GSWS 321-4: Special Topics in GSWS: Women: Renaissance-Present

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Office hours: TBA
Lecture: Wednesdays 13:30 – 17:20; AQ 5037

Course Description:
European ideas and debates regarding women from the Renaissance to the Present
This course examines the perceptions and ideas regarding women, their nature, their roles in society, their rights and obligations, their sexuality, and their relationship to men and other women that were expressed in Europe from the Antiquity to the Present. We will be looking at the changes that European society underwent during that period, the rise of new ideologies and systems of thought and the impact all these had on women. We will be focusing on how women responded to, or initiated, change, as well as the counter-arguments, or new theories, developed to stifle the early women’s movements.

The primary objective of the class is for students to escape determinist approaches to the history of women and their struggle for rights and gain the ability to look at the past in its own terms. Furthermore, by the end of the course students should have the ability to analyze primary source documents and use them in formulating convincing arguments. They will also have gained the ability to write in an analytical manner, presenting a convincing thesis regarding complex issues.

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

Course Texts and Courseware:
- Bridenthal, Renate et al Becoming Visible: Women in European History
- Lisa DiCaprio and Merry E. Wiesner (eds.) Lives and Voices
- Leo Tolstoy, The Kreutzer Sonata

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
- Class attendance and participation 15%
- Responses to the weekly readings 15%
- Book presentation 10%
- Book review paper 15%
- Midterm 15%
- Final paper 30%

Prerequisite: 15 units