



Boston University International Programs
London

Boston University British Programmes
London Women's Social History from Aphra Behn to the Blitz
CAS WS 310/HI 249 (*Elective A*)
Spring 2011

Instructor Information

A. Name	Dr Diane Atkinson
B. Day and Time	Mondays and Tuesdays (plus Friday 11 Feb.), 1.15-5.15pm
C. Location	Alexander room, 43 Harrington Gardens, SW7 4JU
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G. Office hours	By appointment

Course Objectives

Over 9 four-hour sessions, this course examines the lives of women in London over the past three centuries from a social history perspective. Students will study patches of history from the 1660s and up to and including the role of women during the Second World War. One of the aims is to introduce and broaden students' experience of working with primary source materials and London is a splendid resource for students who are interested in this aspect of studying and writing history. During the course a subject of the students' own choosing will be developed and studied critically using a range of primary and secondary source material to produce a research essay of between 2,500 – 3,000 words.

Methodology

Classroom lectures and tutorials will be supplemented by visits to museums, galleries, reference libraries, a historic house and two guided walks.

Students are encouraged to make use of specialist academic libraries throughout London. Students will have a session about London libraries as part of their orientation week and will attend inductions to the specialist libraries for which they will receive memberships. Students will also receive information on visiting specialist libraries open to the public.

Assessment

Research essay (2,500-3,000 words)	50%
Participation	10%
Mid-term quiz	20%
Final Exam	20%

Grading

Please refer to the Academic Handbook for detailed grading criteria, attendance requirements and policies on plagiarism:

<http://www.bu-london.co.uk/files/images/ACADEMICHANDBOOKSP11.pdf>

Course Chronology

	LECTURE	CLASSROOM DISCUSSION
SESSION 1 Mon 17 Jan	Orientation to the course 'The Weaker Vessel': attitudes to women in the 17 th and 18 th centuries	<i>Who was Aphra Behn ?</i> Visit to the Museum of London <i>Task: where are the women?</i>
Reading:	Antonia Fraser, <i>The Weaker Vessel': Women's Lot in 17th Century England</i> Part 1 'As It Was – This Blessed Knot', the first 4 sections	
SESSION 2 Tues 18 Jan	Visit to the National Portrait Gallery to see selected portraits of women from the period under review	<i>Guided walk to see monuments to 19th century women</i>
Reading:	Elizabeth Eger and Lucy Peltz, <i>Brilliant Women: 18th Century Bluestockings</i> Chapters 1, The Blue Stocking Circle	
SESSION 3 Mon 24 Jan	'The Angel of the House': Domestic Ideology and women's lives, 1780-1900 Visit to the Victoria and Albert Museum	<i>Who were Hannah More and Mary Wollstonecraft?</i> <i>Imagine them having dinner and discussing 'the two spheres'.</i>
Reading:	Leonore Davidoff and Catherine Hall, <i>Family Fortunes: Men and Women of the English Middle Class</i> Chapter 3, 'The Nursery of Virtue' Mary Wollstonecraft, <i>Vindication of the Rights of Women</i> , The Author's (MW's) Introduction and Chapter 1, The Rights and Involved Duties of Mankind Considered	
SESSION 4 Tues 25 Jan	Visit to the Women's Library to work on the research essay	<i>Tutorials</i>
Reading:	Stella Tillyard, <i>Aristocrats: Caroline, Emily, Louisa and Sarah Lennox 1740-1832</i> Chapter 1, Caroline and Emily	
SESSION 5 Mon 31 Jan	Love and marriage in 18 th and 19 th century England	<i>Screening of Persuasion</i>
Reading:	Dorothy Thompson, <i>Queen Victoria: Gender and Power</i> Chapter 4, Victoria and John Brown Barbara Taylor, <i>Eve and the New Jerusalem: Socialism and Feminism in the 19th Century</i> , Introduction	

