HISTORY 392
Tues. & Thurs. 9:30-10:45 A.M.*

Professor Gerda Lerner
5123 Humanities Bldg.
Office Hours: Wednesday,
1:30-3:30 P.M. or by appointment.

Women in History
"Gender, race and class in ancient, medieval
and 19th century U.S. societies"

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this class we will examine the origin of hierarchical structures in patriarchal society in the second millennium B.C. in Mesopotamia. We will study the connections between gender, race, and class, and the ways they become institutionalized and incorporated into the ideas and values of Western civilization. We will then follow the development of these structures and the idea systems that sustained them in medieval Europe and antebellum United States.

Students will work with primary and some secondary sources. The emphasis will be on critical evaluation of unstated assumptions in traditional history. Students will be expected to think historically, comparatively, and analytically.

Each lecture will be followed by class discussion. Additional section meetings will be scheduled during the first week of classes. *Discussion sections have tentatively been scheduled to follow the class periods Tuesday and Thursday, 10:45-11:35 A.M.

The course is open to sophomores to seniors, including honors students, and to graduate students not in American History. American History graduate students wishing to take this course may register for AUDIT credit and should contact the instructor to arrange for 999 credit during registration week.

Freshmen may be admitted with the permission of the instructor.

4 credits - undergraduates
3 credits - graduate students
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century U.S. societies

All reading assignments are due the first day of the week.

I. ANCIENT SOCIETIES

Week I
No reading assignment.

1. Introduction
2. (L) Pre-state societies in the Ancient Near East

Week II

1. (L) The urban revolution: temple-towns and city-states
2. (L) The emergence of national states

Assigned readings:
Roux, ch. 5 (pp. 72-85); ch. 7-8 (pp. 102-134)

Week III

1. (L) The invention of slavery
2. (L) Slavery and sex

Assigned readings:
Pritchard, vol. 1, p. 268, "Akkadian text RA XXXI"
Roux, ch. 12-13 (pp. 178-220)
Lerner, "Women and Slavery" (Xerox)

Week IV

1. (L) The institutionalization of patriarchy in Mesopotamian and
   Hebrew Law
2. (L) Slavery in Mesopotamian and Hebrew law

Assigned Readings:
Pritchard, vol. 1, chap. V, pp. 138-166. Do not read every-
thing; only the laws indicated. The succeeding numbers refer to
the laws, not the pages. 14-19; 108-111; 116-119; 127-
164; 170-175; 194-201; 209-218; 229-231.
Week IX

1. (L) Marriage and property
2. (L) The regulation of sexuality as a means of social control

Assigned readings:

Ladurie, chaps. 8-13, pp. 139-217; chap. 16, pp. 251-266

Week X

1. (L) Religion and gender
2. (L) Christianity, heresy and "the others"

Assigned readings:

Ladurie, chap. 19 & 20, pp. 306-341
Bennett, (Poston, Kempe), pp. 124-150

Week XI

No assigned readings

1. Review
2. Exam

III. 19th CENTURY UNITED STATES

Week XII

1. (L) Democracy and racism -- the North
2. (L) Democracy and racism -- the antebellum South

Assigned readings:

Jordan, pp. 44-48; 52-56; 63-98; 542-569
Franklin, ch. XII, ch XIII, pp. 166-213

Week XIII

1. (L) Gender in class and race perspective
2. Thanksgiving Holiday

Assigned readings: Notice - this assignment pertains to

Jordan, p. 136-178
Genovese, pp. 413-431
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REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS: (All paperbacks)


Georges Roux, Ancient Iraq, (Pelican, 1976)


Eileen Power, Medieval People, (Barnes and Noble) (xerox)

(Xerox Reader)

OPTIONAL:

Eugene Genovese, Roll, Jordan, Roll, (Vintage)

H.S. Bennett, Six Medieval Men and Women (Atheneum, 1968)

Lawrence Levine, Black Culture and Black Consciousness (Oxford University Press)


Gerda Lerner, The Creation of Patriarchy (Oxford University Press)

NOTE: Books are on reserve in Helen C. White Library. Books may be purchased at Brown's Book Store. Xerox reader available at Kinkos. There will be one copy of the xeroxed readings available in the History Library, Room 4257 Humanities Building.
Throughout history, women have had very different experiences at different times. Some past societies had women who were warriors, powerful priestesses, and political leaders. At other times strict expectations have been placed on women, with (male) writers portraying them as inferior to men. Looking at how a society treats its women can be very enlightening. An investigation into the position of women at different points in history shows us how our society has grown and changed. These 18 women in history changed laws, broke new scientific ground, and shattered gender barriers. Join us as we shine a light on their stories, and celebrate their contributions. Florence Howe (1929-present). There are a few women from second-wave feminism whose names stand out, like Gloria Steinem and Betty Friedan. But have you heard of Florence Howe? Nicknamed "the Elizabeth Cady Stanton of women's studies," Howe began teaching the subject before it was a major or even had a name.