HIS 206-01
Women, Gender, and Power in the Premodern Atlantic World (up to 1750)
Tuesdays & Thursdays
8:00-9:15 AM
Classroom: SOEB 206

Instructor: Ms. Jewel Parker
Office: MHRA 3103
Email: jcparke2@uncg.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00 AM to 12 PM, Thursdays 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM and By Appointment

Course Description
This course surveys women’s and gender history in the Atlantic World up to 1750. This course explores how social and cultural expectations for gender roles informed concepts of power, reproductive and physical labor, family dynamics, religion, economics, and politics as exchanges of peoples, ideas, and goods circulated the Atlantic Ocean. Focusing on these themes and the lives of women living in Africa, Europe, and the Americas, this course will examine questions such as “How were women’s lives affected by European exploration and the growth of empires?,” “How did women display power within their families and communities?,” and “How did the lives of single women differ from the lives of married women?” Through answering these questions, learners will develop a more thorough understanding of how ideas about gender, sexuality, race, and class informed significant developments across the Atlantic, such as European exploration, intercultural interactions, the Atlantic slave trade, and the ways women worked within and pushed against societal boundaries to control their own lives and gain visibility within their communities. Learners will analyze primary sources from diverse perspectives that introduce the controversies, trends, events, and actors in the premodern period. In addition to exploring women and gender as a historical concept, learners will also learn analytical skills employed in the study of history.

MHFA: Critical Thinking and Inquiry in the Humanities and Fine Arts
1. Critically analyze claims, arguments, artifacts or information.
2. Construct coherent, evidence-based arguments.

Course Specific Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):
1. Evaluate how women’s experiences shaped the history of the Atlantic World.
2. Assess and compare changes in various racial, ethnic, religious, and gender norms and expectations that shaped the Atlantic World up to 1750.
3. Contextualize and interpret primary and secondary texts to determine validity and reliability and connect them to the larger themes in Atlantic World history.
**Required Texts:** Throughout the semester, we will examine a variety of sources including videos, artwork, and primary and secondary source documents. All readings will be available online via Canvas.

**Course Facilitator and Participant Expectations** (Linked in Canvas)

**Course Requirements** (Assignment Descriptions Linked in Canvas)

**Participation** (MHFA 1, 2; SLO 1, 2, 3)

**Analysis Assignments:** (MHFA 1, 2; SLO 1, 2, 3)

**Late Policy** (Linked in Canvas)

**Evaluation**

Grades will be based on 3 different aspects of student performance: (1) participation, (2) the Module 1 Analysis Assignment, and (3) the Module 2 Analysis Assignment. The final grade will be determined according to the following calculation:

**Participation** (19 Historical Analysis Worksheets + General Participation in Class Discussions and Attentiveness to Lectures):

40% total

**Module 1 and 2 Analysis Assignments (each 30%):**

60% total

100% possible

**Grading Scale:**

A: 93-100  B+: 87-89  C+: 77-79  D+: 67-69  F: 0-59

A-: 90-92  B: 83-86  C: 73-76  D: 63-66

B-: 80-82  C-: 70-72  D-: 60-62

**Elasticity Statement:** It is the intention of the instructor that this syllabus and course calendar will be followed as outlined, however, as the need arises there may be adjustments to the syllabus and calendar. It is your responsibility to watch for any class announcements about alterations. **Subscribe to Canvas Announcements.**

**Academic Integrity**

**Resources** (Linked in Canvas)

Topical Course Schedule
Module 1-The Origins of the Atlantic World

Week 1- What is the Atlantic World?

*01/14 Drop/Add period ends; last day to change course(s) or course section(s) for the Standard Term. Last day to withdraw from a course for tuition and fees refund; course withdrawal policy in effect after this date.

1/11: Course Introduction

- Introduction of Course/ Review Syllabus and Course Canvas Page

- Review Historical Thinking Skills Chart


1/13: What is the Atlantic World?

- Lecture on Introduction to the Atlantic World

- Discussion of the reading, “From the Editor: Introduction, Definitions, and Historiography, What is Atlantic History?”


Week 2-Gender and Power as Categories of Analysis

01/18: Women and Men in the Making of the Atlantic World

- Lecture on Gender Roles Varying According to Peoples and Geographical Location

- Discussion of the reading, “Partners: Women and Men in the Making of the Atlantic World”

- In-Class Quiz on Historical Analysis of a Primary Source (Shows the Instructor What Students Know; Not Graded For Accuracy)

1/20: Gender and Power as Analytical Categories

- Lecture on Gender and Power as Categories of Analysis
- Discussion of the reading, “Historicizing Slavery in Caribbean Feminism”
- Lecture Introducing Sourcing, Close Reading, and Contextualization of a Primary Source


Week 3-Women & Gender in Africa

1/25: Women’s Agency in West Africa

- Lecture on Africa: A Diverse Land
- Discussion of the reading, “Gendering the Black Atlantic”


1/27: African Women’s Histories

- Lecture on Women in Africa
- Discussion of the reading, “African Women and the Atlantic Slave Trade”
- Watch Video on “Queen Njinga Mbandi | Africa's Great Civilizations” (5 minutes, 51 seconds) in class
- In Class Historical Analysis Skills Activity on Queen Njinga

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**Week 4-Women & Gender in South America**

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**2/1: Indigenous Women of South America**

-Lecture on Women and Gender in South America


**2/3: South American Women as Keepers of Cultural Traditions**


-To read for Tuesday, 2/8: Maria Herrera Sobek, “In Search of La Malinche: Pictorial Representations of a Mytho-Historical Figure,” in *Feminism, Nation, and Myth: La Malinche* (Houston: Arte Público Press, 2005), 112-134.

