

GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES COURSES, SPRING 2010

GWS 5000/HIS

Integrating Seminar: The Problem of Gender, Intellect, and Authority

MW 1:30-2:45pm

Dr. Catherine Kerrison

“The educational deprivation of women,” Gerda Lerner has pointed out, was one form of “male hegemony over the [cultural] symbol system.” Denied education, women lacked voice and authority; denied their history, they repeated in isolation the painful process of recognizing how educational deprivation explained women’s “inferiority.” Thus, the battle for female access to the same kind of educational opportunities open to men seemed to be the way to achieve equality of the sexes. Other theorists questioned whether, in fact, such a goal was even desirable. “This access to a male dominated culture may equally be felt to bring with it alienation, repression, division,” Mary Jacobus believes, “a loss of women’s inheritance.” Historically, secondary and post-secondary schools had been created for male students. Thus the intellectual canon has been the predominately male-produced literature, history, art, music, and scholarship of western civilization.

So how are women best served in their struggle to realize their own authority: by claiming the rights of men or by constructing an alternative model? Education has been widely touted as foundational to financial success since the industrialized period of the nineteenth century. In the twentieth, it appeared to offer women access to the polity and to offer hope for a new gender order. In the twenty-first, the education of women has been identified as the single best strategy for improving the economic conditions of third-world nations. This course will examine gendered claims to authority specifically through the prism of education, using interdisciplinary tools of analysis to assess the problem of gender, the intellect, and authority in today’s world.

Registration only by permission of the instructor.

AAH 3001-001

Women in Art

TR 1:00-2:15pm

Dr. Jeanne Brody

Since 1970, when Linda Nochlin asked “Why Were There No Great Women Artists?” feminist art historians have sought to explore women's place in art and art production. But in the past 40 years, feminist art history has evolved from its original goal of rediscovering women artists to include many exciting strategies for thinking about how gender is constructed in art and history. In this class, we learn about women artists, but we also spend time each class examining and analyzing works of art that feature images of women. Issues we explore in this class include:

- Reading traditional art from a feminist point of view
- The female body/the nude
- Putting art by women in historical context and how women artists created work that reflected women’s position during their lifetimes.
- Questioning/rejecting traditional definitions of “great art”
- Questioning traditional ways of approaching art history

- Theoretical approaches employed by both Art Historians as well as feminist artists
- Appropriation/negation/denial/erasure of male art production
- How feminist art strategies also often compliment analysis of other under-represented groups - people of color, etc.

Texts: Whitney Chadwick, Women, Art, and Society and Norma Broude/Mary Garrard, Reclaiming Female Agency

Additional readings, including Nochlin's seminal article, are on electronic reserve.

In addition to readings and discussions, everyone participates in a class blog, and we will take at least one field trip to see an exhibition of work by women.

AAH 3009-100 **History and Art of Photography**
TR 6:00-7:15 pm **Dr. Kim Nastick**

Point, Shoot, Click! The invention of photography, in the early 19th century, revolutionized the way we see and represent our culture and our lives. Photography introduced an entirely unforeseen visual medium and put it in the hands of anyone who could point, shoot and click. Perhaps this is the reason photography was quickly labeled a “low” art form, too mechanical and too democratic to be taken seriously. Was it even art at all or just a commercial fad? And, yet, in a relatively short time, the tables have turned, and it is possible to ask, as the New York Times did November 13, 1988, “It’s Art, but is it Photography?”

In this course, we will study photography as a viable art form that surely has a place alongside the beaux arts traditions of painting, sculpture and architecture, and we will critically reflect on how, on the verge of the 21st century, photography, film, and video have come to dominate the art world. We will study the art of photography thematically B through the lenses of art, science, social science, travel, fashion, war, and mass media B and theoretically B through the lenses of capitalism, colonialism, feminism, racism and postmodernism. We will analyze the traditional canon of photographers from Europe and the United States, and we will become familiar with the new and exciting work by photographers in Latin America, Africa, India, China and Japan.

