Women in European History

HIST-3360, CRN 15272, Spring 2014 M – W 2:00-3:15, Dunbar 3210 Prof. Marion (Buddy) Gray
<marion.gray@wmich.edu> Office hours: M, W. 3:30-4:30, F. 12:00-1:00 & by appointment, 4416 Friedman Hall

REQUIRED BOOK

Other readings available electronically. See on-line assignments on e-learning page.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Two interpretive historical essays written out of class and based primarily on previously assigned material. You will select your own topic, and I will be available to consult with you. Guidelines are found on the e-learning site. The essays should be 1000-1500 words (four to six pages) in length, typed, double-spaced. Together the essays will constitute 35% of the final grade.

2. Seven on-line or in-class quizzes over daily readings and material presented in class. The lowest grade will be dropped. Make-up quizzes will not be given. Quizzes will constitute 20% of the final grade.

3. Three half-hour exams. Together they constitute 35% of the final grade.

4. Participation and professionalism: Reading and participation are essential requirements. Much of the class will be conducted by discussion. You will have many opportunities to participate in class discussions. There will also be opportunities to discuss questions about gender history through e-learning. A minimum of one substantive contribution to on-line discussions per month is required. Absences from class in excess of three (designated for emergencies) will lower the discussion grade by 2 points. (Attendance will be taken.) Consistently coming to class late or leaving early will be a negative factor in the professionalism component of the grade. So will engaging in distracting activities such as texting, reading material not related to the course, or talking, except in class discussions. Three “Instructor Letters” will be due, enabling me to be in touch with you and accommodate to needs. There will be occasional surveys, as well. Instructor Letters and survey responses will not be graded, but failure to submit them will be negative factors in the professionalism grade. Professionalism will constitute 10% of the final grade.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course meets Western Michigan University’s General Education requirements for Area II: Humanities. Upon completion of the course, students should:

1. Understand the concept of gender as a cultural construction that changes over time.
2. Be able to use chronology and historical context to interpret human behaviors.
3. Understand the types and varieties of sources historians employ in the study of gender history.
4. Be familiar with significant transitions in the historical experiences of women and men in European history from the Middle Ages to the contemporary era.
5. Understand the complex relationship between gender and work; gender and social class; gender and politics; gender and religion.
6. Understand the relationship between the gendered past and the gendered present.
CALENDAR OF ASSIGNMENTS

I. Women in Pre-Industrial Societies

JANUARY

[M. 6: No class! University closed due to severe weather.]

W. 8: Introduction: What Is Women's History? Chronology and Gender in European History. What are your questions about gender and history?

M. 13: *Becoming Visible*, Ch. 4. What was women's status in the early Middle Ages? What questions do we ask in order to evaluate women's place? First Instructor Letter Due

W. 15: *Becoming Visible*, Ch. 5. How did the construction of gender change between the early and the high Middle Ages?

[M. 20: Martin Luther King Day. No Class.]

W. 22: *Becoming Visible*, Ch 6. Did women have a Renaissance? Quiz 1


W. 29: *Becoming Visible*, Ch. 7. The Reformation of Women. Preliminary discussion of papers: techniques, topics. In class: view portions of the film, “Day of Wrath,” made in 1943 by the acclaimed filmmaker Carl Dryer. It portrays documented cases of alleged witchcraft in a Danish village in 1623. What does this account reveal about the relationship between gender and power in early modern society?

FEBRUARY

M. 3: Read an excerpt from the primary source: Heinrich Krämer and Jacob Sprenger, *Malleus Maleficarum* (The Hammer of Witches), 1486. Part I, Question VI, “Concerning Witches who copulate with Devils: Why is it that Women are chiefly addicted to Evil Superstitions? 
http://www.sacred-texts.com/pag/mm/mm01_06a.htm. In class we will discuss the gendered implications of the witchcraft craze. Quiz 2

W. 5: *Becoming Visible*, Ch. 9. What was the "Enlightenment" and what was its meaning for the construction of gender?

M. 10: IN-CLASS HALF-HOUR EXAM; Discussion of Household Economy

II. Political and Industrial Revolutions


M. 17: *On-line reading from* Mary Wollstonecraft, an early feminist who proposed "Radical" Solutions to the gender question. Class time for discussion of paper topics. Quiz 3


M. 24: OUT-OF-CLASS DUE. Be prepared to discuss your thesis and how you substantiated it.
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W. 26: *Becoming Visible*, Ch. 12. European Feminism. How did feminism change over the course of the nineteenth century?

MARCH
(Spring Break. No class March 3, March 5.)

M. 10: *On-line reading from John Stuart Mill*, an early liberal feminist. What were Mill's proposed solutions to "the subjection of women"?

