New Course Request

Indiana University
South Bend Campus

Check Appropriate Boxes: Undergraduate credit ☑ Graduate credit ☐ Professional credit ☐

1. School/Division: Liberal Arts & Sciences
2. Academic Subject Code: WOST-B

3. Course Number: 342 (must be cleared with University Registrar)
4. Instructor: Isabel O'Connor

5. Course Title: Women in Medieval Society

Recommended Abbreviation (Optional): (limited to 32 Characters including spaces)

6. First time this course is to be offered (Semester/Year): Fall 2007

7. Credit Hours: Fixed at 3 or Variable from to

8. Is this course to be graded S-F (only)? Yes ☑ No ✗

9. Is variable title approval being requested? Yes ☑ No ✗

10. Course description (not to exceed 50 words): An overview of the history of women in the medieval west. The situation of women will be addressed according to their position in society—whether in noblewomen, queen, peasant, saint, or prostitute. Both primary and secondary sources will be examined. Attention will also be paid to medieval theories about women and prevailing attitudes toward women, as expressed in both learned and popular circles. Methodological and epistemological problems will be highlighted.

11. Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at 3 or Variable from to

12. Non-Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at or Variable from to

13. Estimated enrollment: 25 of which 0% percent are expected to be graduate students.


15. Will this course be required for majors? No

16. Justification for new course: This course is regularly taught in History and will fit into a topical course in WOST. It would like to have its own number.

17. Are the necessary/reading materials currently available in the appropriate library? Yes

18. Please append a complete outline of the proposed course, and indicate instructor (if known), textbooks, and other materials.

19. A copy of every new course proposal must be submitted to departments, schools, or divisions in which there may be overlap of the new course with existing courses or areas of strong concern, with instructions that they send comments directly to the originating Curriculum Committee. Please append a list of departments, schools, or divisions thus consulted.

Submitted by: [Signature] Date 9/11/06
Department Chairman/Division Director

Approved by: [Signature] Date 11/29/06
Dean

Dean of Graduate School (when required)

Chancellor/Vice-President

University Registrar

After School/Division approval, forward the last copy (without attachments) to the University Registrar for initial processing, and the remaining four copies and attachments to the Campus Chancellor or Vice-President.
B301 Issues in Medieval European History (3 cr.) S & H Study and analysis of selected historical issues and problems in the history of the European Middle Ages (500-1500 CE). Topics will vary. May be repeated with a different topic for a maximum of 6 credit hours.

B302 Issues in Early Modern European History (3 cr.) S & H Study and analysis of selected historical issues and problems in the early Modern Period (1400-1800 CE). Topics will vary but usually cut across fields and regions. May be repeated with a different topic for a maximum of 6 credit hours.

B303 Issues in Modern European History (3 cr.) S & H Study and analysis of selected historical issues and problems in modern European history (1750-present). Topics will vary. May be repeated with a different topic for a maximum of 6 credit hours.

B315 European Anti-Semitism since the Enlightenment (3 cr.) S & H Examines the origins, character, and development of anti-Semitism from the Enlightenment to the post-Holocaust period. Asks whether anti-Semitism is a single phenomenon with a clear tradition and cause, or whether it has varied markedly over time and from country to country.

B321 Modern Jewish History: from Expulsion to Revolution (3 cr.) S & H, CSA Jewish history from 1622 to 1789. Topics include the expulsion from Spain; the Inquisition and the Marranos; the society and culture of Italian, Turkish, and Polish Jewry; Court Jew in central Europe; Hasidism in eastern Europe; the Enlightenment; Jews and the French Revolution.

B322 Jews in the Modern World (3 cr.) S & H, CSA Topics include Emancipation; the Jewish Enlightenment; modern Judaism; Eastern European Jewry, Jewish politics, women in Jewish society, American Jewry, the Holocaust, Israel.

B323 History of the Holocaust (3 cr.) S & H, CSA Anti-Semitism in Imperial and Weimar Germany; the Nazi rise to power; the destruction of European Jewry; Jewish behavior in crisis and extermination; the attitude of the Allied nations; mass murder in comparative historical perspective: theological, moral, and political implications.

B324 Zionism and the State of Israel (3 cr.) S & H, CSA Origins of modern Jewish nationalism in nineteenth-century Europe, creation of a Zionist political movement, varieties of Zionist ideology, alternatives to Zionism, its international diplomatic context, growth of Jewish settlements in the land of Israel, the State of Israel from 1948 to the present.

B325 Christian-Jewish Relations (3 cr.) S & H Mutual relations between Christians and Jews in western Europe from the Middle Ages to the nineteenth century; continuity and change in the development of anti-Semitism; Jewish perceptions of Christians and Christianity.