COM 3341-0001 **Gender and Film**
MW 3:00-4:15pm **Dr. Susan Mackey-Kallis**

This course examines to the role of cinematic images in the cultural production of gender in contemporary societies. Students analyze images of gender in a variety of contemporary American films with a special emphasis on the way film structure and content rhetorically constructs masculinities and femininities and the ideological functions and implications of these constructions for audiences and culture. This analysis of specific films is grounded in course readings taken from primary sources in feminism film theory and criticism, rhetorical film theory and criticism, gender theory and media studies. Students will have the opportunity to propose and explore analytic, creative, and/or theoretical projects within the purview of the course theme.

In addition to some outside viewing, this course requires either that students have taken COM 1300 or permission of instructor.

ENG 1050-015 **Exploring Gender in the Literary Experience**
MW 1:30-2:45pm **Dr. Ellen Bonds**

In this reading and writing-intensive course, students will learn and practice literary analysis focused through the lens of gender and feminist theory. As we read and discuss men and women authors, we'll consider some of the following questions: Is form and content influenced by gender and how so? What perspectives do we gain by considering how men write about male experience, how they write about female experience; conversely how women write about female and male experience? In what ways do certain works challenge or affirm conventional attitudes toward men and women? Potential authors include fiction writers William Faulkner, Toni Morrison, Ethan Canin, and Amy Tan, poets Seamus Heaney and Nuala NiDhomhnaill, and dramatists August Wilson, and Wendy Wasserstein.

ENG 2300-001 **Women in Literature**
TR 1:00-2:15pm **Dr. Ellen Bonds**

In this course we will examine the roles that women have played and continue to play in literature—as characters, as readers, and most importantly as writers. We will read a diversity of women authors and consider how women writers explore gender issues—relationships between men and women, the roles both men and women play in history and society—as well as issues pertaining to class and race. Beginning with Sappho, we will trace women's contributions to literature from ancient time to the present as we explore questions such as—How are women's lives portrayed in literature? Is form and content influenced by gender? In what ways do certain works challenge or affirm conventional ideas about women? Central to our study will be an examination of literary and feminist theory that discusses women's place in history and society. This course is Writing Enriched.

HIS 2296-001 **History of American Women**
TR 10:00-11:15 am **Dr. Karen Kauffman**

This course will explore the changing participation of women in North American society from the colonial period to the present. Work culture for women of various racial and ethnic backgrounds, the development of law surrounding the redefinition of gender, suffrage, the "cult of domesticity", and the impact of women's involvement in notable political, social, and economic movements are some of the topics we will examine. Students will be expected to read material from a variety of sources, including current scholarship as well as contemporary works. The course will follow a combination lecture/discussion format. Grades will be based upon class participation, two 5-7 page commentaries, a mid-term and a comprehensive final examination.

HIS 3095-001 **Women of the Ancient World**
TR 1:00-2:15pm **Dr. Kelly Diamond Reed**

Often relegated to the footnotes, many women from the ancient world are not aptly represented in modern accounts of ancient history. The fact is that many led intriguing and fascinating lives and have been under-represented in modern sources. This course will concentrate on the role of women in some of the most ancient civilizations, such as Egypt and Mesopotamia. We will look at the daily lives of women and at such areas as marriage, fertility, pregnancy, childbirth, legal position, and religion. Likewise, there were certain remarkable women who managed to acquire high positions within the hierarchy of society and in some cases even led the country. Queen Hatshepsut, Queen Nefertiti and Cleopatra are among the most notable.

Classes will be organized in a seminar style with emphasis placed on student participation. There will be a midterm exam, final exam, and one short paper. All ancient sources will be read in translation.