W. 12: *On-line readings from the Women’s Suffrage Movement in England*. **Quiz 4**

M. 17: **IN-CLASS HALF-HOUR EXAM.** In class: Gender at the Turn of the Century.

W. 19: *On-line readings from Life as We Have Known it*, by Cooperative Working Women. Daughters and Wives of the Modern Working Class.

M. 24: *On-line readings from Life As We Have Known It*. Patterns of Life and Possibilities for Change.

W. 26: *On-line readings from socialist feminists and other radical feminists*. **Quiz 5**

### III. Women and Gender in the Twentieth Century

M. 31: *Becoming Visible*, Ch. 16. Women in War and Peace (the two World Wars) **Third Instructor Letter due.**

APRIL


M. 7: *Becoming Visible*, Ch. 17. Women and Fascism. **Quiz 6**


M. 14: **Final papers due.** Discussion of papers, as usual.

W. 16: *Becoming Visible*, Ch. 19. Women under Socialism. **Quiz 7**

**Final Exam Wednesday April 23, 2:45-4:45 pm.**
Grading Scale

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<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100%</td>
<td>A (exceptional)</td>
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<tr>
<td>89-93%</td>
<td>BA (excellent)</td>
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<tr>
<td>83-88%</td>
<td>B (very good)</td>
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<tr>
<td>78-82%</td>
<td>CB (good)</td>
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<tr>
<td>72-77%</td>
<td>C (satisfactory)</td>
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<tr>
<td>67-71%</td>
<td>DC (acceptable)</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-66%</td>
<td>D (poor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>below 60%</td>
<td>E (failing)</td>
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Course Website, On-Line Assignments, and E-Mail

It is your responsibility to check your WMU e-mail account and the course website regularly and open e-mails from me. Assignments will be posted weekly by Thursday noon of the week before assignments are due. Use your WMU e-mail account for all university correspondence.

Religious Observances Policy

I respect religious holidays. It is your responsibility to make arrangements with me in advance of any planned religious holidays. Contact me with sufficient notice, and we will discuss alternative assignment options. Religious observance does not relieve you of course responsibilities. For more information, please access http://www.wmich.edu/policies/religious-observances-policy

Academic Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), I want to work with you if you have a disability that is relevant to your work in this course. If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible. Please provide a written statement from Disability Services for Students outlining the accommodations you need. Contact DSS at 269-387-2116 or www.wmich.edu/disabilityservices

Instructor and Course Evaluation System (ICES)

Near the end of the term you will be contacted by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and asked to complete an evaluation form for this course, please complete the evaluation. The form will be made available through GoWMU. Please take this responsibility seriously.

Academic Integrity, Misconduct Policy

You are responsible for understanding the university’s policies and procedures that pertain to Academic Misconduct. These policies address situations of cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, and computer misuse. If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). For information see http://www.wmich.edu/conduct/, especially the sections on Academic Honesty. If you believe you are not responsible for academic misconduct, you will have the opportunity of a hearing. You should consult with me if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment. I will be glad to discuss these topics with you.

The Classroom: A Place for Learning: No Texting, etc.

Please respect your fellow students and your instructor by refraining from all distracting activity in class, including talking (except for participation in class discussions), using cell phones, texting, reading web and printed materials not related to the class. Arrive by the beginning of class and do not leave before class is over. Maintaining a Portfolio of your Work

It is important that you keep all materials related to this course in a portfolio. This includes materials that you receive in class and your own notes, written work, returned assignments, etc. Bring this portfolio with you when you wish to discuss your progress or status in the class. It is your responsibility to keep and
store carefully all graded material returned to you. In case you have questions about your grade, it will be necessary to bring in the material. Without this, questions cannot be considered. Your portfolio will be one of your most important resources for preparing for exams and papers.

**Bring Books to Class**

Bring to class your copy of the readings that have been assigned for that day’s class. We will often make reference to specific passages.

**History Department Guest Scholar**

The History Department sponsors a series of guest lectures every year. You, as a student of history, are invited and encouraged to attend. This year’s series is on the subject, “Slavery, Theory and Practice,” and one of these lectures will be relevant to our course on Women in European History. On January 27, 4-5 p.m., Professor Deborah Kamen of the University of Washington will present a lecture entitled “Sex, Slavery, and Manumission in Ancient Greece” in 2500 Knauss Hall. [http://www.wmich.edu/history/events/2013-14/Kamen2014January.pdf](http://www.wmich.edu/history/events/2013-14/Kamen2014January.pdf)

If you attend this lecture and write a brief report, a grade on it can substitute for a low quiz grade. Instructions will be given.