

Women and Gender in Modern Europe,

1750 to the Present

Professor Mary Louise Roberts (maryroberts@wisc.edu)
Winter 2003 T/Th 9:30-10:45 AM

Description: This course is a survey of women's lives from the mid-seventeenth century to the present in Europe. It focuses equally on the ways in which gender constructed power and identity in all spheres of life during this period, including work, politics, science, Empire-building and war. In the first part of the course, we focus on the creation of the domestic model established in the wake of the twin revolutions. This model, which dictated that a woman's "natural" role was domestic and maternal, was primarily middle-class. Working-class women dealt with a whole other set of expectations concerning love and work. In the second part of the course, we focus on a diversity of ways in which women throughout the nineteenth century subverted this domestic model, not only through organized politics such as feminism, but also through unconventional sexual behavior, female "exceptionality," and the opportunities provided by a growing urban, consumer culture. In the final part of the course, we study women and war, more specifically the roles played by women on the battlefield and the home front, and the way in which total war undermined certain gendered constructions of politics and work. Still another important theme will be sexuality, including the medical insistence on one "true" sex, the construction of race through sexuality, the creation of a homosexual identity, and the sexual revolution of the 1960s.

Requirements:

Active Participation in Lecture and Section Discussions (20%)
Two short papers, due February 24 and April 21 (15% and 20%)
One midterm in-class exam: Essay and Identifications (20%)
One final exam: Essays and Identifications (25%)

Books to Purchase:

Bridenthal, Stuard and Wiesner, *Becoming Visible: Women in European History*
Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth*
Michel Foucault, *Herculine Barbin*
Heda Kovaly, *Under a Cruel Star*
Florence Nightingale, *Cassandra*
Helen Fielding, *Bridget Jones Diary*
Class Reader

Class Schedule:

I. Week One: Introduction

January 21: What is Gender? A History of Women's History

Reading:

- Joan Scott, "Gender as a Category of Analysis" (R)
- Denise Riley, "Does a Sex Have a History?" (R)

January 23: Women's Lives in 1750—the Patriarchal Model

Reading:

- Merry Wiesner, "Spinning out Capital: Women's Work in the Early Modern Economy" in BV

II. The Creation of the Domestic Model

Week Two—The Eighteenth-Century

January 28: The Enlightenment and Science

Readings:

- Rousseau, "Emile," excerpt (R)
- Dena Goodman, "Women and the Enlightenment," in BV
- L.J. Jordanova, "Natural Facts: A Historical Perspective on Science and Sexuality" (R)

January 30: The French Revolution and Liberal Feminism

Readings:

- Levy and Applewhite, "A Political Revolution for Women?" in BV
- "Declaration of the Rights of Man"; Olympe de Gouges, "Declaration of the Rights of women"; and "The National Convention Outlaws Clubs and Popular Societies of Women" all in (R)
- Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, Chaps. 2, part of 5 (R)

Week Three—The Impact of the Industrial Revolution

February 4: The Transformation in Women's work

Reading:

- Laura Levine Frader, "Women in the Industrial Capitalist Economy" in BV
- "Textile Workers in Leeds and Nottingham," "Women Miners in the English Coal Pits," Friedrich Engels, *The Condition of the Working Class in England*, excerpt, all in (R)
- Joan Scott, "L'ouvrière! Mot impie, sordide. . .": Women Workers in the Discourse of French Political Economy (R)

February 6: Middle-class Domesticity

Reading:

- Florence Nightingale, Cassandra
- John Ruskin, "Of Queen's Gardens," *Sesame and Lillies* (1865), excerpt (R)

Week Four—Sexuality

February 11: Policing Sexuality: Motherhood, Prostitution and the Working Class Woman

Reading:

- William Acton, "Want of Sexual Feeling in the Female" and "Causes of Prostitution" (R)
- Judith Walkowitz, "Male Vice and Female Virtue: Feminism and the Politics of Prostitution in Nineteenth-Century Britain" (R)

February 13: Sexuality/Sexual Orientation

Reading:

- Foucault, *Herculine Barbin*

Week Five—Nationalism and Race

February 18: Orientalism

Reading:

- Gilman, Sander, "Black Bodies, White Bodies: Toward an Iconography of Female Sexuality in Late Nineteenth-Century Art, Medicine, and Literature" (R)
- Magdalena Barrera, "Hottentot 2000: Jennifer Lopez and Her Butt" (R)

