

## HISTORY OF EUROPEAN WOMEN

### HISTORY 3574: SPRING 2001

Professor Tom Ewing

Office hours: Monday 2:30-4:00, Wednesday 11:15-12:15, by appointment

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*My sex is usually forbid studies of this nature, folly reckoned so much our proper sphere, we are sooner pardoned any excesses of that, than the least pretensions to reading or good sense. We are permitted no books but such as tend to the weakening and effeminating of the mind.*

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, Letter to the Bishop of Salisbury (1709)

This course explores the history of European women from the eighteenth century to the present. Particular attention will be devoted to such topics as the place of women in production and reproduction, the significance of women rulers, intellectuals, writers, and activists, the impact upon women's lives of revolutions and wars, the role of women in the transition from monarchy to republic to dictatorship, the debates on women's roles in the family and in society, the rise of the women's movement and the emergence of feminism, the relationship between women and imperialism, and the variety of women's experiences across the boundaries of time and space.

This course will examine European women's history in terms of both the experiences of women and the evolution, contestation, and negotiation of gendered social and political roles. Knowledge about the changing experiences and position of women in European history is essential to a better understanding of both European history and the history of women. The development of this knowledge will involve pursuit of the following three goals:

1. to learn about the history of European women in terms of the diversity as well as the continuities of women's historical experiences
2. to understand European history from a perspective that recognizes the significance of women's roles and of gender as an organizing concept
3. to develop the analytical approach and interpretive skills with which historians seek to understand the influence of the past on the present

In this course, students will be exposed to a variety of lesson formats, including lectures, discussions, role playing, and exercises, intended to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to pursue each of these goals. The required elements of this course will encourage as well as evaluate students' capacity to integrate the mastery of a particular body of knowledge with the analytical skills necessary to understand the history of European women.

#### Course requirements:

Practicing History	Weekly	10%
Midterm exam	February 26/28	20%
Final exam	May 7	30%
5 page paper	February 12	10%
Project	April 30	30%

Practicing history refers to ungraded but required activities completed in and out of class. These activities include writing assignments and attendance at women's history events that take place on campus during the semester. Writing assignments may be announced ahead of time, and due at a designated time, or may be conducted during the class, without prior announcement. Students are responsible for completing all assignments, and will be penalized for failing to do so. Any student with special needs or circumstances should contact the instructor during office hours, by email or phone, or in some other fashion.

Midterm and final exams will be written tests, with a combination of identification, short answers, and analytic essays. Questions on the exams will be taken from assigned readings, lectures (including examples, illustrations, and topics not necessarily included in the assigned readings), discussions, and writing assignments.

The first paper will be based on assigned readings; the paper assignment will be provided to students with sufficient time for completion. The term project will be on a topic of each student's choosing related to the history of European women. The recommended format is a ten page research paper, but other formats may be proposed by students for approval by the instructor. Outlines and preliminary drafts of the final paper are strongly encouraged.

Website: [www.majbill.vt.edu/history/ewing/syllabi/European\\_Women/Syllabus2001.htm](http://www.majbill.vt.edu/history/ewing/syllabi/European_Women/Syllabus2001.htm) contains syllabus, writing assignments, lecture outlines, and supplemental texts. Relevant materials will be made available on the Website following each class.

#### **Required books:**

Bonnie Smith, Changing Lives. Women in European History since 1700  
 Carol Rittner and John Roth, eds., Different Voices. Women and the Holocaust  
 Lisa DiCaprio and Merry E. Wiesner, Lives and Voices. Sources in European Women's History  
 M. Hilton and P. Hirsch, eds., Practical Visionaries. Women, Education, and Social Progress  
 Mary Wollstonecraft, A Vindication of the Rights of Woman Norton Critical Edition only

#### **Schedule of classes and assignments:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
January 15	Introduction	
January 17	Gender in Europe	DiCaprio, Wiesner, <u>Lives and Voices</u> pp. 132-139, 178-184
January 19	Women's roles	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 6-26
January 22	Elite women	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 26-39
January 24	Working Women	DiCaprio, Wiesner, <u>Lives and Voices</u> pp. 184-209
January 26	Maternity and Family	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 39-48
January 29	Gender and Politics	DiCaprio, Wiesner, <u>Lives and Voices</u> pp. 223-242 Wollstonecraft, <u>Vindication</u> pp. 197-219
January 31	Women in Power	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 53-64

