CAL COPY by 1/8/08, 3251 Holiday Ct. #103. Ph: 858-452-9949; www.calcopy.com
2. See the film The Return of Martin Guerre. Thursday, February 13, 7:30 p.m., room TBA; also be on reserve at the Film & Video Reserves, Geisel Library.

Assignments—beyond, of course, your attentive & regular attendance.

OPTION I:  
1. In class mid-term, TWO DAYS: Wed. 30 January (first 30 minutes of class) & Fri. 1 February (50 minutes). 30%
2. A 6-8 page essay based primarily on course readings, due at start of class, Fri. 22 February. Prompts will be handed out on Monday, 4 February. 35%
3. A 6-8 page take home final; two essay questions out of a choice of four questions, based on our course readings, will be provided. The essay may be turned in before our final exam date, 21 March 2003 (in a place I will designate, see p. 3). 35%
*NOTE: If you wish to fulfill your college's "significant writing" requirement of a 10-15 page essay, you may do so by speaking with me and giving me written notice of intent BY MONDAYOF WEEK 6. You must use at least one of our primary and/or secondary sources in addition to other sources in your essay. These essays will be due Monday of Week 9 (3 March).

OPTION II:  
1. A weekly section (50 minutes) will be offered instead of the mid-term. It will be worth 30% of your grade. Because only 2 sections can be offered, each with a maximum enrollment of 33, not all students will be able to take this option. Times will be announced on 7 January and signup sheets will be passed around; there is no section meeting for week 1.
2. & 3: Assignments 2 & 3 as outlined above are required for students taking this option; you may use the course to fulfill your college’s significant writing requirement (see above for details).
Schedule of Lectures & Discussions. Please do all readings before class meetings.

Week 1:
7 January Introduction and Overview
9 January Ideas about Women, Men & Children in Early Modern Europe
11 January Intersections between the Law and Ideas of Gender
   Readings: Wiesner, ch. 1

Week 2:
14 January Subordination or Empowerment in Pre-Reformation Europe?
16 January The Female Life-Cycle: Reproduction and Household Duties: Fact and Fiction
   Readings: Wiesner, ch. 2
18 January Literary Lessons about Married Life
   CR: pp.5-10 Boccaccio's Decameron: "Tenth Day, Tenth Night" (Griselda Story) & 11-16, "Fabula vs. Figura"

Week 3:
21 January MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY—NO CLASS
23 January Gender and "Public Spaces"
   Readings: Brown, introduction, chs. 1 & 2; King, Part I, #3 & 5
25 January Law, Gender and "Public Space"
   Readings: Brown, chs. 3 & 4
   [Study Guide for Mid-Term handed out]

Week 4:
28 January Overview of the World of Work for Early Modern Men and Women
   Readings: Wiesner, ch. 3; Brown, ch. 4
30 January Part I of in-class mid-term: short answer, 30 minutes; last 20 minutes, discussion of Part II of exam
1 February Part II of in-class mid-term—2 short essays, whole class time allowed.

Week 5:
4 February A "Golden Age" of Women's Paid Labor?
6 February Understanding and Healing the Body
   Readings: Brown, ch. 6; CR: Wiesner, "Early Modern Midwifery," pp. 25-34
8 February Women as Creators: Artists, Musicians, Scientists, and Scholars
   Wiesner, ch. 5; King, Part III, #11, 12, 15, 23, 24; Optional: See the first half of the film: The Artist was a Woman, on reserve at the Film and Video viewing room in Geisel Library

Week 6:
11 February The Role of Literacy and Gender in Religious Change
   Readings: Wiesner, chs. 4 & 6

***12 February*** FILM: THE RETURN OF MARTIN GUERRE, 7-9:30 p.m. [room to be announced]

13 February Religion and Community and Identity in Counter-Reformation France
   Readings: Davis, The Return of Martin Guerre (entire); Brown, ch. 9
15 February The Role of the Convent and the Catholic Church
   Readings: Weber, Teresa of Avila (entire)
Week 7:
18 February 
President’s Day – NO CLASS

20 February
Using the Body: Abuse, Profit, Pleasure, Part I
Readings: Brown, ch. 7; CR, Crawford, “Religion and Sexuality,” pp. 35-58

22 February
Using the Body: Abuse, Profit, Pleasure, Part II

Week 8:
25 February
Women Mediate and Confront their “Place” in Early Modern States
The Woman Ruler: Power and Vulnerability
Readings: King, Part I, letter #7; CR; selections on Elizabeth I, pp. 91-95

27 February
The Role of Gender in the European Witch Craze
Readings: Wiesner, ch. 7; Hufston selection (only on reserve and “e-reserves”), “Women & the Devil”

29 February
Women in Radical Movements

*** Begin Lafayette, The Princesse de Clèves [also pick up handout on this book]***

****ESSAYS DUE AT START OF CLASS****

Week 9:
3 March
Literary Women and Women in Early Modern Literature
Politics, Personal Honor, and Love in The Princesse de Clèves
Readings: Lafayette, The Princesse de Clèves, read Behn’s Oroonoko (entire)

5 March
Cultural Contacts: Gendered Responses in Lafayette and Behn’s Work
Further discussion of The Princesse de Clèves and begin discussion of Behn, Oroonoko

7 March
The Rise of Colonialism: Cross-Cultural and Gendered Discourses

Week 10:
10 March
New Vistas for Gender Roles in the Seventeenth Century?
Education & Writing: Male and Female Views and Proposals
Readings: CR; Fénélon; Elizabeth Singer Rowe; J.G. Altman, pp. 119-132

12 March
Early "Feminist" Perspectives?
Readings: Wiesner, ch. 8; CR; Mary Astell selections, pp. 133-end

14 March
What Changed and What Remained the Same for Better or for Worse?

****Take Home Final Passed Out****

****TAKE HOME FINAL DUE BY 2:30, 21 MARCH IN OUR REGULAR CLASSROOM****

[NOTE: YOU MAY ALSO TURN THE FINAL IN TO THE DESIGNATED BOX ACROSS ON THE TABLE ACROSS FROM THE ELEVATORS ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES BUILDING—BUT THE FINAL MUST BE IN BY 2:30—I WILL CHECK THE DROP OFF BOX AT THIS TIME]