

History 209
Topics in Modern World History II: Women in World History

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Office Hours: M and W 2-3
E-mail via Blackboard

Course description:

This course will introduce students to some major themes in the study of women and world history since 1750, focusing primarily on Africa, Asia, Europe, and the United States. We will explore how women's experiences changed over time and differed according to location. The course will examine three topics in-depth a) the evolution of the Atlantic slave trade b) the rise of industrial capitalism and c) women's political activism. Students will learn how to analyze a variety of primary sources and evaluate historical debates. They will consider how looking at women and gender changes our understanding of major topics in world history and sheds light on contemporary global politics.

Goals and Learning Outcomes:

A) History Department

1. Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures in a wide variety of places and periods.
2. Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view.
3. Use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument in writing.

B) Course specific

4. Understand major themes in women and world history from 1750 to the present.
5. Identify some of the historical roots of contemporary political issues.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Weekly Quizzes:

Each week you will take a short timed multiple choice quiz on the readings. It will cover the text I have written on blackboard explaining the topic, the assigned readings, websites, and videos. Anything that you have read or linked to during the week will be on the quiz.

You should take notes on all of the reading, web text, and videos so that you are prepared to complete the quiz within the allotted time. Quizzes will range from 5 to 10 questions and the time limit will vary depending on the length (you are given one minute for each question). Quizzes are based directly on the information from this class, not anything that you find on external websites or in other books.

Quizzes must be completed each week by Friday at 5pm.

Weekly Discussion Board Posts:

Most weeks, you must post twice on the discussion board. I will prompt you with questions to guide your posts. Your first post must directly engage at least one of my questions and use specific examples from the class materials to support your arguments. A crucial part of the discussion post is to show that you have read, listened to, and understood all of the assigned texts and videos. Make sure that your post conveys your knowledge and critical thinking about the materials.

I welcome exploration of topics based on the readings that I did not address in my discussion prompt questions. However, if you want to discuss additional topics, please *respond to one of my questions first* and then share your ideas.

Discussion posts must be original. You must not simply reiterate the readings but show that you have thought about them and formed an opinion. Do not copy your peers. Posts that repeat another students' point will not be judged to be original.

Your second post must respond to another students' post. In this post, you should engage the other students' argument, show that you have thought about and understood what they wrote, and offer your own ideas.

The first post is due each week on Wednesday at 5pm.

The second post on the reading is due each week on Friday at 5pm.

Think of blackboard posts as the “classroom time” of this online course. This means that deadline are firm. Plan ahead and post early to ensure that you receive full credit for your work. If you run into traffic, have to work overtime, get overwhelmed with work for another class, or simply forget and do not post on time, I cannot accommodate you.

The grading rubric for your posts is included at the end of the syllabus. Make sure to carefully look it over. It includes guidelines about the length of your posts.

Grades:

Weekly Quizzes: 25%

Weekly Discussion Posts: 40%

Mid-Term Essay: 15%

Final Essay: 20%

I use the following grading scale: 99 and above A+, 93 and above A, 90-92 A-, 88-89 B+, 83-87 B, 80-82 B-, 78-79 C+, 73-77 C, 70-72 C-, 68-69 D+, 63-67 D, 60-62 D-, 59 and below F.