Course Objectives

Over 10 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research essay (3,000 words)</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term quiz</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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</table>
Grading

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

*Final Grades are subject to deductions by the Academic Affairs Office due to unauthorised absences.

Attendance Policy

Classes
All Boston University London Programme students are expected to attend each and every class session, seminar, 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. This may result in the student having to take a medical leave of absence from the programme or withdraw from 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 more than one day. In this situation 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 authorised absence

Students may apply for an authorised absence only under the following circumstances:

- Illness (first day of sickness): If a student is too ill to attend class, the student must phone the BU London Student Affairs Office (who will in turn contact the student’s lecturer).
- Illness (multiple days): If a student is missing more than one class day due to illness, the student must call into the BU London Student Affairs Office each day the student is ill. Students must also provide the Student Affairs office with a completed Authorised Absence Approval Form and sick note from a local doctor excusing their absence from class.
- 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 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.
### Lateness

Students arriving more than 15 minutes after the posted class start time will be marked as late. Any student with irregular class attendance (more than two late arrivals to class) will be required to meet with the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs and if the lateness continues, may have his/her final grade penalised.

### Course Chronology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SESSION 1</th>
<th>LECTURE</th>
<th>CLASSROOM DISCUSSION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 13 Jan</td>
<td>Orientation to the course</td>
<td>Who was Aphra Behn?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘The Weaker Vessel’: attitudes to women in the 17th and 18th centuries</td>
<td>Visit to the Museum of London</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Task: where are the women?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Reading: Antonia Fraser, *The Weaker Vessel*: Women’s Lot in 17th Century England

Part 1 ‘As It Was – This Blessed Knot’, the first 4 sections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SESSION 2</th>
<th>LECTURE</th>
<th>CLASSROOM DISCUSSION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 18 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</td>
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<tr>
<td></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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Visit to the Victoria and Albert Museum</td>
<td>Imagine them having dinner and discussing ‘the two spheres’.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Reading: Elizabeth Eger and Lucy Peltz, *Brilliant Women: 18th Century Bluestockings*

Chapters 1, The Blue Stocking Circle

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<tr>
<th>SESSION 3</th>
<th>LECTURE</th>
<th>CLASSROOM DISCUSSION</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 19 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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Visit to the Victoria and Albert Museum</td>
<td>Imagine them having dinner and discussing ‘the two spheres’.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reading: Leonore Davidoff and Catherine Hall, *Family Fortunes: Men and Women of the English Middle Class*

Chapter 3, ‘The Nursery of Virtue’

Mary Wollstonecraft, *Vindication of the Rights of Women*, The Author’s (MW’s) Introduction and Chapter 1, The Rights and Involved Duties of Mankind Considered

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SESSION 4</th>
<th>LECTURE</th>
<th>CLASSROOM DISCUSSION</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 25 Jan</td>
<td>Visit to the Guildhall Library to work on the research essay</td>
<td>Tutorials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stella Tillyard, <em>Aristocrats: Caroline, Emily, Louisa and Sarah Lennox 1740-1832</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 1, Caroline and Emily</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SESSION 5</td>
<td>Tues 26 Jan</td>
<td>Love and marriage in 18th and 19th century England</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **Reading:** | Dorothy Thompson, *Queen Victoria: Gender and Power*  
Chapter 4, Victoria and John Brown  

| SESSION 6 | Mon 1 Feb | Queen Victoria and Feminism  
‘Eve and the New Jerusalem’ | ‘Vixens in Velvet’ and ‘Hyenas in Petticoats’ |
|-----------|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| **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 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SESSION 7</th>
<th>Tues 2 Feb</th>
<th>‘Rise Up Women!’: the Militant Campaign for the Vote, 1903-1914 Men’s involvement in Women’s Suffrage</th>
<th><em>Guided walk round Westminster in the footsteps of the Suffragettes</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **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 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SESSION 8</th>
<th>Mon 8 Feb</th>
<th>‘Keep the Home Fires Burning’: Women’s role in the First World War</th>
<th><em>Task: Audit of the evidence of women’s work in the Great War and 1939-1945</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Reading:** | Dorothy Sheridan, *Wartime Women: A Mass Observation Anthology*  
Chapter 5, Evacuation |

**Visit to the Cabinet War Rooms** |
|-----------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|

| SESSION 10 | Fri 12 Feb | *Screening of Voices of the First World War*  
*London Can Take It!*  
*The British Home Front At War* | What work would **YOU** have done in both world wars, and why |
Students must check their email and the weekly Student Newsletter for field trip updates and reminders

**Deadline for paper:** to be handed in to the Student Affairs Office by **9am on Mon 15 Feb**

**Take Home Exam: Tuesday 16 Feb:** Students will be required to write one essay out of choice of three of the major areas studied in the course.

*Contingency Class Date: Friday 5th February.* Students are obligated to keep this date free to attend class should any class dates need to be rescheduled.*

**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.


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 reading may be found on Blackboard: [http://learn.bu.edu](http://learn.bu.edu)
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.


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


