



SYLLABUS

HISTORY OF SEX AND GENDER IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Instructor: Dr Amanda Milburn

Contact Hours: 60

LONDON, ENGLAND

Course Description

This course examines the history of sex and gender in nineteenth and twentieth century England and Wales. We will explore the rich and varied lived experiences of British men and women using a wide range of primary sources, including written discourse, speeches, photographs, novels, and film. The course proceeds in a predominantly chronological fashion with case studies of key groups interspersed throughout. We will trace changes in the representations and expectations of sex and gender from the Enlightenment to the present day. Key themes will include the impact of historical constructions of sex and gender and the ongoing fight(s) for equality in Britain.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

1. Assess historical categories of gender and intersectional theory
2. Understand the varied roles that men, women and non-binary people have had within England and Wales
3. Articulate the ways in which women contributed to British society in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries
4. Analyse a wide range of primary and secondary historical sources
5. Demonstrate the ability to research and critically assess topics and issues and to present logical arguments

Course texts

Required readings are available in the course pack.

Readings listed are the minimum. You are expected to make use of the Women's Library at LSE to supplement your academic research. Details can be found here:

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/library/collections/featuredCollections/womensLibraryLSE.aspx>

Assessment

The final grade for this course is based on 5 components, calculated as follows:

Class Participation	20%
Class Presentation	20%
Midterm Quiz	20%
Gobbet Commentaries	20%
Final Paper	20%

Grading

Grading for each individual assessment and for the final grade will be based on the following.

A+	97-100%	A	93-96%	A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%	B	83-86%	B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%	C	73-76%	C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%	D	63-66%	D-	60-62%
F	0-59%				

1. Class Participation

Class participation is assessed based on active involvement and quality of contributions. You must come to class prepared to demonstrate mastery of the required readings and engage in analytical discussion.

2. Class Presentation

Over the course of the semester, students are expected to give presentations to the class. These are designed to encourage discussion and debate.

3. Gobbet Commentaries

A 'gobbet' may be more commonly used to refer to a chunk of meat, but it is also the word British historians use to describe a short extract from a primary source. For this assignment you will produce a detailed analysis based on a close reading of two gobbets: once at the beginning of the semester, and once at the end.

See Appendix I for further details

3. Midterm Quiz

The midterm quiz will consist of a choice of multiple choice and shorter essay questions.

5. Final Paper

You will produce an essay on a subject of your choice. The essay will showcase your skills in academic research, comprehension, interpretation, argument, written expression, and organisation. Further details will be given in class.

Assignment policy

All assignments must be produced on a computer. All papers must be double-spaced, size-12, Times New Roman font, with a one-inch margin all around. All assignments must be printed and handed in at the beginning of class on the date specified. Emailed assignments will not be accepted.

Late work will be penalised at the rate of 10 percentage points per day.

Course Calendar

DATE	Meetings, Assignments, Tasks
Week 1	Introduction and historical timeline Techniques for studying gender Intersectional feminism
Week 2	The Enlightenment: Mary Wollstonecraft and Hannah More Nineteenth century gender ideologies <u>Class outing: National Portrait Gallery</u>
Week 3	Nineteenth century female employment and philanthropy The male breadwinner and the angel in the house: representation versus reality Case Study: Anne Lister <u>Class outing: Blists Hill Victorian Town</u>
Week 4	Votes for Women! <u>Class outing: East London Radical History Walk</u> GOBBET COMMENTARY ONE DUE
Week 5	LGBTQ people in the nineteenth century Case study: Fanny and Stella <u>Class outing: V&A Museum</u>
Week 6	MIDTERM QUIZ <u>Class outing: Women's Library</u>
Week 7	Mid-term break
Week 8	WWI & WWII The Aftermath <u>Class outing: Imperial War Museum</u>

Week 9	<p>Equal pay for equal work Contraception Second Wave feminism</p> <p>Women's 'liberation' Mrs Thatcher Greenham Common</p>
Week 11	<p>LGBTQ people in the twentieth century Film Screening: Pride</p> <p><u>Class outing: Gay's The Word Bookshop</u></p> <p>GOBBET COMMENTARY TWO DUE</p>
Week 12	<p>Third Wave Feminism 'Ladettes' and 'Girl Power!' Shattering the glass ceiling?</p> <p><u>Class outing: Sex, Death and Shopping Soho Walking Tour</u></p>
Week 13	<p>Migration from the former British Empire Case Study: Brick Lane</p> <p><u>Class outing: Black Cultural Archives, Brixton</u></p>
Week 14	<p>Fourth Wave Feminism The Gender Recognition Act</p> <p>Looking forward: where are we now? Where are we going?</p> <p>FINAL PAPER DUE</p>

Further Information

Attendance at the sessions and excursions is obligatory. The sessions combine introductory lectures, presentations, discussions and group work. In some sessions, students will be asked to participate in debates and to prepare and deliver group presentations. You are expected to prepare actively for all classes and to contribute to all seminars.

Appendix I: Gobbet Commentary

You must analyse TWO of the gobbets. Consider the following in your response:

Context

Who is the author?

When was the source written/produced?

Why was the source produced?

What type of source is it?

