

HIST 240: Women and Gender in the Premodern World

history and the historical construction of gender, as well as its influence on modern realities.

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. Courses on women's history, gender, and women's literature have become standard in the course catalogs of American colleges and universities over the last fifty years. However, among these course offerings, the history of premodern women is often neglected or only mentioned in passing. Not only are the experiences and writings of premodern women valuable in their own right, but studying them provides important insight into how discourses on women, sex, gender, the family, and feminism have been constructed in the modern era (i.e. 1500 CE to present). This course compliments HIST250, *History of Women in the United States*, by introducing students to women who lived outside the chronological and geographical scope of HIST250.
- B. This course does not have a lab component.
- C. This course generally transfers as a General Education elective in either History or Gender Studies dependent on the institution.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course serves as a General Education course in Humanities, History, and Global and Cultural Awareness. (pending)
- C. This course meets a program requirement for a Liberal Arts, A.A.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Introduction to Feminist Theory and Gender Studies (Methodology)
- B. Women and the Division of Labor in Hunter-Gatherer Societies
- C. Women and Families in the Ancient Levant and South Asia
- D. Women, Gender, and the Law in Ancient Athens
- E. Women and Children in Ancient Rome
- F. Women's Voices in Premodern China and East Asia
- G. The Place of Women in Abrahamic Religions (Judaism, Islam, and Christianity)
- H. Women and the Family in Medieval Europe
- I. Women and Empire in Medieval Byzantium
- J. Women's Work, Roles, and Opportunities in the Central and Late Medieval Mediterranean

- K. Women, Power, and Memory in Premodern Africa
- L. Premodern Women as Mothers
- M. Premodern Women as Economic Agents
- N. Premodern Women as Religious Leaders
- O. Premodern Women as Scholars, Artists, and Memory Keepers
- P. Women and Families at the Dawn of Modernity (15th century)

VI. A. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and locate primary and secondary sources to be used in explaining the past. (GE 1, 7, IL,*)
2. Engage in methodologically sound historical research and then logically, persuasively, and responsibly state findings in a written analysis. (GE 1, 7,*)
3. Analyze historical evidence in order to evaluate historical events and their connection to the present. (GE 1, 7,*)
4. Evaluate case studies and draw conclusions about broader historical processes across borders and time periods. (GE 1, 7, 8, *)
5. Evaluate the ethical implications of major themes and dynamics in premodern women's history (GE ER*)

*embedded critical thinking

B. Assessment Instruments

1. research paper
2. projects
3. exams
4. presentations
5. reading quizzes
6. class participation

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. essays
- B. projects
- C. tests
- D. presentations
- E. in class debates and discussions

Given the goals and outcomes described above, LIST the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. lecture/discussion

- B. small-group work
- C. guest speakers
- D. student oral presentations
- E. student collaboration
- F. independent study

VIII. Texts and Materials

- A. suggested textbook
- B. primary sources (in printed volume)
- C. audio sources
- D. web sources

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

- A. Textbook: Kent, Susan Kingsley. *Gender: A World History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020.
- B. Printed Primary Sources: Hughes, Sarah Shaver, and Brady Hughes, eds. *Women in World History: Readings from Prehistory to 1500*. Armonk, NY: M. E. Sharpe, 1995.
- C. Additional Sources: bell hooks. *Feminism is For Everybody*. South End Press, 2000.

IX. Resources

No additional resources needed.

X. Check One: ☐ Honors Course ☐ Honors Options ☒ N/A