

Hist. 336: Help for First Essay (1000-1500 words)

Due: 4 February 2013 (in class)

Title page: Provide your original title, your name and e-mail address, the course number, and word count.

Introduction (first paragraph): Your main task is to formulate an argument. You will do this by answering the question: **Is gender a useful category of historical analysis in the context of the history of women in early modern Europe?** To establish an analytical focus for your essay you will concentrate on one chapter or theme of *Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe* by Wiesner-Hanks. Identify the theme or chapter (or subject of the chapter) in the introductory paragraph. You can begin the paragraph by doing so and then proceed to answer the question as it applies to the theme or chapter (or subject of the chapter) in light of some essential ideas in Joan Scott's article. Alternatively, you can begin the paragraph by identifying some essential ideas in Scott's article, relate them to the theme or chapter (or subject of the chapter), and then proceed to formulate your argument. Aim to be more specific by supplying the fundamental reason for your answer to the question. Consider this formula: Gender is / is not a useful category of historical analysis in a study of X theme or chapter topic (e.g. in a study of the power that early modern women did and did not have / in a study of witchcraft) because...

Body of the essay (several paragraphs): Prove your argument by discussing the information, concepts, interpretations, etc. in *Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe* relevant to a demonstration of your answer to the essay question. Break down the fundamental or general reason for your answer to the essay question into more specific aspects. Each aspect can serve as the topic of a new paragraph. At relevant points, refer to Scott's article. You can do so, for example, by expanding on the connection that you made in the introductory paragraph between her article and your argument or by relating a specific idea in her article to a specific aspect of your argument.

Conclusion (final paragraph): Briefly bring your essay to a decisive close. Do not repeat what you have already written. This is unimaginative. Assert the significance of your argument by, for example, reflecting on its larger significance for the history of early modern women as it relates to a gender analysis.

Bibliography: List your two sources in correct bibliographical format.

Notes:

1. Limit your essay to a reading of the assigned book by Wiesner-Hanks and article by Scott.
2. Write effective paragraphs. Identify the topic of the paragraph in the first sentence. Elaborate on the topic. When you move to another topic, begin a new paragraph.
3. Use correct footnote format.
4. Review the criteria and structural requirements for essays on p. 5 of the syllabus.
5. Use the Instructions for Written Assignments on pp. 6-7 of the syllabus as a checklist before submitting your essay. For example: Have you used 12-point font; paginated the essay; stapled the pages together in the right order; proofread your essay for clarity, correct grammar, style, and spelling; ensured that your essay is free of the slightest hint of plagiarism?