Instructor Information

A. Name

Dr Diane Atkinson

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%
### Course Chronology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Classroom Discussion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mon 21st Jan</td>
<td>Orientation to the course</td>
<td>Who was Aphra Behn?</td>
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<td>‘The Weaker Vessel’: attitudes to women in the 17th and 18th centuries</td>
<td>Visit to the Museum of London&lt;br&gt;Task: where are the women?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading:</td>
<td>Antonia Fraser, <em>The Weaker Vessel</em>: Women’s Lot in 17th Century England&lt;br&gt;Part 1 ‘As It Was – This Blessed Knot’, the first 4 sections</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Tues 22nd Jan</td>
<td>Visit to the National Portrait Gallery to see selected portraits of women from the period under review</td>
<td>Guided walk to see monuments to 19th century women&lt;br&gt;Imagine them having dinner and discussing ‘the two spheres’.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Reading:</td>
<td>Elizabeth Eger and Lucy Peltz, <em>Brilliant Women: 18th Century Bluestockings</em>&lt;br&gt;Chapters 1, The Blue Stocking Circle</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Mon 28th Jan</td>
<td>‘The Angel of the House’: Domestic Ideology and women’s lives, 1780-1900</td>
<td>Who were Hannah More and Mary Wollstonecraft?</td>
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<td>Visit to the Victoria and Albert Museum</td>
<td>Imagine them having dinner and discussing ‘the two spheres’.</td>
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<td>Reading:</td>
<td>Leonore Davidoff and Catherine Hall, <em>Family Fortunes: Men and Women of the English Middle Class</em>&lt;br&gt;Chapter 3, ‘The Nursery of Virtue’&lt;br&gt;Mary Wollstonecraft, <em>Vindication of the Rights of Women</em>, The Author’s (MW’s) Introduction and Chapter 1, The Rights and Involved Duties of Mankind Considered</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Tues 29th Jan</td>
<td>Visit to the Women’s Library to work on the research essay</td>
<td>Tutorials</td>
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<td>Reading:</td>
<td>Stella Tillyard, <em>Aristocrats: Caroline, Emily, Louisa and Sarah Lennox 1740-1832</em>&lt;br&gt;Chapter 1, Caroline and Emily</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Mon 4th Feb</td>
<td>Love and marriage in 18th and 19th century England</td>
<td>Screening of Persuasion</td>
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<td>Reading:</td>
<td>Dorothy Thompson, <em>Queen Victoria: Gender and Power</em>&lt;br&gt;Chapter 4, Victoria and John Brown&lt;br&gt;Barbara Taylor, <em>Eve and the New Jerusalem: Socialism and Feminism in the 19th Century</em>, Introduction</td>
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SESSION 6
Tues 5th Feb
Queen Victoria and Feminism
‘Eve and the New Jerusalem’

Reading:
Sylvia Pankhurst, *The Suffragette Movement*
Book 4, Chapter 1

A.V.John (Ed), *The Men’s Share?: Masculinities, Male Support and Women’s Suffrage in Britain 1890-1920*
Chapter 4, Manliness and Militancy

SESSION 7
Mon 11th Feb
‘Rise Up Women!’: the Militant Campaign for the Vote, 1903-1914
Men’s involvement in Women’s Suffrage

Reading:
Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth*
Chapter 6, ‘When the Vision Dies’

Deborah Thom, *Nice Girls and Rude Girls: Women Workers in World War One*
Chapter 2, Women and Work in Wartime London

SESSION 8
Tues 12th Feb
‘Keep the Home Fires Burning’: Women’s role in the First World War

Reading:
Dorothy Sheridan, *Wartime Women: A Mass Observation Anthology*
Chapter 5, Evacuation

SESSION 9
Fri 15th Feb
‘Women of the Blitz’: Women’s Lives in two World Wars

Reading:
Screening of *London Can Take It!: The British Home Front at War*

What work would YOU have done in 1914-1918 and 1939-1945, and why?

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 8th 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 18th February.

Final Exam: Tuesday 19th 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.
**Attendance Policy**

**Classes**
Boston University London Programme students are expected to attend each and every class session, tutorial, and field trip in order to fulfill the required course contact hours and receive course credit. Any student that has been absent from two class sessions (whether authorised or unauthorised) will need to meet with the Directors to discuss their continued participation on the programme.

*Authorised Absence:*
Students who expect to be absent from any class should notify a member of Academic Affairs and complete an Authorized Absence Approval Form 10 working days in advance of the class date (except in the case of absence due to illness, for which students should submit the Authorised Absence Approval Form with the required doctor’s note as soon as possible). **Please note:** Submitting an Authorized Absence Approval Form does not guarantee an authorized absence

Students may apply for an authorised absence only under the following circumstances:
- Illness, supported by a local London doctor’s note (submitted with Authorised Absence Approval Form).
- Important placement event that clashes with a class (verified by internship supervisor)
- Special circumstances which have been approved by the Directors (see note below).

The Directors will only in the most extreme cases (for example, death in close family) allow students to leave the programme early or for a significant break.

*Unauthorised Absence:*
Any student to miss a class due to an unauthorised absence will receive a 4% grade penalty to their final grade for the course whose class was missed. This grade penalty will be applied by the Academic Affairs office to the final grade at the end of the course. As stated above, any student that has missed two classes will need to meet with the Directors to discuss their participation on the programme as excessive absences may result in a ‘Fail’ in the class and therefore expulsion from the programme.

**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 Study Abroad London Library.


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


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


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


Additional readings may be posted on the course webpage: [https://lms.bu.edu](https://lms.bu.edu) (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 Study Abroad London Library.


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

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


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


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


Maud Pember Reeves, *Round About A Pound A Week*, 1913, reprinted by Virago Press 1979


