



**HISTORY 329.01E
WOMEN AND GENDER IN MODERN EUROPE
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2015**



Instructor: Dr. Sharon Kowalsky
Office Location: Ferguson Social Sciences 105
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 2:00-5:00, or by appointment
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COURSE INFORMATION

Course Materials:

The following required books are available at the bookstore:

- Offen, *European Feminisms, 1700-1950* (2000) ISBN 978-0804734202, \$29.95
- Zola, *Ladies Paradise* (Oxford, 1999) ISBN 0192836021, \$13.95
- Baranskaya, *A Week Like Any Other* (Seal Press, 1993), ISBN 978-0931188800, \$14.95

Any additional materials will be distributed in class by the professor or made available to students through eCollege.

Course Description:

This course, by focusing on women and gender, seeks to “understand how definitions of sexual difference were translated into norms of behavior for European men and women and how these norms changed over the course of the modern period” (Timm and Sanborn, 2). To do this, we will focus on several themes that will help us discern the dynamics of gender relations in modern Europe. Beginning with the French Revolution, we will explore changing rights for women, considering the ways that gender and sex have been perceived and how that has influenced political opportunities. We will also explore the gendered aspects of work and family and the role gender played as these institutions underwent significant transformations in the 19th and 20th centuries, and examine the roles of men and women in the public and private spheres. Finally, we will consider how the major political events of the twentieth century—war, revolution, communism, fascism—affected women and altered conceptions of gender. By the end of the course, students should be able to evaluate and discuss the ways that gender has influenced experience and opportunity, and should have a deeper perspective and understanding of the course of modern European history.

Prerequisite and/or Corequisite: Majors--History 253. Non-Majors may enroll with consent of instructor.

Student Learning Outcomes:

This course will teach students to evaluate and analyze materials and to link cultural representations to the underlying historical realities that helped shape them. By the end of the semester, students should be able to: explain and assess women’s struggle for equal rights.

The objectives of this course include: (1) to gain factual knowledge about the period under discussion; (2) to develop the specific skills and points of view needed by historians; (3) to improve skills needed for oral and written expression; (4) to be able to place the present in a historically based context; and (5) to learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

Students’ ability to meet the objectives and learning outcomes of this course will be evaluated through exams, essays, quizzes, and research projects.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is strongly encouraged. You are responsible for all material covered in our class meetings, regardless of your physical presence in the room. Students are expected to come prepared to engage with and discuss the assigned material. This means preparing the assignment before class and bringing the reading material with you to class. I expect all students to participate in our class discussions and to contribute their thoughts, ideas, and questions to our collective exploration. I especially encourage you to bring your questions to class. I will create, and expect you to uphold, an intellectual environment in the classroom where we can listen to and consider others’ arguments and opinions with an open mind and where we respect viewpoints other than our own. Your participation grade will be based on your engagement in our class discussions and be guided by the following rubric:

A = Always prepared, frequently participates, rarely absent

B = Always prepared, participates only when called on, rarely absent

C = Usually prepared, rarely speaks, rarely absent

D = Often unprepared, several absences
F = Usually unprepared, frequent absences

Written Assignments

Students will complete two related writing assignments over the course of the semester which will involve some outside research. Details of the assignments are available on the eCollege site and the due dates are listed in the Course Schedule below.

Exams

Students will take two exams (midterm and final) in class on the dates listed in the Course Schedule below. Students will need to bring blue books or stapled notebook paper with them to the exams.

Quizzes and Homework

Students may be asked to complete quizzes over the course of the semester at the discretion of the professor. Quizzes may be in class or administered over eCollege. The professor may also assign short homework assignments that ask students to reflect on the readings. It is the responsibility of the student to determine if you have missed a homework assignment and to make arrangements to complete it. Quizzes and homework assignments will make up part of the participation grade.

Grading

Grades for the semester will be determined according to the following breakdown:

Written Assignments	35%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Participation/Attendance	15%

Your grades for written work will be determined based on the following rubric:

- A = Mastery of reading and class material; factual accuracy; thoughtful, historical argumentation demonstrating ability to synthesize and/or some originality of thought; technically clean
- B = Good to excellent command of most reading and class material; accuracy; good level of historical argumentation; reasonable thesis statement
- C = Good command of class material; accuracy; ability to articulate a historical point of view, even if it is not compelling or is poorly reasoned
- D = Poor command of required assignments; errors; ahistorical or narrow reasoning

The grading scale used for this course is as follows:

90-100 =	A
80-89 =	B
70-79 =	C
60-69 =	D
59 or less =	F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS, AND NAVIGATION

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course:

Word Processing:

You will need access to a word processor and printer to prepare written exams and research projects. You should be able to insert footnotes in your papers.

eCollege:

This course is web-enhanced through eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To access eCollege you will need an internet connection, preferably high speed, and your CWID and password. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, please contact Technology Services at 903-468-6000 or helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx>. eCollege will be used to send you announcements and reminders, to post grades, and to provide access to course materials (except required readings) such as handouts and assignments. In addition, eCollege will be the primary means for me to communicate with you outside the classroom. Be sure that you can access the email account the university has on record for you. You should get into the habit of checking the eCollege site for this course on a daily basis.