February 20: Gender, Nationalism and Empire

- Film: "A Passage to India" (David Lean)
- McClintock, Anne, "No Longer in a Future Heaven" : Nationalism, Gender and Race," excerpt (R)

FEBRUARY 24, PAPER DUE

III. Subversion and Resistance

Week Six-- Politics

February 25: Women and Socialism

Reading:

- Charles Sowerwine, "Socialism, Feminism, and the Socialist Women's Movement from the French Revolution to World War II," BV
- Friedrich Engel, "Bourgeois Marriage" (R)
- Speech of Clara Zetkin (R)

February 27: Republican Feminism/ Suffragism

Reading:

- Speeches of John Stuart Mill and Hubertine Auclert (R)

Week Seven—Using the Margins

March 4: Exceptional Women

Reading:

- Lytton Strachey, "Florence Nightingale," from *Eminent Victorians* (R)

March 6: Urbanization/Consumption

Reading:

- Erica Rappaport, "A New Era of Shopping": The Promotion of Women's Pleasure in London's West End, 1909-1914" (R)
- Zola, *The Ladies Paradise*, Chaps. 4 & 9 (R)

Week Eight—Fin-de-siècle Transformations

March 11: The New Woman

Reading:

- Vera Brittan, *Testament of Youth*, Chapters 1-2

March 13: MIDTERM EXAM

MARCH 18-20 SPRING BREAK

IV. Women and Gender in the Twentieth Century

Week Nine—A World at War

March 25 The Great War

Reading:

- Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth*, Chaps 4-5

March 27: The Russian Revolution

Reading:

- Richard Stites, "Women and the Revolutionary Process in Russia," in BV
- Alexandria Kollontai, "Theses on Communist Morality in the Sphere of Marital Relations"

Week Ten—New Constructions of Gender Identity

April 2: The 1920s: Fashion and the Modern Body

Reading:

- M.L. Roberts, "Samson and Delilah Revisited"
- Freud, "Femininity" (R)

April 4: Back to the Future: Gender and Fascism

Reading:

- Claudia Koonz, "The 'Woman Question' in Authoritarian Regimes," in BV
- Ellen Frey, "We Did Love Love Our Führer, Really" in *Frauen* (R)

Weeks Eleven and Twelve— Women in Total War

April 8: Women on the Battlefield

Reading:

- Simmons, Cynthia, Writing the Siege of Leningrad, excerpts (R)
- Alexievich, Svetlana, " 'I am Loath to Recall': Russian Women soldiers in World War II," Women's Studies Quarterly, 23, 23-24, p. 78 (R)
- Reina Pennington, Wings, Women and War: Soviet Airwomen in World War II Combat, Introduction and Chapter 3 (R)

April 10: Inside Nazi Europe

Reading:

- Film: "Aimée and Jaguar"
- Charlotte Delbo, Days and Memory, 87-109

April 15: Women and the Holocaust

Reading:

- Cynthia Ozick, "The Shawl" (R)
- Heda Kovaly, Under a Cruel Star, pp. 5-51

April 17: NO CLASS –PASSOVER, EASTER

SECOND PAPER DUE, APRIL 21

Week 13: Women in Postwar Europe

April 22: Recovering From the War

Reading:

- Elizabeth Heineman, "The Hour of the Woman: Memories of Germany's Crisis Years and West German National Identity" (R)

April 24: Women under Stalinism

Reading:

- Heda Kovaly, Under a Cruel Star, pp. 52-192

Week 14: The Second Wave

April 29: Simone de Beauvoir

Reading:

- The Second Sex, xix-xxxvi, 267-299, 716-732

May 1: The Feminist Revolution

Reading:

- Anne Tristan and Annie de Pisan, "Tales from the Women's Movement" (R)
- Shulamith Firestone, The Dialectics of Sex, Introduction (R)
- Alice Schwarzer, "How it all Began: 'I Have Had an Abortion'"

Week 15: The Sexual Revolution

May 6: Coming Out

Reading:

- Lesbian History Sourcebook, excerpt

May 8: Conclusion—What's up with Bridget?

Reading:

- Helen Fielding, Bridget Jones' Diary

FINAL EXAM, Time TBA