

HIST 2123 CINT: Gender and Sexuality in Europe to 1789

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Syllabus - web page

Course Overview

This course provides a survey of women's and men's roles in societies from the earliest civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt and Israel through to the eighteenth century. Attitudes towards gender roles, sexuality, the roles of men and women and their expectations and obligations will be considered. Questions to keep in mind throughout the course include: do we see a pattern throughout Western Civilization when examining women's and men's lives? Do their lives change with various important moments in history such as the rise and fall of Empires and civilizations, religions, and movements such as Renaissance and the Reformation? What role does mythology and religion or lack thereof play in the construction of gender? What happens to gender when societies go to war?

This course teaches you about key concepts about gender and sexuality throughout history. In addition to age, gender is one of the universal dimensions on which status and differences are based. We will examine how complex the definitions of gender were for both men and women, and how nuanced gender relations were in terms of sexual orientation and the community. The course further considers how the definitions and views of gender changed over time.

Unlike sex, which is a biological concept, gender is a social construct specifying the socially and culturally prescribed roles that men and women were supposed to follow. These roles were often enforced by law and by institutions such as the Church with punishments resulting if they were not followed. Gender deviation and lack of compliance did occur in pre-modern societies. The importance of gender relations throughout time and their impact on men's and women's lives is a key theme in the course.

Course Objectives: This course is designed to teach students how to evaluate and analyze materials and to link cultural representations to the underlying historical realities that helped shape them. By the end of the course, students should be able to explain and assess gender roles in ancient and early modern European cultures. The overall course objectives are to acquire factual knowledge about the subject matter under discussion, and to develop a skill set which includes critical thinking, understanding a body of knowledge and interpretation of that knowledge. Further, students should be able to place the present in a historically based context and understand both past and present from a variety of perspectives.

Instructor: Marina Davidson

My name is Marina Davidson. I am from a 2000 year old French city called Limoges. Like most Europeans I grew up surrounded by Roman ruins - In the basement of my high school - and many medieval churches and castles. I did my undergrad in my hometown and then moved to Poitiers to do my masters at the Graduate Center for Medieval Studies. When I was starting my doctorate, my university sent me to Acadia as a language monitor. My first weekend in Wolfville I met my future husband. I have been living in Nova Scotia ever since. (I did not stay for the weather.)

My doctorate, completed in 2002, is a critical edition of commentaries on the Gospel of Luke compiled and translated from Latin into Middle English by heretics at the end of the 14th century. A couple of years later, I started lecturing for French and history departments at Acadia, the Mount and Saint Mary's.

I taught this course on campus twice. It is one of my favorite courses to teach. I hope you do enjoy it as much as I do.



Contact Information:

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Wolfville, Nova Scotia
CANADA B4P 2R6

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Course Materials

There is one text book for this course, *Women & Gender in the Western Past*, Volume One to 1815 by Katherine L. French and Allyson M. Poska. You can purchase the book as a course pack through the Acadia University bookstore as the book is out of print, or you can find copies on Amazon.

The designated website for this textbook is http://college.cengage.com/history/west/french/women_gender/1e/ace/ace1.html.

There are two quizzes, located after Module 4 and Module 7 which are based on the questions in the chapter quizzes from *Women and Gender* and the lessons.

All of the other readings are free of charge and can be accessed as pdf files or weblinks.

See the [student handbook](#) for ordering information.

To access Library Articles and Journals from off-campus use [VPN](#) web service link for direct access.

Evaluation

Module Assignments	55%
Final Exam	45%

The assignments are delivered to the instructor via assignment drop-boxes. Please remember to put your name, student number, course number, and assignment number on the assignment and keep a copy in the event the original is lost.

The last assignment should be received at least 4 weeks prior to the date you wish to write the exam. This will allow adequate processing time for the request, and for setting the exam.

Note files must be readable by Excel 2007 or Word 2007.

Course Schedule

Click to download the suggested schedule for this course: [HIST 2123 CINT - Suggested Schedule](#)

Print out this schedule and fill in your start date to use the recommended timeline to plan out when you will do readings and assignments. This is a tool to help you plan and time manage this course. If you get off-track, make sure to revisit your schedule and re-evaluate the dates you've set for yourself.

You have 6 months to complete this course. You may set your own schedule, but if you intend to complete the course in less than 3 months, you should let me know so that we can arrange a schedule.

Please do not leave all of your course work until a few weeks before your completion date. Although I will make every effort to accommodate your schedule within reason, I need time to grade assignments and mark exams..

Quick Overview: Recommended Schedule

Module	Weeks
1 - Introduction: What is Gender?	1
2 - Women and Men in Emerging Societies	2-4
3 - Gender in the Ancient World: The Greeks	5-7
4 - Gender in the Ancient World: Roman Republic and Roman Empire	8-9
5 - Gender and Sexuality in the Late Roman and Byzantine Empires	10-12
6 - Gender and Sexuality in the Early Middle Ages	13-14
7 - Gender and Sexuality in the High Middle Ages	15-16
8 - Gender and Sexuality in Early Modern Europe: The Renaissance	17-18
9 - Gender and Sexuality during the Religious Reformations and the Witch-Hunts	19-20
10 - Gender and Sexuality in the Age of Science, Reason and Discovery	21-23

Exam

How to apply: Complete the Application for Examination (<https://openacadiaexams.acadiau.ca>)

Proctored at Acadia

- The final exam in an online course must be passed to successfully pass the course unless otherwise stated in the assessment section of the course syllabus. There are no rewrites or supplemental examinations at Acadia University.
- Examination requests must be received one month prior to the date you wish to write your examination.
- Course requirements must be completed to the satisfaction of your instructor.
- Graduating Students Note: If you are graduating in Spring Convocation you must write by April 15th. If you are graduating in the Fall you must write by September 15th.

Proctored at Another Location

If it isn't practical to take your exam at Acadia, off-campus exams can be written at another university or college. Arrangements for an examination may be made through the Registrar's Office or the Continuing Education office of most universities and colleges. If it is not possible to write your exam at an approved institution, please contact us for assistance.

- All fees associated with examinations written at other locations are your responsibility.
- Some courses may require specific software or internet accessibility at the off-campus examination location.

Student Handbook

You are responsible for becoming familiar with the contents of the Student Handbook. It contains important information about scheduling examinations (if applicable), applying for extensions, withdrawing from your course, ordering books, and computer and library services available to you. If you have questions about the policies outlined in the handbook (<https://courseware.acadiau.ca/openacadia/studenthandbook.html>), contact:

Open Acadia

- 21 University Avenue (Rhodes Hall)
- Wolfville, NS B4P 2R6
- Phone: 1-800-565-6568
- Fax: 1-902-585-1068
- Email: openacadia@acadiau.ca

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity demands responsible use of the work of other scholars. It is compromised by academic dishonesty such as cheating and plagiarism. A student who is uncertain whether or not a course of action might constitute cheating or plagiarism should seek in advance the advice of the instructor involved.

- Cheating is copying or the use of unauthorized aids or the intentional falsification or invention of information in any academic exercise
- Plagiarism is the act of presenting the ideas or words of another as one's own. Students are required to acknowledge and document the sources of ideas that they use in their written work.
- Self plagiarism is also a form of plagiarism. It is the presentation of the same work in more than one course without the permission of the instructors involved.
- A student who knowingly helps another to commit an act of academic dishonesty is equally guilty.
- Penalties are levied in relation to the degree of the relevant infraction. They range from requiring the student to re-do the piece of work, through failure on that piece of work, to failure in the course, and to dismissal from the university.

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