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
Noblewomen and Commoners:
Intersections of Class and Gender

Week 6

Christians and Outsiders: Women in Christianity,
Judaism, Islam

Week 7

The High Middle Ages: Women's Daily Life in the late Middle Ages
(midterm)

Week 9

Women and the Renaissance: Did Women have a Renaissance? Was there a Renaissance at all?

Week 10

The Sacred and the Profane:
Witchcraft Accusations and Religious Fraud involving women.

Week 11

The Reformation of Women: The Role of Women in the Protestant Reformation and the impact of religious change on female roles.

Week 12

Early Modern daily and religious life of women.

Week 13

Women in the Age of Exploration and Global Trade
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:**

- King, Margaret. *Women of the Renaissance*.

**Supplemental Bibliography:**


Boxer and Quataert, Connecting Spheres, 2nd edition.

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

____. Brewers and Alewives.


Howell, Martha. Women, Production and Patriarchy in Late Medieval Cities.


Rose, Mary Beth, ed. Women in the Middle Ages and Renaissance. 1986.


____. Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe. 1993.

Preparer: K. Molly O'Donnell, Asst. Professor of History

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