Women in Europe 1500-1830

Instructor: Susan E. Dinan
Office: Humanities
Office Hours:

The goal of this course is to provide an overview of the roles of women in early modern European society. Over the course of the semester we will examine four principal themes. First, how do times of radical change (political, social or economic) liberate and/or restrict women. Second, how has women’s role in the family changed over time? Third, How are women defined as symbols of disorder and order in early modern Europe. Finally, what is power and how do men and women access it differently? Beyond this we will investigate more intensively critical events which have great impacted women and discuss how women acted in response.

There will be two midterm examinations and one cumulative final examination in this course. If you wish you may write a 3-5 page paper, using sources beyond the class readings, in place of ONE midterm exam. If you choose this option you must tell me two weeks before the exam date. This paper is due on the day of the exam. All four credit students will be required to write an 8-10 page research paper in addition to sitting the exams. Early in the semester you will receive a list of possible paper topics, you are also free to choose your own paper topic. Please take note of the deadlines for the paper outline and the paper itself.

Books:
Molière, Les Femmes savantes / The Learned Ladies.

A reader has been created for the course containing articles and chapters of books which are required readings. All readings which are not in the books listed above will be found in the reader these selections are marked with an R.

Week One: Introduction
Tuesday: Introduction and a discussion of historiographic trends
Thursday: Women in Europe in 1500
Readings: Wiesner, “Introduction”

Week Two: Women and the Protestant Reformation
Tuesday: Women’s response to the Protestant Reformation
Thursday: The Radical Reformation and radical English sects
Readings: Wiesner, “Religion”
R: Karant-Nunn, Susan “The reality of early Lutheran education”
R: Hill, Bridget “A refuge from men: the idea of a Protestant nunnery”
R: Thomas, Keith “Women and Civil War Sects”

Week Three Catholic and Jewish Women
Tuesday: The Catholic Reformation and religious opportunities for women
Thursday: Some experiences of Jewish women
Readings: R: Liebowitz, Ruth “Virgins in the service of Christ”
R: Glückel of Hameln “Memoirs”

Week Four
Tuesday: The Female Lifecycle I
Childbirth and Childhood
Thursday: Marriage and Widowhood
Readings: Wiesner, “The female Lifecycle”
R: Stone, Lawrence *Family, Sex and Marriage in England 1500-1800*
R: Wyntges, Sherrin Marshall “Survivors and status: widowhood and family in early modern Netherlands”

Week Five
Tuesday: Divorce and the Reformation
Thursday: MIDTERM EXAM I
Readings: R: Kingdon, Robert, “The Pierre Ameaux Case”

Week Six
Tuesday: Women in the Body Politic
England under Elizabeth I
Thursday: Women and the State
TERM PAPER OUTLINE DUE FROM ALL FOUR CREDIT STUDENTS
Readings: R: Scallingi, Paula Louise, “The scepter or the distaff: the question of female sovereignty, 1516-1607”
R: Levin, Carole, “Power, politics, and sexuality: images of Elizabeth I”
R: Diefendorf, Barbara, *Beneath the Cross*
R: Harris, Barbara, “Women and politics in early Tudor England”

Week Seven
Tuesday: Scientists and witches
The Scientific Revolution
Thursday: Witchcraft
Readings: R: Schiebinger, Londa, *The Mind has No Sex?*
Wiesner, “Witchcraft”
Kunze, Michael, *Highroad to the Stage: a Tale of Witchcraft*

Week Eight
Tuesday: Women and the law
Early modern laws
Thursday: Women and crime
Readings: Wiesner, “Ideas and laws regarding women”
R: Thompson, E.P. “The Moral Economy”
R: Davis, Natalie Zemon, “Bloodshed and the Woman’s Voice”

Week Nine
Tuesday: Gendered economies
The domestic economy
Thursday: Women and the public economy
Readings: Wiesner, “Women’s economic role”
R: Hufton, Owlen, “Women and the family economy in eighteenth-century France”
R: Perry, Mary Elizabeth, *Gender and Disorder in Early Modern Seville*
R: Shammas, Carole, “The world women knew: women workers in the north of England during the late seventeenth century”
Week Ten
Tuesday: Poverty
Thursday: Poverty and the family

Readings: MIDTERM EXAM II


Week Eleven
Tuesday: Their Bodies, Themselves
Thursday: Women’s medicine and the development of gynecology

Readings: The discourse of sexuality
Readings: R: Duden, Barbara, The Woman Beneath the Skin
Readings: R: Grieco, Sara F. Matthews, “The Body, Appearance, and Sexuality”

Week Twelve
Tuesday: Educated Women I
Thursday: Literacy and Education

Readings: Women as writers and artists
Readings: PAPER DUE FOUR ALL FOUR CREDIT STUDENTS
Readings: Wiesner, “Learning and Literacy”
Readings: Wiesner, “Women and the creation of culture”
Readings: R: Nochlin, Linda, “Why are there no great women artists?”
Readings: R: Cavandish, Margaret, Love’s Adventures.