B342 Women in Medieval Society (3 cr.) S & H An overview of the history of women in the medieval west. The situation of women will be addressed according to their position in society—whether noblewoman, queen, peasant, saint, or prostitute. Both primary and secondary sources will be examined. Attention will also be paid to medieval theories about women and prevailing attitudes toward women, as expressed in both learned and popular circles. Methodological and epistemological problems will be highlighted.

B343 Medieval Sexuality (3 cr.) S & H Christian theorists were convinced that human sexuality underwent an irreversible debasement as a result of the sin of Adam and Eve—a negative perspective that remains with us. This course will grapple with both the origins of this negative view as well as some of the anomalies of the medieval tradition. By examining the institutions and ideas that dominated the construction of gender in the Middle Ages, this course will illuminate problems such as the cult of virginity, a clerical gay subculture, transvestite saints, and many others. What will emerge is not one but many "sexualities."

B351 Western Europe in the Early Middle Ages (3 cr.) S & H, CSA Evolution of European civilization from the fall of Rome, development of Christianity and the Germanic invasions through Charlemagne’s empire and the subsequent development of feudalism, manorialism, papacy, and Romanesque architecture.

B352 Western Europe in the High and Later Middle Ages (3 cr.) S & H, CSA F: One of the following: H306, B551, an upper-level medieval history seminar; or permission from the instructor. Expansion of European culture and institutions: chivalry, the Crusades, rise of towns, universities, Gothic architecture, law, revival of central government. Violent changes in late medieval Europe; overpopulation, plague, Hundred Years’ War, peasant revolt, crime, inquisition, and heresy.

B353 The Renaissance (3 cr.) S & H, CSA Italian Renaissance as a political and cultural phase in the history of Western civilization. Its roots in antiquity and the Middle Ages; its characteristic expression in literature, art, learning, social transformations, manners and customs. Expansion of the Renaissance into France, Germany, and England.
SYLLABUS

Term: Fall 2005
Course No.: B342 & W300
Course Title: Medieval Women
Lecture: W 5:30-8 pm
Room: DW 1275
Professor: Dr. I. O'Connor
Office: DW 3255
Phone: 520-4255
E-mail: isoconnorsu@gmail.com
Office Hours: M 11:30 am-1 pm
W 11:30 am-1 pm
W 4:30-5:30 pm
By appointment

Course Description: This course explores the status of women in medieval Europe (500-1500 C.E.). The course has two main goals. The first one is to study the role that women played in medieval European society. To achieve this goal, we will analyze primary sources to understand first the nature of the evidence available to historians who write on the subject. We will examine a variety of medieval sources (literary, legal and ecclesiastical texts) written by and about medieval women. The second goal is to understand how historians have used this evidence to write the history of medieval women. Through intense classroom discussion and written assignments, students will contribute to the ongoing debate about medieval women’s studies, and especially to an interpretation of the relationship between gender and society. Some of the issues confronting us will be to examine the meaning of “power” in society and its relationship to the public and private sphere.

Course Goals:

1. Students will analyze the status of women in the context of medieval Europe.

2. Students will analyze how Europe’s transformation from a backward society in 500 to a commercial and urban one in 1500 affected the status of women.

3. Students will analyze how gender was represented in medieval texts written by women and about them.

4. Students will examine how modern historians write about medieval women and how these depictions and the methodology that they use changed throughout time.

5. Students will practice their critical thinking skills through careful reading and written interpretation of primary and secondary sources.
6. Students will have a chance to practice their public speaking skills.

Required Texts:

A. Secondary Sources:

Jennifer Ward, Women in Medieval Europe 1200-1500

Suzanne F. Wimple, Women in Frankish Society: Marriage and the Cloister, 500-900

B. Primary Sources:

Emilie Amt, editor, Women’s Lives in Medieval Europe: A Source Book

Betty Radice, translator, The Letters of Abelard and Heloise

B. Windeatt, translator, The Book of Margery Kempe

C. Recommended:

Mary Lynn Rampolla, A Pocket Guide to Writing in History, 4th edition

Course Requirements: This is a course designed to improve the students’ analytical and critical thinking skills. The best way to achieve this goal is to engage in classroom discussion of the weekly assigned readings. Students are expected to have completed the reading assignments prior to coming to class. In order to be productive members of the class, students should come to class ready to offer their own analysis, comments and questions about the assigned reading.

A. Exams: There will be a midterm and a final exam. The midterm exam will be on October 12. The final exam will be on December 14. The final will not be cumulative.

B. Writing Assignments:

1. Short Writing Assignment: Students are required to write a three-page critical book review of The Letters of Abelard and Heloise. This paper is due on November 9 at the beginning of class.