SESSION 6 Tues 1 Feb	Queen Victoria and Feminism 'Eve and the New Jerusalem'	<i>'Vixens in Velvet' and 'Hyenas in Petticoats'</i>
Reading:	Sylvia Pankhurst, <i>The Suffragette Movement</i> Book 4, Chapter 1	
	A.V. John (Ed), <i>The Men's Share?: Masculinities, Male Support and Women's Suffrage in Britain 1890-1920</i> Chapter 4, Manliness and Militancy	

SESSION 7 Mon 7 Feb	'Rise Up Women!': the Militant Campaign for the Vote, 1903-1914 Men's involvement in Women's Suffrage	<i>Guided walk round Westminster in the footsteps of the Suffragettes</i>
Reading:	Vera Brittain, <i>Testament of Youth</i> Chapter 6, 'When the Vision Dies'	
	Deborah Thom, <i>Nice Girls and Rude Girls: Women Workers in World War One</i> Chapter 2, Women and Work in Wartime London	

SESSION 8 Tues 8 Feb	'Keep the Home Fires Burning': Women's role in the First World War Visit to the Imperial War Museum	<i>Task: Audit of the evidence of women's work in two World Wars</i>
Reading:	Dorothy Sheridan, <i>Wartime Women: A Mass Observation Anthology</i> Chapter 5, Evacuation	

SESSION 9 Fri 11 Feb	'Women of the Blitz': Women's Lives in two World Wars	<i>What work would YOU have done in 1914-1918 and 1939-1945, and why?</i>
	Screening of <i>London Can Take It!</i> : <i>The British Home Front at War</i>	

Students must check their email and the weekly Student Newsletter for field trip updates and reminders, if any are to be included.

* **Contingency Class Date: Friday 4 February.** Students are obligated to keep this date free to attend class should any class dates need to be rescheduled.

Deadline for paper: to be handed in to the Student Affairs Office by **9am on Monday 14 February.**

Final Exam: Tuesday 15 February. A two-hour open-book exam. Students will be required to write one essay out of choice of three of major areas studied in the course. Exam times and locations will be posted on the BU London website and in the Student Newsletter two weeks before exam dates.

Readings

There is no core textbook, therefore students will be directed to chapters in the following books which will be available for study from the BU British Programmes Library.

Brittain, Vera. *Testament of Youth*, 1933, reprinted Virago 1983

Davidoff, Leonore and Hall, Catherine. *Family Fortunes: Men and Women of the English Middle Class, 1780-1850*, Hutchison, 1987

Eger, Elizabeth and Peltz, Lucy. *Brilliant Women: 18th Century Bluestockings*, National Portrait Gallery, 2008

Fraser, Antonia. *The Weaker Vessel': Women's Lot in 17th Century England*, Phoenix Press, 1984

John, A.V. *The Men's Share?: Masculinities, Male Support and Women's Suffrage in Britain 1890-1920*, Routledge, 1987

Pankhurst, Sylvia. *The Suffragette Movement*, 1931, reprinted Virago, 1990

Sheridan, Dorothy. *Wartime Women: A Mass Observation Anthology, 1937-1945*, Phoenix 2002

Taylor, Barbara. *Eve and the New Jerusalem: Socialism and Feminism in the 19th Century*, Virago, 1983

Thom, Deborah. *Nice Girls and Rude Girls: Women Workers in World War One*, I.B.Tauris, 1998

Thompson, Dorothy. *Queen Victoria: Gender and Power*, Virago, 1990

Tillyard, Stella. *Aristocrats: Caroline, Emily, Louisa and Sarah Lennox 1740-1832*, Chatto and Windus, 1994

Wollstonecraft, Mary. *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, Penguin Classics, 2000

Additional readings may be posted on the course webpage:

<http://www.bu-london.co.uk/academic/ws310> (you must be logged in to view materials).

Selective Bibliography

The selective bibliography is for students who want to pursue themes that have been covered in class as topics for research essays. The lecturer will also direct students to primary sources during the tutorials in Session 4. For students who select other areas for their essays, the lecturer will provide relevant titles. All books will be available in the BU British Programmes Library.