Who was the intended audience?

Analysis

What were the motives of the author?

Is there any evidence of bias? What does this indicate?

What does the source tell us about the time it was written?

How useful is this source for historians?

The final word count for the assignment must be approximately 500 words per gobbet.

Gobbet one

At Peterborough Sessions on Wednesday last, David Thomas Myers was tried on an indictment charging him with the commission of an abominable act with Thomas Crow [...] The nature of the case prevents our giving more than an abstract of the business [...] the Jury retired, and in less than five minutes returned a verdict of – Guilty. Sentence was immediately passed upon the Prisoner, and his death-warrant is signed for Monday, the 4th May next. The Prisoner was very much affected during his trial; he never looked up except once, when the names of the Jurors were called over. The Court was crowded to excess and, we believe, there never was a verdict recorded in it that gave more universal satisfaction.
Sussex Weekly Advertiser, April 1812

Gobbet two

The demand for labour must ultimately be regulated by competition, and the two sexes can never compete in the labour market on equal terms. We are not now speaking of the political monopoly, which few women would wish to disturb, but of the physical and other advantages enjoyed by men. In the great majority of the arts the superiority of men is undisputed, but it is in the higher branches of these which are specially feminine they most excel their weaker rivals. For one man that studies music or cookery there are twenty or thirty women that do so, yet who ever heard of an eminent female composer or an eminent female cook?
The Times, 9 June 1862

Gobbet three

Sir: to one who is proud to control many thousands of girl munition workers, the leading article headed 'Foul Mouthed Bellona' which was published in Monday's 'Bulletin' comes somewhat as a shock [...] No one with the knowledge of what women have done and what they will do in the months to come can feel other than that such an article produces in the minds of the community an entirely wrong impression. War work is not coarsening our young womanhood. On the contrary, it is elevating it.
Cecil Walton, Letter to the Editor of the *Bulletin*, 7 September 1917.

Gobbet four

Don't be scared of the high language of economists and Cabinet ministers, but think of politics at our own household level. After all, women live in contact with food supplies, housing shortages, and the ever-decreasing opportunities for children, and we must therefore face up to the position, remembering that as more power is taken away from the people, so there is less responsibility for us to assume.

Margaret Roberts (later Thatcher), *Speech to Bexley Conservative Women*, 15 September 1959.

Gobbet five

Women who wish to have oral contraception will now be able to get it on the National Health Service. The Health Minister, Enoch Powell, made an announcement in the House of Commons today but did not give any guidelines as to whom the pill should be given. "It is not for me to indicate to doctors when they should decide for medical reasons to prescribe for their patients," he said.

However some GPs are in a dilemma over whether they can prescribe the Pill, as it is commonly known, for social as well as medical reasons. Several companies are busy manufacturing the product in Britain which will cost the NHS just over one shilling a pill - 17s a month. And some politicians are anxious that the drug could be a huge financial burden on the Treasury which currently spends £90m a year on drugs provided by the health service. Sir Charles Dodds, Britain's leading expert on the drugs contained in the Pill and who heads a research institute at Middlesex Hospital, has said the pills could have long-term side-effects. He compared a woman's body with a clock mechanism. "Even if you thoroughly understand the mechanism of a clock, provided it is going well it is very much better to leave it alone. To interfere with it if you do not understand it can be disastrous," he said. The Family Planning Association, which runs clinics all over Britain, is still deciding whether or not to give the go-ahead to its physicians to issue the Pill to married women.

BBC News, 4 December 1961

Gobbet six

We moved on to the personalities of John Major and Tony Blair. Women apparently find Mr Blair phoney; Scots think him smarmy. The Spice Girls find him sympathetic but are not convinced by his fiscal policies. "We met Tony Blair, and he seemed nice enough," said Victoria.

"Really charming," agreed Mel C.

"His hair's all right, but he's just not a pair of safe hands for the economy," decreed Gerri.

"As for Major," said Victoria, "he's a boring pillock. But he's better than the rest. We'd never vote Labour."

"The real problem with Blair," mused Gerri, "is that he's just a good marketing man with no ideals."

The word "ideals" brought the Spice Girls back to the Grand Old Lady of Girl Power. "Ideals. Thatcher had ideals all right," declared Gerri, to unanimous declarations of "Wicked" and "We love Maggie!"

The Telegraph, 14 December 1996

Gobbet seven

Fuck it I'm a woman. Not a comfortable woman a slightly dysphoric woman a non-binary transgender woman(ish) a loud woman a no-shit woman...

...a queer woman a child-rearing woman a paid-less-than-her-male-peers woman a catcalled-in-her-junior-school-uniform woman...

...a stalked woman a harrassed woman a head-of-my-household woman a second-gen-immigrant woman a loud woman a furious woman a disabled woman

...a not-comfortable-in-my-skin woman a wish-i-didnt-have-these-tits woman a what-even-am-i-meant-to-feel-like woman a feminist woman...

a multiple-sexual-assault surviving woman a political woman until we have GOD DAMN EQUALITY I RECLAIM MY FUCKING WOMANHOOD. AND GOOD NIGHT.

Jack Monroe, Twitter thread, 21 January 2017