Turnitin:

Students must submit all written work to Turnitin. Students will submit their written work to the dropbox on eCollege; submission to Turnitin will be automatic through the dropbox. Please let me know if you have any problems.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor:

Students are encouraged to contact the professor for any and all reasons whatsoever. The more you let me know what is going on with you, the better I can help you out when necessary. Beyond the classroom, the best way to get in touch with the professor is through email. I am also available during my office hours. Please come to talk to me about any concerns you might have and about any problems or issues that arise during the semester. I can be very understanding but only if I know what is going on with you.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES
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Classroom Behavior

All students are expected to observe basic tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). During class time, I expect your undivided attention. This means turning off cell phones, pagers, iPods, and other devices, and putting away newspapers and other forms of distraction, for the duration of the class period (exceptions will be allowed for emergencies with advance permission of the professor). Please come to class on time and plan to stay for the entire period. Coming late and/or disrupting the learning environment shows disrespect for me, your colleagues, and the educational endeavor in which you are engaged. If you must leave early, please let me know at the beginning of class. I can be very understanding of problems that might arise over the course of the semester, but only if I know what is going on with you. I encourage you to come to my office hours, to get to know me, and to keep me informed of any issues you might have that would affect your performance in this class.

Late Papers

All written assignments are due at the end of the day (midnight) on the date listed in the Course Schedule below. Late assignments may be accepted only with the advance approval of the professor and may be assessed a penalty of one letter grade per week. If you have a problem with a due date because of a specific emergency, please notify the professor in advance or plan to turn the assignment in early. *I can be very understanding and flexible with you, but only if you come to talk to me in advance.* To pass this class, all written assignments (papers and

exams) must be completed. Any missing assignments at the end of the course will result in an overall course grade of D or F.

Academic Honesty

In all courses, we expect that all work that you do and turn in is your own. It is the policy of the University, the History Department, and myself that no form of plagiarism, cheating, collusion, or any other form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as deliberately taking the words or ideas of someone else and passing them off as your own. Cheating is obtaining unauthorized assistance on any assignment. Collusion is the selling of academic products with the intention that they be submitted to satisfy an academic requirement. Students are expected to uphold and support the highest academic standards at all times. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will automatically fail the assignment in question, will likely fail the entire course, and will be subject to disciplinary action by the University (See Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3]). Further information on the History Department plagiarism policy can be found on the History Department web page. If you are even unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please ask.

Writing Center

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources of the Writing Center for assistance with drafting their papers. The Writing Center is a resource for you. They will not write your paper; they will help you improve your writing skills. If you use the Writing Center, please plan ahead. They can only help you if you see them in advance and have time to incorporate their suggestions into the final paper. More information can be found at <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/CSC/>.

Nondiscrimination Statement

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

This schedule will guide you through the semester and indicates when your assignments are due. It should be referred to often. I will do my best to adhere to this schedule, but I reserve the right to make adjustments to it during the course of the semester as such circumstances arise.

Reading assignments for each class meeting can be found on eCollege. Please check the site on a daily basis.

Week 1

January 21: Introduction

Week 2

January 26: Understanding Terminology

January 28: Gender and Political Rights

Week 3

February 2: Gender and Political Rights

February 4: The Position of Women and the Family

Week 4

February 9: Work and Family

February 11: Domesticity
Writing Assignment #1 Due

Week 5

February 16: Education

February 18: The Struggle for Suffrage

Week 6

February 23: The Struggle for Suffrage

February 25: The Struggle for Suffrage

Week 7

March 2: The Struggle for Suffrage

March 4: Exam

Week 8

March 9: Film TBA

March 11: Film continued

March 16-18: Spring Break

Week 9

March 23: Consumerism

March 25: Consumerism
Read: Zola, *Ladies Paradise*, all

Week 10

March 30: Gender, Science, Sex, Crime

April 1: Gender and Socialism
Writing Assignment #2 Due

Week 11

April 6: Gender and Socialism

April 8: Gender and Socialism

Week 12

April 13: Gender and Socialism

April 15: Gender and Socialism

Week 13

April 20: Gender and War

April 22: Gender and War

Week 14

April 27: Gender and Fascism

April 29: Gender and Modern Europe

Week 15

May 4: Conclusions

May 6: Conclusions

Final Exam: Wednesday, May 13, 1:15-3:15