February 2	Age of Reason	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 64-75 DiCaprio, Wiesner, <u>Lives and Voices</u> pp. 243-248 Hilton, Hirsch, <u>Practical Visionaries</u> pp. 21 – 38
February 5	Woman's Character in Question	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 75-90 DiCaprio, Wiesner, <u>Lives and Voices</u> pp. 248-251 Wollstonecraft, <u>Vindication</u> pp. 1-77
February 7	Republican Virtues	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 93-116 DiCaprio, Wiesner, <u>Lives and Voices</u> pp. 257-269 Wollstonecraft, <u>Vindication</u> pp. 115-178
February 9	Wollstonecraft's Feminism	Wollstonecraft, <u>Vindication</u> pp. 178-193, 223-243
February 12	Terror and Order <b>Paper due</b>	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 117-122
February 14	Women and Romanticism	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 122-129
February 16	Napoleonic Order	DiCaprio, Wiesner, <u>Lives and Voices</u> pp. 269-275
February 19	Capitalism Emerges	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 129-131
February 21	Industrial Revolution, and Working Women	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 138-178 DiCaprio, Wiesner, <u>Lives and Voices</u> pp. 275-295
February 23	Women and Education	Hilton, Hirsch, <u>Practical Visionaries</u> pp. 39-51, 69-83 Wollstonecraft, <u>Vindication</u> pp. 279-285
February 26	<b>Midterm</b> (in class)	
February 28	<b>Midterm</b> (take home)	
March 1	No Class	
March 12	Feminine Ideals	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 181-204
March 14	Women's Cultures	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 204-219
March 16	Widening Spheres <b>Project outlines due</b>	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 222-233 DiCaprio, Wiesner, <u>Lives and Voices</u> pp. 296-322, 339-342
March 19	Women and Colonialism	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 233-246 DiCaprio, Wiesner, <u>Lives and Voices</u> pp. 323-337
March 21	Birth of Feminism	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 246-264 DiCaprio, Wiesner, <u>Lives and Voices</u> pp. 343-371 Hilton, Hirsch, <u>Practical Visionaries</u> pp. 84-114
March 23	Gender in Industrial Europe	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 272-302 DiCaprio, Wiesner, <u>Lives and Voices</u> pp. 371-384

March 26	Radical Women	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 302-314
March 28	Debating Marriage and Education	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 317-334 Hilton, Hirsch, <u>Practical Visionaries</u> pp. 131-164
March 30	Women at the End of the Century	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 334-360 DiCaprio, Wiesner, <u>Lives and Voices</u> pp. 384-393
April 2	Militant Women	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 365-382
April 4	War and the Homefront	DiCaprio, Wiesner, <u>Lives and Voices</u> pp. 394-433
April 6	Women in Revolution	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 382-402 DiCaprio, Wiesner, <u>Lives and Voices</u> pp. 433-440
April 9	“New” Women <b>Project drafts due</b>	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 410-438 DiCaprio, Wiesner, <u>Lives and Voices</u> pp. 440-463, 514-517 Hilton, Hirsch, <u>Practical Visionaries</u> pp. 203-234
April 11	Women in the Soviet Dictatorship	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 438-451 DiCaprio, Wiesner, <u>Lives and Voices</u> pp. 464-481 Online readings on Soviet women <a href="http://www.majbill.vt.edu/history/ewing/soviet_women_1930s/contents.htm">www.majbill.vt.edu/history/ewing/soviet_women_1930s/contents.htm</a>
April 13	Gender and Stalin’s “Revolution from Above”	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 454-479 Online readings on Soviet women <a href="http://www.majbill.vt.edu/history/ewing/soviet_women_1930s/contents.htm">www.majbill.vt.edu/history/ewing/soviet_women_1930s/contents.htm</a>
April 16	Anti-Semitism and Sexism	Rittner, Roth, <u>Different Voices</u> pp. 161-212 DiCaprio, Wiesner, <u>Lives and Voices</u> pp. 494-510
April 18	Women and the Holocaust: Personal Narratives	Rittner, Roth, <u>Different Voices</u> pp. 46-64, 69-83, 130-142 DiCaprio, Wiesner, <u>Lives and Voices</u> pp. 522-526
April 20	Women and the Holocaust: Interpretations	Rittner, Roth, <u>Different Voices</u> pp. 213-249, 287-308, 373-418
April 23	Medicine and the Camps	Rittner, Roth, <u>Different Voices</u> pp. 84-98, 104-129
April 25	Total War	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 479-493 DiCaprio, Wiesner, <u>Lives and Voices</u> pp. 527-533, 538-542
April 27	Europe Divided	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 497-506 DiCaprio, Wiesner, <u>Lives and Voices</u> pp. 544-553
April 30	Women East and West	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 506-529 DiCaprio, Wiesner, <u>Lives and Voices</u> pp. 573-577, 594-599
May 2	Europe Reunified	Smith, <u>Changing Lives</u> pp. 529-539 DiCaprio, Wiesner, <u>Lives and Voices</u> pp. 612-626
May 7	Final exam 7:45 9:45 am	

