Administrative Unit: History and Social Sciences Department

Course Prefix and Number: HIST 322

Course Title: European Society and the Sexes

Number of: Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: Through this course students will gain an understanding of European society and the sexes through analysis of the history of culture, family, political and economic lives in increasingly industrial and modern Europe, 1700-2000. Through readings and discussion students will examine how diversity of class, race and nation shaped men’s and women’s lives and how gender differentiates historical experiences. While studying the sexes and gender relations specifically, students will gain an understanding of men’s and women’s lives as individuals, as members of groups, and within the larger context of European history. Readings will include primary and secondary texts on such subjects as gender theory, separation of spheres, the meanings of work, feminism, working class sexuality, middle-class family life, pornography, sexual imperialism, prostitution, and intellectual contributions of key thinkers. Cross-listed as WMST 322. Prerequisite: A previous 100- or 200-level history course.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): A previous 100- or 200-level history course.

Text(s): A required text must be assigned and supplemented with a minimum of two recommended texts. Additional primary and secondary sources may be assigned as well. Most current editions of the following:

Required:

Bridenthal, Renate, Susan Stuard, & Merry Wiesner, eds. *Becoming Visible: Women in European History*.

Caine, Barbara & Glenda Sluga. *Gendering European History*.

Stearns, Peter. *Be a Man! Males in Modern Society*.

Recommended:

DeBeauvoir, Simone. *The Second Sex*.

von Goethe, J. W. *The Sufferings of Young Werther*.

Shoemaker, Robert & Mary Vincent, eds. *Gender & History in Western Europe*.
Heilbrun, Carolyn. *Writing a Woman’s Life*.

Jagger, Alison & Iris Young, eds. *A Companion to Feminist Philosophy*.

Koven, Seth & Sonya Michel. *Mothers of a New World*.


Course Objectives:

- To understand European society and the sexes through analysis of gender theory and the history of culture, family, political and economic lives in an increasingly industrial and modern Europe, 1700-2000.
- To understand how diversity of class, race and nation shaped men’s and women’s lives and how gender differentiates historical experiences.
- To understand the sexes and gender relations within the context of men’s and women’s lives as individuals, as members of groups, and within the larger context of European history.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:

- Understand major themes within European society and the sexes.
- Identify and characterize significant historical factors which contribute to patterns of change and continuity.
- Analyze primary documents within a historical framework.
- Compare matriarchal and patriarchal systems.
- Understand the development of separate spheres and the impact on social structure.
- Define and explain the politics of power as it relates to separate spheres and gender constructions.
- Define and explain the factors which contributed to historical gender definitions and the continuum of heterosexuality and homosexuality.
- Define and explain the idea of social constructions of gender.
- Understand the power relations present in pornography, sexual imperialism and prostitution.
- Understand sexual revolutions.
- Define and explain the impact of media and technology on societal constructs of gender.
Topical Outline:

Note: Students will write a historical research paper which utilizes primary texts, an original argument, historical analysis, and proper Chicago documentation.

- Gender and the Politics of History
- Women and Men of Letters in the Enlightenment
- The Separation of Spheres—Cult of Domesticity
- Industrialization: Gendered Work
- The Value of Work
- Womanhood and Manhood as Social Constructions
- Definitions of Sexuality
- Heterosexuality and Homosexuality
- Feminism and Socialism
- Pornography, Sexual Imperialism, and Prostitution
- Gender and Race
- Gender and Class
- The Social Welfare State
- The Sexual Revolution
- Technology, Media and Gender

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 35

Library Resources

Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

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Date: September 21, 2005

NOTE: The intention of this master course syllabus is to provide a general outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught, or where it is taught. This generic outline is not intended to restrict the way any individual faculty member teaches the course. The master syllabus, therefore, should be general enough to allow for a diversity of individual approaches to teaching the course, while at the same time providing guidance on what the course should cover.