Stephen Inwood, *A History of London*, Macmillan, 1998

Olwen Hufton, *The Prospect Before Her: A History of Women in Western Europe, 1500-1800*, Vol 1, Fontana Press, 1995

Janet Todd, *The Secret Life of Aphra Behn*, Andre Deitsch, 1996

Anne Laurence, *Women in England 1500-1700*, Weidenfeld and Nicholson, 1994

Peter Earle, *A City Full of People: Men and Women of London 1650-1750*, Methuen, 1994

Bridget Hill, *Eighteenth Century Women: An Anthology*, George Allen and Unwin, 1984

Lyndall Gordon, *Mary Wollstonecraft: A New Genus*, Little Brown, 2005

Dan Cruickshank and Neil Burton, *Life in the Georgian City*, Viking, 1990

Anne Stott, *Hannah More: The First Victorian*, Oxford University Press, 2003

John Tosh, *A Man's Place: Masculinity and the Middle-Class Home in Victorian England*, Yale University press, 2007

Jane Rendall (Ed), *Equal or Different?: Women's Politics 1800-1914*, Basil Blackwell

Pala Bartley, *The Changing Role of Women 1815-1914*, Hodder and Stoughton, 1996

John Burnett (Ed), *Useful Toil: Autobiographies of Working People from the 1820s to the 1920s*, Penguin Books, 1974

Pat Jalland, *Women From Birth To Death: The Female Life Cycle in Britain 1830-1914*, Harvester Press, 1986

Carol Dyhouse, *Feminism and the Family in England 1880-1939*, Basil Blackwell, 1989

Catherine Hall, *White, Male and Middle Class: Explorations in Feminism and History*, Polity Press, 1992

Margaret Forster, *Significant Sisters: The Grassroots of Active Feminism 1838-1939*, Penguin Books, 1986

Adrienne Munich, *Queen Victoria's Secrets*, Columbia University Press, 1996

Philippa Levine, *Victorian Feminism 1850-1900*, Hutchinson, 1987

Pamela Horn, *The Rise and Fall of the Victorian Servant*, Alan Sutton Publishing, 1986

Gregory Anderson (Ed), *The White Blouse Revolution: Female Office Workers Since 1870*, Manchester University Press, 1988

Angela Holdsworth, *Out of the Doll's House: The Story of Women in the 20th Century*, BBC Books, 1988

Sheila Rowbotham, *A Century of Women: The History of Women in Britain and the United States*, Viking, 1998,

Antonia Raeburn, *The Militant Suffragettes*, Michael Joseph, 1978

Emmeline Pankhurst, *My Own Story*, 1914, reprinted Virago, 1980

Diane Atkinson, *The Suffragettes in Pictures*, Alan Sutton Publishing, 2000

- Susan Kingsley Kent, *Sex and Suffrage in Britain 1860-1914*, Princeton University Press, 1987
- Julia Bush, *Women Against The Vote: Female Anti-Suffragism in Britain*, Oxford University Press, 2007
- Maud Pember Reeves, *Round About A Pound A Week*, 1913, reprinted by Virago Press 1979
- Martin Pugh, *Women and the Women's Movement in Britain, 1918-1959*, Macmillan, 1992
- Diane Atkinson, *Elsie and Mairi Go To War: Two Extraordinary Women on the Western Front*, Random House, 2009
- Gail Braybon and Penny Summerfield, *Out of the Cage: Women's Experiences in Two World Wars*, Pandora Press, 1987
- Diana Condell and Jean Liddiard, *Working for Victory?: Images of Women in the First World War 1914-1918*, Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1987
- Pamela Horn, *Women in the 1920s*, Alan Sutton Publishing, 1995
- Mavis Nicholson (Ed), *What Did You Do In The War Mummy?: the Experiences of Women at War*, Mandarin Books, 1991
- Paul Addison, *Now the War is Over: A Social History of Britain, 1945-1951*, BBC Books, 1985