

Title and Number: Medieval and Early Modern European Women's History
HIST 352 3 Credits

Course Prerequisites: History 102

Course Description:

An introductory survey of women in medieval and early modern Europe, which highlights the fascinating daily lives of ordinary women and their families, religious women, and female rulers.

Course Objectives:

1. To master the content area in European women's history
2. To be able to understand and analyze primary sources in women's history and evaluate authorship, bias, context and accuracy.
3. To develop students' familiarity with and ability to use a variety of secondary sources.
4. To conduct a semester length research project.
5. To master effective historical writing (including organization, composition, and mechanics).

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to identify key female historical figures, women's historical roles, and major themes in women's lives in the period 900-1800.
2. Students will analyze primary sources and interpret their historical meaning.
3. Students will discuss and write about a range of primary and secondary sources.
4. Students will complete an in-depth research project.
5. Students will engage in several short writing exercises in class and compose a number of longer papers.

Topical Outline of Course Content:

Week 1	Introduction: Course Requirements; Methods in Women's History
Week 2	Women in Early Medieval Europe: Course Background
Week 3	The Medieval Heritage: Gender and Classical Women; Germanic Women; Women in early Christianity
Week 4	Women's Daily Lives in the Middle Ages
Week 5	Medieval

	<p>Noblewomen and Commoners: Intersections of Class and Gender</p>
Week 6	<p>Christians and Outsiders: Women in Christianity, Judaism, Islam</p>
Week 7	<p>The High Middle Ages: Women's Daily Life in the late Middle Ages</p> <p>(midterm)</p>
Week 9	<p>Women and the Renaissance: Did Women have a Renaissance? Was there a Renaissance at all?</p>
Week 10	<p>The Sacred and the Profane: Witchcraft Accusations and Religious Fraud involving women.</p>
Week 11	<p>The Reformation of Women: The Role of Women in the Protestant Reformation and the impact of religious change on female roles.</p>
Week 12	<p>Early Modern daily and religious life of women.</p>
Week 13	<p>Women in the Age of Exploration and Global Trade</p>

Week 14 Women and Social
Critique in the 18th
century

Pedagogical Methods:

Lecture, discussion, electronic discussion, collaborative learning projects, research, oral reports and presentations, book reviews, essays, examinations.

Assessment of student learning outcomes:

Students must successfully demonstrate their understanding of course content in examinations, student projects, and papers.

Students will analyze primary sources in medieval women's history in discussions and writing and collaborative learning projects and in their research projects.

Students will provide a topic proposal, bibliography, presentation of research project.

Students will write short and long assignments, including thesis statements, paragraphs, essays, and longer writing work.

Suggested Readings:

- Bridenthal et al, *Becoming Visible. Women in European History*. Third Edition. (1998).
- Amt, Emilie, ed. *Women's Lives in Medieval Europe. A Source book*.
- King, Margaret. *Women of the Renaissance*.
- Zemon Davis, Natalie. *Women on the Margins. Three Seventeenth Century Lives*.

Supplemental Bibliography:

Anderson and Zinsser, *A History of Their Own*, 2nd edition, 1999.

Boxer and Quataert, *Connecting Spheres*, 2nd edition.

Bennett Judith. *Sisters and Workers in the Middle Ages*, 1989.

_____. *Brewers and Alewives*.

Brown, Judith. *Immodest Acts*, 1996.

Bynum, Caroline W. *Holy Feast and Holy Fast*, 1987.

Davis, Natalie Zemon. *Return of Martin Guerre*, 1983.

Gies, Frances and Joseph. *Women in the Middle Ages*, 1978.
_____. *Marriage and the Family in the Middle Ages*, 1987.
Herlihy, David. *Family and Society in Medieval Europe*, 1995.
Howell, Martha. *Women, Production and Patriarchy in Late Medieval Cities*.
Kermode and Walker, eds. *Women, Crime and the Courts in Early Modern England*, 1994.
Otis, Lydia. *Prostitution in Medieval Society*, 1985.
Ozment, Stephen. *Buergermeister's Daughter*, 1996.
Rose, Mary Beth, ed. *Women in the Middle Ages and Renaissance*. 1986.
Rosenthal, Joel. *Medieval Women and the Sources of Medieval History*, 1990.
Shemek, Deanna. *Ladies Errant: Wayward Women and Social Order in Early Modern Italy*, 1998.
Sharpe, Pamela, ed. *Women's Work: The English Experience, 1650-1914*.
Stone, Lawrence, *Family, Sex and Marriage in England, 1500-1800*, 1977.
Stuard, Susan Mosher. *Women in Medieval History and Historiography*, 1987.
Wemple, Suzanne Fonay. *Women in Frankish Society: Marriage and the Cloister, 500-900*.
Wiesner Hanks, Merry. *Working Women in Renaissance Germany*. 1986.
____ and DiCaprio, Lisa. *Women's Lives Sourcebook*, 2000.
____. *Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe*. 1993.

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