HIS 4090-001 **Women in the Middle East**
TR 2:30-3:45pm **Dr. Hibba Abugideiri**

This course offers an introduction to the study of women in the Middle East and Arab North Africa in the modern period. In taking an historical approach to the topic, much emphasis will be placed on discourse analysis. We will take a cursory glance at various topics, starting with Islamic tradition and law as a historical base, then move into issues of modern history, including how ME/NA gender was affected by imperialism, nationalism, decolonization and the rise of the modern nation-state as well as discourses of "the veil." Implicit to studying these topics is the overarching question of whether women from "the East" are different from, or similar to, women of "the West," and whether the same categories and conceptual tools of analysis used for studying gender in the West can and should be used to study women in the Arab East.

HIS 4395-001 **Geisha and Samurai**
TR 2:30-3:45pm **Dr. Holly Sanders**

HUM 2900-003 **The Modern European Catholic Novel**
TR 2:30-3:45pm **Dr. Helena Tomko**

During the first half of the twentieth century, a significant group of European Catholic writers succeeded in producing novels that won wide readership, both Christian and secular, as well as serious and enduring literary acclaim. In this course we will encounter novels written by authors, three men and three women, who are identified with a particular flourishing of the European Catholic novel. While the Catholic character of these texts speaks to a pan-European literary phenomenon, the novels will also introduce us to the various national, cultural, and political worlds in which their authors were writing. We will give due attention to the voice of women writers, who played an important but often overlooked role in shaping the Catholic novel. The

six novels we will read will give us a unique insight into a historical period spanning the aftermath of both World Wars.

The course will explore the relationship of these Catholic novels to the mainstream secular novel of the period, in particular to realist and postrealist fictions. Central to the course will be a discussion of how a realism perceived and depicted in a materialist, rationalist, or irrational way can be variously infused with, complicated by, or simply be at odds with a realism that is perceived and depicted with the eyes of sacramental faith.

Each of the authors we discuss, both men and women, raise important questions concerning the role of gender and the place of women in history, society, the Church, and the family. Alongside other recurrent themes in the Catholic novel—the nature of sanctity and prayer, the problem of evil, questions of psychology and interiority—we will therefore analyze gender issues, including women's sexuality and spirituality, the role of women in history, and the nature of marital relationships.

PHI 2420-001, -002 Philosophy of Women
MW 3:00-4:15, MW 4:30-5:45 Ms. Katie Grosh

In this course students will compare and contrast various contemporary theories on gender and will critically examine the way women have been portrayed in some of the canonical texts of western philosophy. Our goal is to sustain a cooperative learning environment in which we look deeply at Feminist Theories and the Feminist Movement from a variety of perspectives. Students also will be challenged to explore how various theories address social practices and affect other oppressed social groups.

SOC 4000-001 Sociology of Sports
MW 9:30-10:20am Dr. Rick Eckstein

Sport, like other social institutions—such as the family, religion, and education—shapes and directs our thoughts and behaviors. It is more than just playing games. A sociological examination of sports tries to unravel the positive and negative values that sports reflect, and how these values contribute to or inhibit social justice in our world. This class will take a “critical” view of sports. This does not mean that everything about sports is bad. Rather, being critical means refusing to romanticize sports (and athletes) and instead be willing to pierce through the sometimes haughty rhetoric in order to uncover a less glorified reality. We will pay special attention to the way gender, social class, ethnicity, and religion interact with organized sports.

THL 2420-001, -002 Women in the Bible
MW 1:30-2:45pm, MW 3:00-4:15pm Dr. Judith Hadley

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to various narratives about women in the biblical text, and to examine the different portrayals of women which emerge from these texts. In recent years, new systems of analysis have emerged in the field of biblical study, which

complement "traditional" interpretations with new interpretations from various perspectives. Feminist scholars in particular are re-examining the biblical stories concerning women in an effort to come to a new understanding of the place of women in ancient society, as well as to discover new ways in which these texts can be relevant to today's women and men of faith. Increasingly more and more texts are being read in such a way as to listen for a feminine voice within the text, or to allow the women in the narratives to speak with their own voices. Often this voice may be heard through its absence. For example, what can the silence and non-involvement of Sarah tell us in Genesis 22 when her husband Abraham nearly sacrifices HER only son?