

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
FALL, 1985

HISTORY 392
Tues. & Thurs. 9:30-10:45 A.M.*
228 Education Building

Professor Gerda Lerner
5123 Humanities Bldg.
Office Hours: Wednesday,
1-3 P.M. or by appointment.

Women in History

"Gender, race and class in ancient, medieval
and 19th century U.S. societies"

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this class we will examine the origin of hierarchical structures in patriarchal society in the second millennium B.C. in Mesopotamia. We will study the connections between gender, race, and class, and the ways they become institutionalized and incorporated into the ideas and values of Western civilization. We will then follow the development of these structures and the idea systems that sustained them in medieval Europe and antebellum United States.

Students will work with primary and some secondary sources. The emphasis will be on critical evaluation of unstated assumptions in traditional history. Students will be expected to think historically, comparatively, and analytically.

Each lecture will be followed by class discussion. Additional section meetings will be scheduled during the first week of classes. *Discussion sections have tentatively been scheduled to follow the class periods Tuesday and Thursday, 10:45-11:35 A.M.

The course is open to sophomores to seniors, including honors students, and to graduate students not in American History. American History graduate students wishing to take this course may register for AUDIT credit and should contact the instructor to arrange for 999 credit during registration week.

Freshmen may be admitted with the permission of the instructor.

4 credits - undergraduates

3 credits - graduate students

HISTORY 392

Professor Gerda Lerner

REQUIREMENTS

Attendance at lectures and participation in class discussion following the lectures; reading preparation in advance of each lecture; participation in weekly section discussion and the taking of all exams.

Undergraduates will earn four credits for this course by completing the requirements.

Graduate students and Honors students will have to do a short (5-6 page) paper based on reading one of the books on the reading list in its entirety, in addition to the requirements cited above for all students. Graduate students will earn three credits.

EXAMINATIONS

In order to enable students to hold on to the different cultures being discussed in the three sections of this course, there will be an exam at the end of each unit, three exams in all. Each exam will cover material from the preceding unit, but in the last exam there will be one question testing the student's ability to synthesize the three units. The exams will have some factual data questions and some work based on primary sources. Everything covered in the exam will have been taught in class and reviewed in discussion.

GRADING SYSTEM

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|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Class and section attendance and participation in discussions | 15% |
| Exam I | 25% |
| Exam II | 25% |
| Final Exam | 35% |

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Students wishing to improve their reading comprehension and note-taking skills should contact the instructor for special help. If enough students want such help, some of the section time will be devoted to group instruction in basic skills. All students will be offered some instruction in historical methodology and in the use of primary sources.

All students are encouraged to use the weekly office hours to get help with whatever learning problems they may have.

GL:abo
8/5/85

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Fall Semester 1985-86

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Gender, race and class in ancient, medieval and 19th
century U.S. societies

All reading assignments are due the first day of the week.

I. ANCIENT SOCIETIES

Week I No reading assignment.
(L) denotes lecture.

1. Introduction
2. (L) Pre-state societies in the Ancient Near East

Week II

1. (L) The urban revolution: temple-towns and city-states
2. (L) The emergence of national states

Assigned readings:

Oppenheim, pp. 95-142; 153-170; 74-95; 276-287.

Week III

1. (L) The invention of slavery
2. (L) Slavery and sex

Assigned readings:

Pritchard, vol. 1, p. 268, "Akkadian text RA XXXI"
Oppenheim, 310-331; 228-250
Lerner, "Women and Slavery" (Xerox)

Week IV

1. (L) The institutionalization of patriarchy in Mesopotamian and Hebrew Law
2. (L) Slavery in Mesopotamian and Hebrew law

Assigned Readings:

Pritchard, vol. 1, chap. V, pp. 138-166. Do not read everything; only the laws indicated. The succeeding numbers refer to the laws, not the pages. 14-19; 108-111; 116-119; 127-164; 170-175; 194-201; 209-218; 229-231.

List of Assyrian laws (Xerox)
 List of Hebrew laws (Xerox)
 Babylonian marriage contracts (Xerox)

Week V

1. (L) The origin of prostitution
2. (L) The institutionalization of deviance - MAL # 40

Assigned readings:

Pritchard, vol. 1, "The Epic of Gilgamesh", pp. 40-45
 Review laws regulating sexuality in Hammurabic and Hebrew law

Week VI

1. (L) From the fertility goddess to the chief male god
2. Ancient goddesses -- slide show

Assigned readings:

Pritchard, vol. 1, pp. 231-233, "Hymn to Ishtar"
 Sacred Marriage texts (Xerox)
 Oppenheim, 171-198

Week VII

1. (L) The shift in creation mythology and monotheism
2. Exam

Assigned readings:

Pritchard, vol. 1, pp. 31-36, "Creation Epic" Tablets IV & V.
 Ibid. pp. 63-75, "Gilgamesh", Tablet IX to end
 Ibid., pp. 76-80, "Adapa"
 Bible, Genesis 1:27-31; Gen. 2:21-25; Gen. 3:1-22; Gen. 17:1-14
 Oppenheim, pp. 257-263

II. MEDIEVAL EUROPE

Week VIII

1. (L) Economic classes
2. (L) Slavery

Assigned readings:

Ladurie, Intro., pp. vii-xvii; chap. 1, pp. 3-23; chap. 3, pp. 53-68; chap. 6 and 7, pp. 103-135
 Power, "The peasant Bodo", pp. 18-38

Week IX

1. (L) Marriage and property
2. (L) The regulation of sexuality as a means of social control

Assigned readings:

Ladurie, chaps. 8-13, pp. 139-217; chap. 16, pp. 251-266

Week X

1. (L) Religion and gender
2. (L) Christianity, heresy and "the others"

Assigned readings:

Ladurie, chap. 19 & 20, pp. 306-341
 Power, "Mme. Eglentyne", pp. 73-95; "The Menagier's Wife", pp. 96-119

Week XI

No assigned readings

1. Review
2. Exam

III. 19th CENTURY UNITED STATES

Week XII

1. (L) Democracy and racism -- the North
2. (L) Democracy and racism -- the antebellum South

Assigned readings:

Jordan, pp. 44-48; 52-56; 63-98; 542-569

Week XIII

1. (L) Gender in class and race perspective
2. (L) Class in race and gender perspective

Assigned readings:

Jordan, p. 136-178
 Gutman, pp. 269-303
 Levine, pp. 298-366. NOTE: This assignment applies to units XV and XVII, but is given here to equalize the reading load. Do it in advance and keep good notes.

Week XIV

1. (L) The politics of deviance -- single women
2. (L) The politics of deviance -- prostitution

Assigned readings:

Lerner, pp. 172-205 (Xerox)
 Gutman, pp. 83-86, 385-402
 Genovese, pp. 413-431

Week XV

1. (L) The rise of black consciousness
2. (L) The rise of feminist consciousness

Assigned readings:

Levine, pp. 3-80 OR Genovese, pp. 194-284
 Lerner, Female Experience, chap. 9, pp. 463-494 (Xerox)

Week XVI

NO ASSIGNED READINGS

1. Review
2. Exam

Week XVII

NO ASSIGNED READINGS

1. Linkages between race, class and gender
2. Evaluation and class party

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