



Boston University Study Abroad
London

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London Women's Social History from Aphra Behn to the Blitz
CAS WS 310/HI 249 (*Elective A*)
Spring 2013

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%

Grading

Please refer to the Academic Handbook for detailed grading criteria and policies on plagiarism:
<http://www.bu.edu/london/current-semester>

Course Chronology

	LECTURE	CLASSROOM DISCUSSION
SESSION 1 Mon 21st 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 22nd 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 28th 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 29th 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 4th Feb	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 5th 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 11th 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 12th Feb Reading:	'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>
	Dorothy Sheridan, <i>Wartime Women: A Mass Observation Anthology</i> Chapter 5, Evacuation	

SESSION 9 Fri 15th 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!: 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 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 Authorised 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.

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: <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.

- 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