Writing Women into History [officially called Feminist Historiography]

Class meets Thursday mornings 10:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m. in HSS 6008

Spring 2012

Professor Deborah Hertz
HSS 6024
Office Hours: 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. Tuesdays
534 5501

Class Requirements

Students are expected to do the readings and come to class prepared for vigorous debate. The only required written work are your essays and the various mini-assignments throughout the quarter as you prepare the essay.

Your grades will be based on the following quantitative assessments of your work: class discussion 10 points; preparatory mini-assignments 10 points, and final version of the essay 80 points.

Essays

To choose a topic for their essay, students should try to use the readings and themes of this course to deepen their intellectual perspective on their doctoral thesis. If your thesis will be in history, this will obviously be more elegant than if your thesis is in another discipline. Note that all essays for this course should be works of history, even if this is not your home discipline.

Beginning on the first day of the seminar, choose the following rubrics to begin to narrow your topic: a people or a nation state or a region; a twenty-five-year historical period between 1750 and 1945; a kind of history [social, economic, cultural, political]; focus on women or on gender, and finally, a particular biography, collective biography, or micro-history episode.

You will be asked to turn in your work at two-week intervals throughout the seminar, as noted in the class schedule.

Be prepared to submit your final draft on May 31, in hard and electronic copies to our web board. Essays should be twenty pages in length.
Book List

Deborah Simonton, *Routledge History of Women since 1700*, Routledge 978 0415438131


Judith Bennett, *History Matters: Patriarchy and the Challenge of Feminism*, U of Penn Press, 978 0812220049

N Chaudhuri and M Strobel, eds., *Western Women and Imperialism*, Indiana University Press, 978 0253207050

Mary Wollstonecraft and Janet Todd, eds., *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*, Oxford University Press, 978 0199555468

Dagmar Herzog, ed., *Brutality and Desire: War and Sexuality in Europe’s Twentieth Century*, in Europe’s Twentieth Century. Palgrave Macmillan 978 0230285637

Course Schedule

April 5  Introduction to the Course

Read after class: Simonton, Introduction

April 12  Demographic Structures of the Old Regime

Read: Hartman, Chapters One and Two

Submit the provisional topic for your essay.

April 19  Female Experience Becomes Political in the French Revolution

Read: Janet Todd’s “Introduction” to Mary Wollstonecraft volume, as well as *A Vindication of the Rights of Men* and *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*. 
April 26  Domestic Service and Factory Labor


Submit a two-page outline of your essay.

May 3  Careers Open to Female Talent

Read: Rogers, “Learning to be good girls and women: education, training and schools” and Reynolds, “Mistresses of creation: women as producers and consumers of art since 1700,” in Simonton

May 10  Women in European Politics

Read: Hartman, Chapter Seven; Karen Hunt, “Women as Citizens,” and Jane Potter, “Valiant Heroines or Pacific Ladies?” both in Simonton

Submit a one-page bibliography for your essay.

May 17  Women’s Contribution to Colonialist Projects


May 24  Was Fascism about Women?


May 31  Does Theory Matter? How?

Read: Hartman, Chapter Eight and Epilogue; Judith Bennett, entire book

Post your essays on our website and submit a hard copy as well.
June 7  Discussion of student essays