HST235

WOMEN IN HISTORY

3 Credit Hours

Prepared by:
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by
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Arts and Science Education
Mindy Selsor, Dean
I. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

Prerequisite: None
3 semester hours credit

Women in History is a general introduction to the history of women and their roles in and contributions to society, literature and art. Women in History begins with prehistory and continues to the present. Women in History will partially fulfill the humanities requirement for the associate degree. (S)

II. GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

A. Place woman in her proper social context by being able to identify the impact of culture on social roles.

B. Understand the role and place of women in western society by recognizing and identifying key views and values about women that have effected that place.

C. Identify the contributions of woman to society economically, politically, socially, as well as in her more traditional role as mother.

D. Compare and contrast the ideal roles and real roles in the context of society and class and know the differences between the two.

E. Identify the "ideal female" concept in different historical periods and relate them to the present.

F. Identify representative and famous women and their contributions to history, literature and art.

G. Analyze and explain the historical and social factors that have influenced or inhibited the writing of women.

H. Identify consistent and recurrent themes and ideas in writings of women in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

I. Reassess familiar works in a new literary context.

J. Identify the traditional portrayal of women as subjects of art from prehistoric times to the present.

K. Develop interest and self-confidence in her/his intellectual skills through research and analysis that will make a continued personal investigation of the study of women in history more probable.
III. COURSE OUTLINE (Course content will be drawn from this.)

A. PREHISTORY AND EARLY CIVILIZATIONS

1. Prehistory
2. Sumeria
3. Egypt

B. CLASSICAL ANTIQUITY

1. Crete
2. Greece
3. Rome

C. EARLY CHRISTIANITY AND THE MIDDLE AGES

1. Hebrew culture
2. Early Christianity
3. Monasticism
4. Courtly love
5. Witch hunts

D. RENAISSANCE TO THE PRESENT

1. Renaissance
2. Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries
3. Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

IV. UNIT OBJECTIVES

A. PREHISTORY AND EARLY CIVILIZATIONS

1. Define terms that describe past cultures and present study of female history.
2. Identify key figures in paleolithic research--both scientists and discoveries.
3. Identify and give significance of prehistoric art and discoveries which contribute to the understanding of woman's role in prehistory.

4. Identify and give significance of goddess figures from prehistory, Sumeria and Egypt.

5. Identify and give significance of god figures from prehistory, Sumeria and Egypt.

6. Identify and give significance of historical figures from Sumeria and Egypt as they relate to the history of women in those cultures.

7. Compare and contrast the myths of Sumerian and Egyptian cultures.

8. Explain the worship of the Great Mother in ancient cultures.

9. Explain the status of women in prehistory, Sumeria, or Egypt.

B. CLASSICAL ANTIQUITY

1. Identify and compare creation myths from early cultures.

2. Identify and give significance of major deities in the Greek pantheon.

3. Explain the portrayal of women in ancient Greek and Roman literature.

4. Identify and give significance of key figures in major discoveries from ancient civilizations.

5. Identify and give significance of historical women and men from Ancient Greece as they relate to the status of women in that culture.

6. Define and explain the misogynistic thrust of Ancient Greek culture.

7. Explain the beliefs and influence of Aristotle on his and subsequent generations.

8. Characterize the culture of the Roman Empire.

9. Explain the legendary founding of Rome and the legends of heroic Roman women.

10. Compare the status of women in Greek and Roman culture.

C. EARLY CHRISTIANITY AND THE MIDDLE AGES
1. Identify and give significance of historical figures from Hebrew tradition.

2. List several characteristics of Hebrew culture in the ancient world.

3. Explain the position of women in Hebrew culture.

4. List several reasons why Christianity survived while rival sects did not.

5. Explain the status of women in the early days of Christianity.

6. Define asceticism and explain the Christian church's turn toward the ascetic life.

7. Explain the impact of asceticism on the status of women.

8. Identify major figures from the monastic movement.

9. Explain why women went into the religious life.

10. Cite the contributions of women to the art work of the Middle Ages.

12. Define and explain the Cult of the Virgin.

13. Identify and give the significance of women writers of the Middle Ages.

14. Characterize the atmosphere that led to the witch hunting craze of the late Middle Ages and Renaissance periods.

15. Assess the position of women in Byzantine and barbarian cultures.

D. RENAISSANCE TO THE PRESENT

1. Identify and give significance of women writers from the Renaissance Seventeenth and Eighteenth centuries.

2. Explain the impact of the Renaissance and Reformation on the lives of women.

3. Explain attitudes about the education of women and cite specific positions which countered mainstream thought.

4. Analyze the status of women writers and explain their need to write defenses of the right to write.

5. Define the double critical standard as it applies to both art and literature.

6. Define suffrage and cite key figures in the American women's suffrage
movement.

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

A. Lecture
B. Class Discussion
C. Journal Assignments
D. Reading Textbooks
E. Media Project

VI. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS


VII. REQUIRED MATERIALS

A. Textbooks
B. Paper and pens
C. Access to newspapers and periodicals

VIII. SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES

A. Library
B. Current periodicals
C. Television shows and motion pictures
D. St. Louis Art Museum

IX. METHODS OF EVALUATION

A. Tests
B. Journals
C. Media Project
D. Final Exam

The grading scale is as follows:
90-100 = A
80-89 = B
70-79 = C
60-69 = D
Below 60 = F