

INTRODUCTION TO GENDER HISTORY A SEMINAR

FUDAN UNIVERSITY, SHANGHAI

M/W/TH, MARCH 23 - APRIL 17, 2009

PROFESSORS:

Sonya Rose (sorose@umich.edu)

Martha Vicinus (Vicinus@umich.edu)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Gender history, unlike women's history, which focuses on the place of women in society, considers the place of gender—both male and female, masculinity and femininity—in the construction of politics, economics and social relations. It considers gender as a prime variable for our understanding of such larger historical questions as nationalism, citizenship, labor, sexual relations and the family. In our readings and seminar discussions we will explore the theoretical and methodological issues raised by historians of gender. We will cross many national boundaries, looking for common questions and assumptions, as well as salient differences. We will also consider how historians can use a wide range of different sources, including visual materials. Students are encouraged to compare the findings of our authors with their own special area of research.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS:

1. *Bring to the first class, Mon, March 23, an example of gender, either written or visual.* You may select this from any source, including popular culture and traditional works. We will share and discuss these examples in class.
2. *Participate in discussions throughout the course.* The success of a seminar depends upon **a)** speaking [raising your own questions and ideas about the readings and responding to those offered by fellow students], **b)** listening [thinking about and digesting new ideas and different perspectives], and **c)** polite agreement or disagreement [not only with your fellow students but also your professors]. Do not monopolize either speech or silence!
3. You are welcome to read any of the articles that have been translated into Chinese, but please also read the key sections in English (we will direct the class to these), so that you know and understand the concepts in the original English.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR ENROLLED STUDENTS:

1. **Tues, April 14:** 3-4 page [1000 words] response paper to either a single theme or a specific article. This is not a summary but a consideration of the historical methodology or the theory of the author. Students will meet with the professors at least one week beforehand to discuss their proposed paper. We will provide feedback on this paper, which will form the basis of assignment #2.
2. **Friday, May 18:** 15-20 page [3500-4000 words] essay, built upon the issues raised in #1, using documentation drawn from the student's own research area.

We will discuss with you what sources you would like to use, so that your generalizations include historical evidence.

OFFICE HOURS: TBA [TO BE ANNOUNCED]

COURSE READINGS:

Available on C-Tools, University of Michigan (<https://ctools.umich.edu/portal>)

The professors will also post general class messages, guidelines for the readings, and other relevant information regularly. We encourage you to email us if you have any questions—your question may help others in the class!

Week I: Gender History

Monday, March 23:

A. Introduction

Joan Scott, “Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis,” *American Historical Review*, 91/5 (1986): 1066-1075.

Trans: Li Yunhe, Lin Chun, and Tan Shen, eds. *Funii: zui manchange de geming* (Beijing, 1997).

Gisela Bock, “Challenging Dichotomies: Perspectives on Women’s History,” in *Writing Women’s History: International Perspectives*, eds. Karen Offen, Ruth Roach Pierson and Jane Rendall (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1991): 1-23.

[Students will also bring an example of visual or written gender image, drawn from whatever source they wish to use]

Tuesday, March 24:

B. Gender, Science and History

Londa Schiebinger, “Skeletons in the Closet: The First Illustrations of the Female Skeleton in Eighteenth-Century Anatomy,” *Representations*, 14 (Spring 1986): 42-82.

Thursday, March 26:

C. What is Gender for Historians?

Bonnie G. Smith, *The Gender of History: Men, Women, and Historical Practice* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1998): 130-156. Chapter 5: “Men and Facts.”

Week II: Nationalism

Monday, March 30:

A. Masculinity and Nationhood

Gail Bederman, *Manliness and Civilization: A Cultural History of Gender and Race in the United States, 1880-1917* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995): 1-23. “Introduction.”

In class: Excerpts from PBS show: *Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson*.

Tuesday, March 31:

B. The Gender of National Symbols

Afsaneh Najmabadi, *Women with Mustaches and Men without Beards: Gender and Sexual Anxieties in Iranian Modernity* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005): 63-96. Chapter 3: The Eclipse of the (Fe)male Sun." Focus on: pp. 63-70, 79-88.

In class: Gendered images of the nation in art, cartoons and other visual sources.

Thursday, April 2:

C. Race, Sex and Nationalism

Sonya Rose, "Sex, Citizen and the Nation in World War II Britain," *American Historical Review*, 103/4 (1998): 1147-1176.

OPTIONAL READING:

Lisa A. Lindsay, "A Tragic Romance, A Nationalist Symbol: The Case of the Murdered White Lover in Colonial Nigeria," *Journal of Women's History*, 17/2 (Summer 2005): 118-141.

Week III: Work, Class and Gender

Monday, April 6:

A. Household Work

Leonore Davidoff, "The Rationalization of Housework," *Worlds Between: Historical Perspectives on Gender and Class* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 1995): 73-102.

"Managing Servants" <http://www.wakefield.gov.uk>

Tuesday, April 7:

B. Factory Work

Daniel Bender, "'Too Much Distasteful Masculinity': Historicizing Sexual Harassment in the Garment Sweatshop and Factory," *Journal of Women's History*, 15/4 (2004): 91-116.

In class: images of factory work

Thursday, April 9:

C. Work and Social Class

Barbara Weinstein, "'They Don't even look like women workers': Femininity and Class in Twentieth-Century Latin America," *International Labor and Working-Class History*, 69 (Spring 2006): 161-176.

In class: Evita Peron as sex symbol, national symbol and religious symbol.

Week IV: Sexuality; future work in the field

Monday, April 13:

A. Sex Work

Excerpts from “Sex Work and Women’s Labor Around the World,” *Journal of Women’s History*, 15/4 (2004):

Heather Lee Miller, “Trick Identities: The Nexus of Work and Sex.” Pp. 145-152.

Philippa Levine, “‘A Multitude of Unchaste Women’: Prostitution in the British Empire.” Pp. 159-163.

Katherine Elaine Bliss, “A Right to Live as *Gente Decente*: Sex Work, Family Life, and Collective Identity in Early-Twentieth-Century Mexico.” Pp. 164-169.

Chunghee Sarah Soh, “Women’s Sexual Labor and State in Korean History.” Pp. 170-177.

In class: Excerpts of Joseph von Sternberg, *Shanghai Express* (1932)

Tuesday, April 14:

B. Gendered Sex Differences

Martha Vicinus, “‘They Wonder to Which Sex I Belong’: The Historical Roots of the Modern Lesbian Identity,” *Lesbian Subjects*, ed. Martha Vicinus (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996): 233-260.

In class: masculine women, playful cross-dressing and the lesbian

Thursday, April 16:

C. Gender and Chinese Studies

Gail Hershatter, “Afterthoughts,” *Women in China’s Long Twentieth Century* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007): 107-118.

OPTIONAL READING:

Emily Chao, “Dangerous Work: Women in Traffic,” *Modern China*, 29/1 (2003): 71-107.

Friday, April 17:

Extra office hours to meet with students who are enrolled and will be writing papers.