Week Thirteen
Tuesday: Educated Women II
Thursday: Salons: a women’s realm in eighteenth-century France

Readings: Women’s participation in the Enlightenment
Readings: Molière, The Learned Ladies
Readings: R: Goodman, Dena, “Enlightened salons: the convergence of female and philosophic ambitions”

Week Fourteen
Tuesday: Women and Revolution
Thursday: French Revolution I, Making the Revolution

Readings: French Revolution II, Revolution and Napoleon
Readings: R: Hunt, Lynn, “The Diamond Necklace Affair”
Readings: Duby and Perrot, “Daughters of Liberty and Revolutionary Citizens”
Readings: Duby and Perrot, “The Law’s Contradictions”

Week Fifteen
Tuesday: Women in the early nineteenth century
Thursday: Popular religion

Readings: The Industrial Revolution and the new consumer culture
Readings: R: Scott, Joan “The Woman Worker”
Readings: R: Duby and Perrot, “Representations of Women”
Articles in the reader
* Please note that when only a book title appears a chapter will be selected for the reader, the entire book is not to be read.


Liebowitz, Ruth. "Virgins in the service of Christ: the dispute over an active apostolate for women during the Counter-Reformation." In Ruether and McLaughlin, Women of Spirit. 132-152.


R: Scalangi, Paula Louise, "The scepter or the distaff: the question of female sovereignty, 1516-1607" The Historian, 41 (1978)


Hufton, Owlen, "Women and the family economy in eighteenth-century France" French Historical Studies. 9 (1975), 1-22.


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Education:
University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
Ph.D. Candidate, degree expected August 1996
Department of History
Primary field of study: Early Modern European History, Advisor: Professor R. Kingdom

Preliminary Examinations passed April 1993:
1. Renaissance and Reformation  2. Europe in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth
Centuries  3. France from 1600 to the present  4. Nineteenth and Twentieth Century
European Social History

Minor field: Anthropology, Minor Advisor: Professor F. Salomon

University of Illinois, Urbana, IL
M.A., August 1990
Primary field of study: Modern European History. Secondary field of study: U.S.
History

University of Washington, Seattle, WA
B.A., June 1989
Primary field of study: History, degree granted with honors

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
B.S., May 1987
Primary field of study: Design and Environmental Analysis
Study abroad in Munich and Cologne Germany Summer-Fall 1986

Dissertation Research:

This dissertation examines the growth of the Daughters of Charity, the first post-Tridentine secular religious order founded in France, and analyzes how the creation of an identity as single religious women allowed the Daughters to exist unencloistered at a time when women were to be relegated to the home or convent.

Teaching Experience:
1994 Teaching Assistant to Professor Mazzaoui, History 115, Medieval Europe, 400-1500

1993 Teaching Assistant to Professor Desan. History 119, Making of Modern Europe, 1500-1815

1990 Grader for Professor Smith. History 312, European History 1870-1914
Awards:
1995 Mosse Lectureship. Teaching position awarded to one graduate student each Spring Semester to teach a course in European history for the course “Women in Europe 1500 - 1830”

1994 History Department Foreign Travel Grant
1994 History Department Domestic Travel Grant

Conference Presentations:
“Creating Community: Successes and Failures in the Development of the Daughters of Charity”
History of Women Religious Conference
June 1995, Cardinal Stritch College

“Creating a New Sphere for Women’s Religious Service: the Daughters of Charity in Seventeenth Century France”
Sixteenth Century Studies Conference
October 1996, University of San Francisco

“Confraternities as a Venue for Female Activism in the Catholic Reformation”
1996 Medieval Congress, The Society for Confraternity Studies
Spring 1996, University of Western Michigan
(Abstract submitted)

Publications:
“In the Guise of a Confraternity: The Foundation of the Daughters of Charity”