

Autumn 2004
Office hours:
Tuesdays, 11:30-12:30
and by appt.

Prof. Birgitte Søland
Dept. of History
234 Dulles Hall
292-7426
Soland.1@osu.edu

Comparative Studies 781

~~781~~

Topics in Women's History: Readings in Modern European Women's History

This intensive reading course is designed to give graduate students a broad introduction to the field of European women's history from the eighteenth century to the early twentieth century. Because there is much material to cover, we will focus on a number of selected topics, including the changing meanings and understandings of gender; the changing significance of family, motherhood and marriage; demographic changes and shifts in female employment; women's involvement in political movements; expressions and regulations of female sexuality; and women's relationship to the state. Reflecting the current scholarship, emphasis will be on France, Germany and Great Britain, but studies of other countries will also be included, and cross-cultural comparisons will be encouraged.

Course requirements:

Class time will be devoted to discussion of the assigned readings, so the success of the class depends on regular attendance, careful and complete preparation, and lively and informed participation. Students unfamiliar with the basic contours of modern European history may want to supplement their reading with a general history survey of the period. Also, a survey of European women's history, such as Bonnie Smith: Changing Lives: Women in European History Since 1700 might provide a useful supplement to the assigned readings.

Grades will be based on class participation and written work. It will not be possible to receive a grade of "A" without active participation in class discussion.

In addition to active participation in class discussions, each student is expected to produce three brief response papers, based on three different sets of weekly readings. These three sets of readings should derive from the three thematic clusters listed on the reading list below, meaning that each student should respond to one set of readings from each thematic cluster. The response papers should provide a thoughtful, critical analysis of the readings, offering an account of both strengths and potential weaknesses of each piece of scholarship. Each response paper should be no more than 5 typed, double-spaced pages. The response papers will be due in class on the day the readings in question are to be discussed.

Finally, each student is expected to complete the course by producing a thorough, insightful review of Lynn Abrams' text book in Modern European women's history, The Making of Modern Woman (2002). The review should be approximately 10-12 typed, double-spaced pages, and it should be of publishable quality. The review will be due in my office (234 Dulles) on Monday, December 6, at 12:00 noon.

Please note that all students must be officially enrolled in the course by the end of the second full week of the quarter. No requests to add the course will be approved by the department chair after that time. Enrolling officially and on time is solely the responsibility of each student.

Reading assignments:

The following books are required reading for the course:

- Abrams, Lynn: The Making of Modern Woman (2002)
Clancy-Smith, Julia and Frances Gouda (eds.): Domesticating the Empire: Race, Gender, and Family Life in French and Dutch Colonialism (1998)
Davidoff, Leonora and Catherine Hall: Family Fortunes: Men and Women of the English Middle Class, 1780-1850 (1987)
Gordon, Eleonor and Gwyneth Nair: Public Lives: Women, Family and Society in Victorian Britain (2003)
Honeyman, Katrina: Women, Gender and Industrialization in England, 1700-1870 (2000)
Mayhall, Laura: The Militant Suffrage Movement: Citizenship and Resistance in Britain, 1860-1930 (2003)
Steinbrugge, Lieselotte: The Moral Sex: Woman's Nature in the French Enlightenment (1995)
Woollacott, Angela: To Try Her Fortune in England: Australian Women, Colonialism, and Modernity (2001)

All required books have been placed on reserve in the Main Library. All other required readings, with the exception of journal articles, have also been placed on reserve.

Reading schedule:**Introduction**

September 28: Introduction
 No required reading.

