

Gender in US [and World] History

Gender...provides a way to decode meaning and to understand the complex connections among various forms of human interaction. When historians look for the ways in which the concept of *gender* legitimizes and constructs social relationships, they develop insight into the reciprocal nature of *gender* and society and into the particular and contextually specific ways in which politics constructs *gender* and *gender* constructs politics.

Joan W. Scott, *Gender and the Politics of History*, pp. 45-46

History 5934, Fall 2007, Monday, 6-9 pm

Professor Tom Ewing

Office hours: Wednesday 10-12, Thursday 12-2, and by appointment

Office: 439 Major Williams, 231-8366. Email: etewing@vt.edu

Readings:

Joan W. Scott, *Gender and the Politics of History* (Columbia U Press, 1999 edition)

R. W. Connell, *Gender. A Short Introduction* (Polity Press, 2002)

Michael Kimmel, *A History of Men. Essays on the History of American and British Masculinities* (SUNY, 2005)

Kathleen Canning, *Gender History in Practice. Historical Perspectives on Bodies, Class, and Citizenship* (Cornell UP, 2006)

Ann Laura Stoler, ed., *Haunted by Empire: Geographies of Intimacy in North American History* (Duke UP, 2006)

Course Requirements:

	Date	
Class participation		20%
Outlines and Presentations	Sept 17, 24, Oct 1, Nov 5, and 22	10%
Drafts (5 pages, 15 pages)	October 8 and November 14	20%
Peer reviews of drafts	November 26	10%
Final research paper (30-40 pages)	December 7	40%

Written assignments are due on the designated date. Grade penalties may be imposed for late work. All work must conform to the Virginia Tech Honor Code. Additional readings are available from the Course Documents folder in Blackboard: learn.vt.edu. The final paper must include: 1) a critical discussion of the application of gender theory to the study of a historical topic, 2) analysis of a substantial body of primary source materials, and 3) a review of relevant historiography dealing with this historical topic. The paper should be of sufficient originality, quality, and length for presentation at a conference and possibly publication in a journal in the fields of historical and /or gender studies.

	Date	Topic and Assignment	Readings
1	August 20	Introduction	
2	August 27	Gender Analysis	Connell, <i>Gender</i>
3	September 3	Gender in History Topics and bibliographies due	Scott, <i>Gender and Politics of History</i>
4	September 10	Debating Gender History	Bock, Kessler-Harris, Higginbotham, Leydesdorff, Sinha, Downs, and Scott

5	September 17	Topics in Gender History Outlines due	Readings from students
6	September 24	Topics in Gender History	Readings from students
7	October 1	Topics in Gender History	Readings from students
8	October 8	No Class: Draft due	
9	October 15	Masculinity in History	Kimmel, <i>History of Men</i>
10	October 22	Practicing Gender History	Canning, <i>Gender History</i>
11	October 29	Gender Frontiers	Stoler, <i>Haunted by Empire</i>
12	November 5	Final presentations	Readings TBA
13	November 12	Final presentations Drafts due November 14	Readings TBA
14	November 26	Gender in the classroom Peer reviews due November 26	“Teaching Women’s History” Websites: Women in World History Suffrage, <i>Digital History Reader</i> Women & Social Movements
15	December 3	Future of Gender History Final Paper due December 7	Scott, “Feminism’s History” Ditz, “New Men’s History”

Articles and Websites:

- Gisela Bock, “Women’s History and Gender History: Aspects of an International Debate,” *Gender & History* Vol. 1, No. 1 (March 1989), pp. 7-30.
- Alice Kessler-Harris, “Gender Ideology in Historical Reconstruction: A Case Study from the 1930s,” *Gender & History* Vol. 1, No. 1 (March 1989), pp. 31-49.
- Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, “Beyond the Sound of Silence: Afro-American Women in History,” *Gender & History* Vol. 1, No. 1 (March 1989), pp. 50-67.
- Selma Leydesdorff, “Gender and the Categories of Experienced History,” *Gender & History* Vol. 11, No. 3 (November 1999), pp. 587-611.
- Mrinalini Sinha, “Giving Masculinity a History: Some Contributions from the Historiography of Colonial India,” *Gender & History* Vol. 11, No. 3 (November 1999), pp. 445-460.
- Laura Lee Downs, “If ‘Woman’ is Just an Empty Category, Then Why Am I Afraid to Walk Alone at Night? Identity Politics Meets the Postmodern Subject,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* Vol. 35, No. 2 (April 1993), pp. 414-437; and “Reply to Joan Scott,” pp. 444-451.
- Joan W. Scott, “The Tip of the Volcano,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* Vol. 35, No. 2 (April 1993), pp. 438-443.
- Joan W. Scott, “The Evidence of Experience,” *Critical Inquiry* Vol. 17, No. 4 (Summer 1991), pp. 773-797
- Toby L. Ditz, “The New Men’s History and the Peculiar Absence of Gendered Power: Some Remedies from Early American Gender History,” *Gender & History* 16/1 (2004), pp. 1-35.
- Joan W. Scott, “Feminism’s History,” *Journal of Women’s History* Vol. 16, No. 2 (2004), pp. 10-29.
- “Perspectives on Teaching Women’s History. Views from the Classroom, the Library, and the Internet,” *Journal of Women’s History* Vol. 16, No. 2 (2004), pp. 143-212.
- Digital History Reader: www.dhr.history.vt.edu
- Women in World History, World History Matters: <http://chnm.gmu.edu/wwh/index.html>
- Women and Social Movements: <http://www.binghamton.edu/womhist/>