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


All other readings (“primary” texts from the era are marked with a * on the syllabus) are contained in a supplementary packet, which is available for purchase through [www.universityreaders.com](http://www.universityreaders.com).

There are two different options for course assignments. The first option consists of a midterm (Feb 12) and a final (final exam schedule), as well as a short, 5-7 page essay (due Feb 26).

All assignments must be completed to receive a final grade.

The second option is for those students who enroll in a discussion section. Enrolling in a section is OPTIONAL, but attendance is mandatory once enrolled. Those who enroll will have section participation and short writing assignments count as part of their grade in place of the midterm. Section students will still take the final exam and do the essay assignment. Sign-up for sections is “first come, first serve.”

Section one will meet on Thursdays, 10-10:50, HSS 6008
Section two will meet on Thursdays, 2-2:50, hss 6008

Introduction
Jan 6 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

Jan 8 Life and Work: Middle Class Women
History of Her Own, ch.2, “Women in the Parlors” pp. 129-166

Primary Documents:
* Victorian Women, docs.#13,17,19,28,33,63

Jan 13 Life and Work: Working Class Women

Primary Documents:
* 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

Jan 15 Citizenship and the Liberal State: the Suffrage Debate

Primary Documents
* J.S.Mill, "On the Subjection of Women", in The Feminist Papers, ed. Alice Rossi
* Barbara Leigh Smith Bodichon, "Female Suffrage", in Lives and Voices, doc. #107,
* William Gladstone, in WFF, doc.#55
* John Bright, in Before the Vote was Won

Jan 20 Nationalism and Motherhood
Ellen Ross, “The Value of Babies: Transforming Motherhood, 1900-1918”, in Love and Toil: Motherhood in Outcast London

Primary Documents:
* Selections from Maternity: Letters from Working Women, ed. Margaret L.Davies
  * Ellen Key, in European Women, doc #40, (p 171-6)
Jan 22  Prostitution, Sexuality and Moral Reform  
Judith Walkowitz, "Dangerous Sexualities", ch. 14 of  
History of Women, IV  

Primary Documents:  
*William Acton, in VW, doc.#89 (i), 91  
*Josephine Butler, in European Women, doc #51  

Jan 27  Gender, Race and Empire  
Lynn Abrams, The Making of Modern Woman, ch. 9  
(pp243-65)  

Primary Documents:  
*Lives and Voices, docs #112-114  

Jan 29  A Science of Woman: Biology as Destiny  
Lorna Duffin, "Prisoners of Progress: Women and  
Evolution", in The Nineteenth Century Woman,  
eds. Delamont and Duffin  

Primary Documents:  
*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  

Feb 3  Middle Class Feminism: Difference or Equality?  
Rachel Fuchs, Women in 19th Century Europe, ch.9 (pp155-74)  

Primary Documents:  
*WFF, docs.#47-48  
*Lives and Voices, doc# 119  
**“The Making of a Militant”, “The Vote for Women”, and  
“Call to Women”, in European Women, docs # 19,20,21  

Feb 5  Women in Socialist Movements  
Rachel Fuchs, Women in 19th Century Europe, ch.9 (pp174-6)  

Primary Documents:  
*WFF, doc.#13  
*Clara Zetkin, in Lives and Voices, doc #125  
*Alexandra Kollantai, "The Social Basis of the Woman  
Question"  
**“A Socialist Platform”, “Becoming a Socialist”, and  
“The Meaning of Work”, in European Women, docs #15,  
23, 24
Feb 10 Women in Revolution: Russia

**Primary Documents:**
*Alexandra Kollantai, “Sexual Relations and the Class Struggle” and “Communism and the Family”
*Debates on the Family Code, in *Lives and Voices*, doc #153
*Lenin, in *WFF*, doc.#76

Feb 12 Midterm

Part IV: Transitions

Feb 17 & 19 The Interwar Period: A New Woman?
Allen, chapters 1&2

**Primary Documents:**
*Maude Royden, "Modern Love" (1917)
*Elsa Hermann, “This is the New Woman”, in *Lives and Voices*, doc# 144

Feb 24 Women and Fascism
Allen, pp 51-59

**Primary Documents:**
*Adolf Hitler and Gertrud Scholtz-Klink, in *WFF*, docs.# 105_6
*Guida Diehl, “A New Type of Woman” in *European Women*, doc 26 (pp107-110)

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

Feb 26 Women in Democratic Europe to 1970: Citizens in the Welfare State
Allen, chapters 4&5
***Essay Due in class***

March 3 Second Wave Feminisms
Allen, chapter 7

March 5 Race, Ethnicity and Gender in the “New” Europe
Irene Donohoue Clyne, “Muslim Women: Some Western Fictions”, in *Muslim Women in the UK and Beyond*
Clare Krojzl, “Refusing to be Invisible: Turkish Women in Berlin”, in *Women and Political Conflict*
Primary Documents:

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

March 10 Women in Eastern Europe: During and After Communism
Allen, chs 6 & 8

Primary Documents:

* Daughters of Eve, pp 169-177, 251-62
* Zuzana Kiczkova 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

March 12 Women at the End of the 20th Century
Allen, ch.9 and Conclusion

Primary Documents:

* "Towards a Queer Planet", in Queer Notions
* Pragna Patel, ‘Third Wave Feminism and Black Women’s Activism in Britain”, in Lives and Voices, #183