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**Week 5-Women & Gender in North America**

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**2/8: Revealing Native Women’s Stories through Visual & Written Sources**

-Discuss the reading, “In Search of La Malinche”

-Lecture on La Malinche

-In Class Historical Analysis Skills Activity: What was La Malinche’s role in the conquest of Mexico?

2/10: Native Women, Gender, and Cross-Dressing Revealed in Written Sources

-Discuss the reading, “Captain John Smith’s Indian ‘Maskarado’”

-Lecture on Women and Gender in North America

-In Class Historical Analysis Skills Assignment: European Images of Native American Women


  • Listed in Canvas as Part 1 (pages 50-71) and Part 2 (pages 71-84)

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**Week 6-Women & Gender in Europe**

2/15: The Iberian Atlantic

-Lecture on Women and Gender in Europe

-Discuss the reading, “Individuals in Society”


2/17: Women, Intercultural Interactions, and Power in the “Old World”

-Lecture on Variety of European Women’s Experiences

-Discuss the reading, “The Power of Assimilation”

-In-Class Historical Analysis Skills Assignment on [Queen Elizabeth I Primary Sources](#)


Week 7-Women & Gender in the Caribbean

2/22: Women and Gender in Pre-Contact Caribbean Societies

-Lecture on Women and Gender in the Caribbean

-Discuss the readings, “Pre-Columbian Societies,” and Excerpt from *The Rise and Decline of the People Who Greeted Columbus*

2/24: More on Caribbean Cultures

-Review Historical Thinking Skill of Contextualization

-In-Class Historical Analysis Skills Assignment on 2 Primary Sources:
  
  

Week 8-Module 1 Review and Exam

3/1: Review for Module 1 Analysis Assignment

-Review of Sourcing, Close Reading, and Contextualization with Completion of Worksheet In Class

3/3: End of Module 1: The Origins of the Atlantic World

-Complete Module 1 Analysis Assignment in Class


* No Class on Tuesday, March 8th and Thursday, March 10th for Spring Break.*
Module 2-The Building of the Atlantic World

Week 9-Women & Gender in the Maritime World

3/15: Women in Maritime Symbols and Rituals
-Lecture on Women and Gender in the Maritime World
-Discuss the reading, “Women and Water, Sirens and Mermaids”

3/17: Women and Gender in Port Cities
-Lecture on Relationships in the Maritime World
-Discuss the reading, “A Wife in Every Port”

Week 10-Women and Piracy in the Atlantic World

3/22: Women, Pirates, and Women Pirates
-Lecture on Piracy
-Discuss the reading, “Pirates, Female Receivers and Partners”

3/24: Women, Pirates, and Women Pirates Continued
-Discuss the reading, “Wives, Partners, and Prostitutes”


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**Week 11-The Columbian Exchange’s Effects on Native Women’s Lives**

**3/29: First Contact Between Europeans and Indigenous Americans**

-Lecture on the Columbian Exchange

-Discuss the reading, “First Encounters”

-In-Class Historical Analysis Skills Assignment on 3 Primary Sources:


**3/31: The Effects of the Columbian Exchange**

-Discuss the reading, Excerpt from *The Archeology of the Caribbean*


Week 12-Women & Religion Within the Atlantic World

4/5: Religious Women in the Atlantic World

-Lecture on Religion and Gender Expectations in the Atlantic World

-Discuss the reading, “A Woman’s Path into the Atlantic World”


4/7: Religious Relationships in the Atlantic World

-Lecture on Marriage, the Sacrament

-Discuss the reading, “The Wedding”


Week 13-Gender and the Atlantic Slave Trade

4/12: African Women and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

-Lecture on African Women and Slavery in Colonial America

-Discuss the reading, “Property Rights in Pleasure: Marketing Black Women’s Sexuality”


4/14: **African Women’s Roles in the Creation of New Societies**

- Lecture on Women in Slave Societies and Free African Women
- Discuss the reading, “The African-American Family” and “Work and Culture”


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**Week 14-Women, Power, & Resistance to Slavery**

4/19: **Women and Resistance to the Institution of Slavery**

- Lecture on Modes of Resistance
- Discuss the reading, “Slave Resistance”

- In-Class Historical Analysis Skills Assignment on Selected Runaway Advertisements


4/21: **Women in Power Continued**

- Lecture on Socially and Economically Powerful Women in the Atlantic World
- Discuss the reading, “From Child Slave to Madam Esperance”
Week 15-Review of Module 2 Exam

4/26: Last Day of Class/ Review of Module 2: The Building of the Atlantic World

-Review of Sourcing, Close Reading, and Contextualization with Completion of Worksheet In Class

-Module 2 Analysis Assignment Released on Canvas Immediately Following Class

4/28: No Class: Reading Day

-Office Hours will be held during regular class time to accommodate the most students

Week 16-Review for Module 2 and Exam

5/3: Module 2 Analysis Assignment Due by 11:00 AM

-Module 2 Analysis Assignment Due on Canvas by 11:00 AM