GSWS 411-4: ST: WOMEN, PROPERTY, AND LAW IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

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Office hours: TBA
Lecture: Thursday 8:30 - 12:20; WMC 3517

Course Description:
This Course will consider the broad question of women and law in the Mediterranean region through a close examination of the issues relating to property over the centuries. Starting with ancient Greece and Rome we will work our way to the present and cover Byzantine law, Judaic law, Canon law, customary law, Islamic law, up to the development of modern Civil and Criminal codes. We will examine both the theoretical aspects of law as they pertain to women in general, and women and property in particular, including such questions as inheritance, control of property, marital rights over property, divorce, and so on, and move on to a comparative examination of how women fared in the various cultures of the Mediterranean over the centuries. The course does not require knowledge in Law or gender history though a broad knowledge of the history of the Mediterranean world (or European and/or Middle Eastern history) can be useful.

Educational Goals:
For more detailed information please see the GSWS website: http://www.sfu.ca/gsws/courses/Educational_Goals.html

Course Texts and Courseware:
The course does not have a textbook and all required readings will be available on Canvas or at the library.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Students will be graded on the following criteria:
Class attendance and participation 15%
Readings Responses 15%
Book Presentation 10%
Book Report 15%
Peer Review 10%
Paper 35%

Schedule of Classes
1. Introduction, Women and Law in Ancient Times
2. Law and Religion: Judaism and early Christianity.
3. Justinian and Roman law.
5. The Law in Medieval Times
6. Did Women have a Renaissance?
7. The Ottoman Polyphony
8. European Law before the Revolution
9. Enlightenment and Revolution
10. The Napoleonic Code: Patriarchy Restored
11. The long 19th century
12. Law, Nationalism, and Modernity – the 20th century

Prerequisite: 45 units, including 6 units in GSWS.