GSWS 321-4: ST IN GSWS: ON WOMEN: EUROPEAN IDEAS AND DEBATES REGARDING WOMEN FROM THE RENAISSANCE TO THE PRESENT

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Office hours: TBD
Lecture: Wednesdays 13:30 – 17:20; RCB6206

Course Description:
This course examines the perceptions and ideas regarding women in Europe, their nature, their roles in society, their rights and obligations, their sexuality, and their relationship to men and other women that were expressed from 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 calls towards equality.

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. 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 and to present a convincing thesis involving complex issues. Some of the themes the course will cover are:

- Women in Antiquity
- Saints, Mystics, and Noblewomen of the Middle Ages
- Renaissance, Reformation, and Witchcraft
- The Enlightenment, the French Revolution and the first calls for Equality
- Utopian Socialism and Liberalism - Bourgeois and Working Class Women
- Nationalism and Scientific Socialism – Class, and the Nation
- *Fin de Siècle* Europe, the Demands for Suffrage, and the Great War
- The Russian Revolution, the Roaring 20s, and the Depressing 30s
- Women in the aftermaths of World War II and the Fall of Communism

Course Texts and Courseware:
1. Class attendance and participation - 15%.
2. One-page responses to the weekly readings - 15%.
3. Book presentation and review paper - 20%.
4. Peer-review assignment – 10%
5. Midterm - 15%.
6. Research paper - 25%.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
- Renate Bridenhal, Susan Stuard, Merry E. Wiesner: Becoming Visible, Women in European History (recommended)
- Lisa DiCaprio and Merry E. Wiesner (eds.) *Lives and Voices*
- Leo Tolstoy, *The Kreutzer Sonata*
- Online readings

Prerequisite: 15 units

THE DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND WOMEN’S STUDIES ENCOURAGES CLARITY OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION AND GOOD WRITING. STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THESE SKILLS IN ALL COURSES GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT. IN ADDITION, THE DEPARTMENT WILL FOLLOW POLICY T10.02 WITH RESPECT TO “INTELLECTUAL HONESTY,” AND “ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE” (WWW.SFU.CA/POLICIES/TEACHING)