

Gender in the Atlantic World, 1500-1800

(Graduate-Level Seminar)

Prof. Jacqueline Beatty

Course Description:

This course will consider the significance of constructs of gender in the formation of Atlantic World economies, political systems, social institutions, and power dynamics between 1500 and 1800. Over the course of the semester, we will investigate the centrality of gender in the development of these Atlantic World systems. Focusing on connections between Europe, the Americas, and West Africa, this course examines themes such as power and social hierarchy, conquest, marriage, the family, and sexuality, labor and work, slavery, and religion in the lives of men and women during this period. This seminar will be centered on conceptions of gender as a social, historical, and highly mutable construct, as well as the connections among race, class, and gender in systems of power across the Atlantic World.

Required Books:

- Brooks, George. *Eurafricans in Western Africa: Commerce, Social Status, Gender, and Religious Observance from the Sixteenth to the Eighteenth Century* (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2003).
- Brown, Kathleen. *Good Wives, Nasty Wenches, and Anxious Patriarchs: Gender, Race, and Power in Colonial Virginia* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1996).
- Clark, Emily. *Masterless Mistresses: The New Orleans Ursulines and the Development of a New World Society, 1727–1834* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007).
- Fischer, Kirsten. *Suspect Relations: Sex, Race, and Resistance in Colonial North Carolina* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2002).
- Gutiérrez, Ramón A. *When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Went Away: Marriage, Sexuality, and Power in New Mexico, 1500–1846* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1991).
- Hartigan-O'Connor, Ellen. *The Ties That Buy: Women and Commerce in Revolutionary America* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009).
- Ipsen, Pernille. *Daughters of the Trade: Atlantic Slavers and Interracial Marriage on the Gold Coast* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015).
- Karlsen, Carol. *The Devil in the Shape of a Woman: Witchcraft in Colonial New England* (New York: Norton, 1998).
- Morgan, Jennifer. *Laboring Women: Reproduction and Gender in New World Slavery* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011).
- Norton, Mary Beth. *Founding Mothers and Fathers: Gendered Power and the Forming of American Society* (New York: Knopf, 1996).
- Powers, Karen Vieira. *Women in the Crucible of Conquest: The Gendered Genesis of Spanish American Society, 1500–1600* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2005).
- Sleeper-Smith, Susan. *Indian Women, French Men: Rethinking Cultural Encounter in the Western Great Lakes* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2001).
- Twinam, Ann. *Public Lives, Private Secrets: Gender, Honor, Sexuality, and Illegitimacy in Colonial America* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1999).

Course Requirements:

Participation: Regular, substantive participation is critical in graduate-level seminar courses. Students should engage in discussion with thoughtful, intellectual insight and contribute to developing a conversation with members of the class.

Book Reviews: Book reviews not simply summarize the book's content, but rather analyze the author's main arguments and the significance of the work. A successful book review will pay close attention to the sources and methodology the author uses, while evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the book. Examples of book reviews can be found in academic journals on JSTOR, but students should not consult book reviews of these monographs (these published reviews will be checked against student reviews for the possibility of plagiarism).

Discussion Lead: Each week, a pair of students (to be chosen during Week 1) will lead discussion. This includes reading the book (and scholarly reviews of the book) thoroughly, presenting a brief biography of the author, and directing discussion for the class. Students should email a lesson plan or list of questions to the professor at least **24 hours in advance** of the class meeting.

Final Paper: Students will compose a 15-20 page historiographical essay centered around one of the five topics covered in the units below (see schedule). Students should use the applicable books read for this course and add 5-10 books and/or articles to their analysis.

Grade Distribution:

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| Participation: | 25% |
| Two, 2-3 page book reviews: | 30% (15% each) |
| Discussion Lead: | 15% |
| Final Paper: | 30% |

Course Schedule:

Introduction: Gender and History, An Evolution

Week 1:

Joan Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," *The American Historical Review* 91 (December 1986), 1053-75.

Joan Hoff, "Gender as a Postmodern Category of Paralysis," *Women's History Review* 3.2 (1994), 149-168.

Jean Allman and Antoinette Burton, "Destination Globalization? Women, Gender, and Comparative Colonial Histories in the New Millennium," *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History* 4.1 (2003).

Unit 1: Conquest and Power

Week 2:

Powers, *Women in the Crucible of Conquest*

Montrose, Louis. "The Work of Gender in the Discourse of Discovery," in Stephen Greenblatt, ed., *New World Encounters* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993), 177–217. (Available via Blackboard)

Week 3:

Norton, *Founding Mothers and Fathers*

Unit 2: Marriage, the Family, and Sexuality in the Atlantic World

Week 4:

Gutiérrez, *When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Went Away*

Week 5:

Sleeper-Smith, *Indian Women, French Men*

Week 6:

Fischer, *Suspect Relations*

Week 7:

Twinnam, *Public Lives, Private Secrets*

Unit 3: Slavery, Gender, and Power

Week 8:

Ipsen, *Daughters of the Trade*

Week 9:

Kathleen Brown, *Good Wives, Nasty Wenches, and Anxious Patriarchs*

Week 10:

Morgan, *Laboring Women*

Unit 4: Gendered Work and Labor

Week 11:

Brooks, *Eurafricans in Western Africa*

Week 12:

Hartigan-O'Connor, *The Ties That Buy*

Unit 5: Women and Religion

Week 13:

Karlsen, *The Devil in the Shape of a Woman*

Week 14:

Clark, *Masterless Mistresses*

Final Paper Due: One week after final class meeting