Syllabus – HIS 475.001
Independent Study
Women & Gender in the Premodern West
Spring 2020

Professor: Dr. Samuel Sutherland
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Office: LAN 313
Office Hours: MW 10-12:30 and by appointment
Department: History
Meeting time and place: TBD

A. Course Description
This course will review the perceptions, treatment, and experience of women in various cultures of pre-modern western civilization, as well as the evolution of cultural views of gender and sexuality across this period.

B. Program Learning Outcomes
Upon completing the BA, SFA history majors can:
• Interpret the past in context
• Understand the nature of the historical record
• Engage in historical inquiry, research, and analysis
• Craft historical narrative and argument
• Practice historical thinking as central to engaged citizenship

C. Texts and Materials
• Various primary-source excerpts posted to Brightspace.
• Katherine L. French and Allyson M. Poska, Women and Gender in the Western Past, Vol. I (Houghton Mifflin, 2007)

D. Course Requirements
• Reading Reflections (50%)
  o Each week the student will submit an informal summary and reflection (ca. 1-2 pages, hand-written or typed) in response to the assigned primary-source readings. These should evince careful reading, comprehension, and thoughtful reflection about each of the assigned excerpts.
• In-Class Participation (50%)
  o Each week the student will meet with the professor to discuss the primary-source readings and the historical context provided by the assigned text. Careful reading, consistent attendance, and active participation are expected.
E. Grading Scale

- A 90-100%
- B 80-89.9%
- C 70-79.9%
- D 60-69.9%
- F 59.9% & below

F. Course Policies

a. Attendance: Consistent attendance is required and will factor significantly in the student’s participation grade. If a weekly meeting must be rescheduled, the student should notify the professor with at least 24 hours’ notice and provide availability for an alternate meeting time.

b. Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf

c. Withheld Grades (Semester Grades Policy, A-54): Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

d. Students with Disabilities: To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure
to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

G. Course Calendar

**Week 1:** Introduction, women & the Neolithic Revolution

**Week 2:** Bronze-Age Mesopotamia & Egypt
> Textbook: p. 6-23
> Primary Sources (D2L):
  - Epic of Gilgamesh
  - Enheduanna: Hymn to Innana
  - The Enuma Elish: Babylonian Genesis
  - Pre-Hammurabic Law Codes
  - Code of Hammurabi

**Week 3:** Ancient Israel
> Textbook: p. 23-32
> Primary Sources (D2L):
  - Hebrew Bible excerpts

**Week 4:** Archaic Greece
> Textbook: p. 41-45
> Primary Sources (D2L):
  - Homer: Odyssey
  - Hesiod: Works & Days
  - Lyric Poems
  - Sappho
  - Theano of Crotona: Advice to Women

**Week 5:** Classical Greece
> Textbook: p. 45-59
> Primary Sources (D2L):
  - Thucydides: Pericles’ Funeral Oration
  - Plutarch on Aspasia
  - Euripides: Medea
  - Aristophanes: Lysistrata
  - Hippocrates on the diseases of women
  - Athenian Laws
  - Lysias: A husband’s defense
  - Plutarch: Regulations of Lycurgus
  - Xenophon on the education of Spartan women
- Aristotle on the women at Sparta
- Plutarch: Sayings of the Spartan women

**Week 6:** No class

**Week 7:** Roman Republic
> Textbook: p. 68-86
> Primary Sources (D2L):
  - Livy: Sabine Women & Lucretia
  - Plutarch on the Vestal Virgins
  - The Twelve Tables
  - Livy: Debating the Oppian Law
  - Valerius Maximus
  - Plutarch on Cornelia

**Week 8:** Imperial Rome

**Discussion (3/7):**
> Textbook: p. 86-102
> Primary Sources (D2L):
  - Imperial women: Livia, Julia, Caenis, Agrippina
  - Inscriptions outside of Rome
  - Statues on Marriage and Family
  - Ovid: Amores, Ars Amatorium
  - Juvenal: Satire 6
  - Stoics: Musonius Rufus & Epictetus
  - Apuleius: The Golden Ass

**Week 9:** Early Christianity
> Textbook: p. 105-129
> Primary Sources (D2L):
  - Epistles of Paul
  - Martyrdom of Perpetua & Felicity
  - Acts of Paul & Thecla
  - Tertullian: On the Apparel Women
  - Socrates Scholasticus: Murder of Hypatia
  - Heresiology against female prophets and clergy
  - Life of Macrina
  - Life of Susan

**Week 10:** Three Heirs of Rome
> Textbook: p. 129-137, 159-161
> Primary Sources (D2L):
  - Tacitus: Germania
  - Procopius: Secret History
Week 11: Early Medieval West
> Textbook: p. 141-154
> Primary Sources (D2L):
  - Barbarian Law Codes
  - Gregory of Tours
  - Life of Queen Balthild

Week 12: Post-Carolingian Europe
Discussion (4/11):
> Textbook: p. 154-159, 163-172
> Primary Sources (D2L):
  - Manual of Dhuoda
  - Relics of St. Foy
  - Corrector Burchardi
  - Hrotsvitha of Gandersheim: Dulcitus

Week 13: Religious Reform & Intellectual Renewal
> Textbook: p. 172-177
> Primary Sources (D2L):
  - Peter Damian
  - Letters of Heloise
  - Hildegard of Bingen
  - Trotula of Salerno: On the Maladies of Women

Week 14: The High Middle Ages
> Textbook: p. 180-190, 194-198
> Primary Sources (D2L):
  - Gratian’s Decretum on Marriage
  - Andreas Capellanus: De Amore
  - Comtesse de Dia: Love Song
  - Caesarius of Heisterbach: Dialogue on Miracles
  - Hadewijch of Brabant: Letters and Visions
  - Mechtild of Magdeburg: Flowing Light of the Godhead
  - Julian of Norwich: Revelations of Divine Love

Week 15: Late Medieval Crisis & Renaissance
> Textbook: 190-194, 201-213, 217-234
> Primary Sources (D2L):
  - Christine de Pizan: Book of City Ladies
  - Heinrich Kramer: Malleus Maleficarum
  - Life of Teresa of Avila