Section I: Constructing Sex and Gender in 18th and 19th Century Europe

October 5: Sex, Gender and the Body in the Enlightenment

Required reading:

Lieselotte Steinbrugge: The Moral Sex: Woman's Nature in the French Enlightenment (1995)

Thomas Laqueur: "Orgasm, Generation, and the Politics of Reproductive Biology," in Catherine Gallagher et al. (eds.): The Making of the Modern Body (1987), pp. 1-41

Londa Schiebinger: "Skeletons in the Closet: The First Illustrations of The Female Skeleton in Eighteenth-Century Anatomy," in Catherine Gallagher et al., The Making of the Modern Body, pp. 42-82

October 12: Gender, Class and the Family

Required reading:

Leonora Davidoff and Catherine Hall: Family Fortunes: Men and Women of the English Middle Class, 1780-1850 (1987)

Anna Clark: The Struggle for the Breeches: Gender and the Making of the British Working Class (1995), part 3: "Domesticity and the Making of the Working Class, 1820-1850," pp. 175-263

Margaret Darrow: "French Noblewomen and the New Domesticity, 1750-1850," Feminist Studies, vol. 5 (1979), pp. 41-65

October 19: Public Worlds and Private Lives in 19th Century Europe

Required reading:

Eleanor Gordon and Gwyneth Nair: Public Lives: Women, Family and Society in Victorian Britain (2003)

Leonore Davidoff: "Gender and the Great Divide: Public and Private in British Gender History," Journal of Women's History, vol. 15, no. 1 2003, pp. 11-27

Section II: Gender, Nation and Empire in the 19th Century

October 26: Women, Labor and Skill in Industrial Capitalism

Required reading:

Katrina Honeyman: Women, Gender and Industrialization in England, 1700-1870 (2000)

Mary Jo Maynes: "Gender, Labor and Globalization in Historical Perspective: European Spinners in the International Textile Industry, 1750-1900," Journal of Women's History, vol. 15, no. 4 (2004), pp. 47-66

November 2: Women, Nation-Building and Nationalism

Required reading:

Ida Blom: "Gender and Nation in International comparison," in Blom et al. (eds.): Gendered Nations: Nationalism and Gender Order in the Long Nineteenth Century (2000), pp. 3-26

Jitka Maleckova: "Nationalizing Women and Engendering the Nation: the Czech National Movement," in Blom et al (eds.): Gendered Nations, pp. 293-310

Angelika Schaser: "Women in a Nation of Men: the Politics of the League of German Women's Associations (BDF) in Imperial Germany, 1894-1914," in Blom et al (eds.) Gendered Nations, pp. 249-270

Jean Quataert: "Mobilizing Philanthropy in the Service of War: The Female Rituals of Care in the New Germany, 1871-1914," in Manfred Boemake et al (eds.): Anticipating Total War (1999), pp. 217-240

Roger Chickering: "Casting Their Gaze More Broadly: Women's Patriotic Activism in Imperial Germany," Past and Present, vol. 32 (1988), pp. 156-185

November 9: Women, Empire and Colonialism

Required reading:

Julia Clancy-Smith and Frances Gouda (eds.): Domesticating the Empire: Race, Gender, and Family Life in French and Dutch Colonialism (1998)

Antoinette Burton: "Women and 'Domestic' Imperial Culture: The Case of Victorian Britain," in Marilyn Boxer et al. (eds.): Connecting Spheres: European Women in a Globalizing World, 1500 to the Present (2000), pp. 174-184

Burton, Antoinette: "The White Woman's Burden: British Feminists

and The Indian Woman, 1865-1915," Women's Studies International Forum, vol. 13, no. 4 (1990), pp. 295-308

Section III: Gender Upheaval, Feminism and Modernity at the Turn of the Twentieth Century

November 16: Women's Political Organizing and First-Wave Feminism

Required reading:

Laura Mayhall: The Militant Suffrage Movement: Citizenship and Resistance in Britain, 1860-1930 (2003)

November 23: Women and Modernity

Required reading:

Angela Woollacott: To Try Her Fortune in England: Australian Women, Colonialism, and Modernity (2001)

Conclusions:

November 30: Central Themes in Modern European Women's History

Required reading:

Lynn Abrams: The Making of Modern Woman (2002)