HISTORY 310 CAN BE USED FOR W.S. CREDIT

HISTORY 310-3 SPRING 1985

WOMEN AND THE FAMILY IN WESTERN EUROPE

C. 1700-1920

Description:

This course examines women's roles in the changing family patterns of Britain and France from 1700 to the 1920s. We consider women's and family life cycles, marriage customs and nuptiality, childbirth and fertility rates, as well as women's roles in reducing the family size. A central question is whether women passively accepted or actively promoted the "cult of domesticity" and the child-centred family? Second, we assess how their work inside and outside the home altered as the family moved from a productive unit, to a wage-earning unit, to a consumption unit. Third, we analyze the ideology of the family as a haven in a heartless world and ideals of feminine beauty, fashion, and sexuality. Last we study the biographies of prominent women, notably but not exclusively feminists, to learn their views on marriage, divorce, childbirth, mothering and birth control in relation to their (better known) positions on the suffrage and public life.

Required books, available at the bookstore:

S. G. Bell and K. M. Offen, Women, the Family, and Freedom, vol. 1
1750-1880

E. Hellerstein et al, Victorian Women, A Documentary Account

Prerequisites:

None. The course does not assume that students have a background in European history.

Requirements:

There will be two one-hour lectures and one one-hour tutorial per week. In tutorial, a student will be expected to discuss the weekly reading assignment and give one brief oral report based on one assignment. Students will also prepare two short (7 to 10 pages) or one major (15 to 20 pages) paper(s) on topics suggested by the instructor.

Grading:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral report</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>* First paper; due week 7</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>* Second paper; due week 13</td>
<td>40%</td>
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* Students who choose to do the longer paper will have to submit a research proposal, outline, and bibliography halfway through the semester: this will be worth 20% of the final grade. The finished paper will therefore account for 50% of the final grade.