WOMEN’S STUDIES PROGRAM

FALL 1991

W.S. 303-3

WOMEN TRAVEL WRITERS:
THE POLITICS OF REPRESENTATION

During the great period of European and American Imperialism, 1870-1914, travel literature expanded to supply the insatiable public curiosity about colonies and potential colonies. Hundreds of women took up their pens and joined in this effort to travel and catalogue the world. Although inextricably bound up with the politics of Imperialism, women's travel literature of this period also has much to say about issues like freedom and dress. Some women wrote their travel books in an autobiographical mode and their works evoke a sense of self-discovery; others became aware of the situation of women in other countries and were politicized by what they found. Our focus will be on the many political issues raised by women’s travel literature and on the legacy of insights, for better or worse, that they have bequeathed to us.

REQUIRED READING

Bell, Gertrude. The Desert and the Sown.
Kingsley, Mary. Travels in West Africa.
Montagu, Lady Mary Wortley. Letters from the Levant: During the Embassy to Constantinople 1716-18.

ASSIGNMENTS

10% Class Participation
20% Two in-class presentations (approx. 1,000 words each)
40% One Essay (approx. 2,500 words)
30% Final Examination - in examination period

Prerequisite: 60 credit hours or WS 100