2. Research Paper: Using primary and secondary sources, students will write a research paper of about 10 pages in length regarding an issue affecting medieval women or a specific medieval woman of their choosing. Individual paper topics have to be approved by me. The paper should be typed (12 point) and double-spaced. All citations should follow the Chicago Manual of Style. The research paper is due on December 7 at the beginning of class.

3. Paper Abstract: This assignment is designed to help you focus your interests for the research
paper. Students are required to turn in a one-page typed (12 point) and double spaced detailing their proposed paper topic and bibliography. This assignment is required but not graded. The paper abstract is due on October 5 at the beginning of class.

Specific writing instructions will be handed out in class prior to each assignment.

Please proofread your papers, which will be graded based on content and style. I can help you by reading drafts and offering suggestions, provided that you turn in your draft several days before the paper is due. Also, remember that the writing center on campus can assist you as well. Late papers will be penalized at the rate of half a grade per day.

C. Oral Presentation: The goal of this assignment is to analyze data and to present it to the class in an organized and clear manner. Each student will give an oral presentation to the class based on a primary source excerpt from the reader (Amt, Women’s Lives in Medieval Europe). A schedule will be distributed in class during the second week of classes.

Note on Plagiarism: Copying or reproducing another person’s words without proper acknowledgment constitutes plagiarism. See IUSB’s detailed explanation concerning plagiarism at http://www.campuslife.indiana.edu/code/index1.html. Please note that plagiarism is a very serious academic offense that will not be tolerated in my class. Thus, in this course, failure to comply with the university policy on plagiarism will result in an F for the assignment or for the course.

Class Attendance: Attendance to class is required. In a course that covers so much material in such a short time, students cannot afford to miss class. Moreover, students are an integral part of the class. Active student participation in discussion of class materials is highly encouraged, and together with attendance, it will count for 10% of the final grade. Missing one class (the equivalent to one week) without a justifiable cause will result in an F for that portion of the final grade.

Disability Statement: “Any student who feels that an accommodation may be needed based on the impact of a disability should contact Disabled Student Services at 520-4135 in office 148 of the Administration Building. Staff will work to provide reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.”

Student Expectations: We will be covering a large historical period and geographical area. Thus, it is important to keep on schedule with the reading. Please do the reading before coming to class. This is especially important for those days when we discuss primary sources.

Come to class ready to learn. Do not hide in the audience. I use a very interactive teaching approach that demands active student participation. I combine lectures and group discussions of primary sources with the goal of increasing student interest in history as well as helping students develop analytical skills. We analyze maps, literary texts, pictures, etc. to comprehend the past. Remember that our task is not to memorize names and dates, but to discover and analyze their
meaning.

Use your time wisely. Take notes in class. This will help you process the information that you hear. Also, mastering this skill will help you succeed in college.

Come to class on time and refrain from socializing with other students.

Please turn off your cell phones!

Grades:
Midterm Exam: 25%
Short Paper: 10%
Oral Presentation: 10%
Research Paper: 20%
Final Exam: 25%
Participation: 10%

Reading Assignments

Week 1:
Wednesday, August 31: Introduction. Why should we study medieval women? The Historical Context: A Brief Overview of The Middle Ages.

Week 2:
Wednesday, September 7: Historiography: Medieval Women in the Writings of Modern Historians.

WOMEN IN THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES

Week 3:
Wednesday, September 14: The Ancient Mediterranean World.
Amt, Women’s Lives in Medieval Europe, chapter I, pp. 1-35.

Week 4:
Wednesday, September 21: Women in Barbarian Europe.
Class Discussion of Wimple, Women in Francis Society: Marriage and the Cloister, 500-900.
Amt, Women’s Lives in Medieval Europe, chapter I, pp. 36-50.

THE BIRTH OF A NEW EUROPE AND ITS EFFECTS ON WOMEN

Week 5:
Wednesday, September 28: Europe’s Transformation by the Year 1000.
Amt, Women’s Lives in Medieval Europe, chapter II, pp. 51-78.
Week 6:
Wednesday, October 5: Women and the New Economy.
   Ward, Women in Medieval Europe, 1200-1500, chapter 4, pp. 63-73.
   Women at Work in the Countryside and the City.
   Amt, Women’s Lives in Medieval Europe, chapter IV, pp. 177-215.
   Ward, Women in Medieval Europe, 1200-1500, chapters 5 and 6, pp. 74-109.
   Paper Abstract Due at the Beginning of Class.

Week 7:
Wednesday, October 12: Midterm Exam.

Week 8:
Wednesday, October 19: Women and Power.

Week 9:
Wednesday, October 26: Women and the Church.
   Ward, Women in Medieval Europe, 1200-1500, chapters 9 and 10, pp. 154-190.

Week 10:
Wednesday, November 2: Women and the Church.
   Class Discussion of The Letters of Abelard and Heloise.

Week 11:
Wednesday, November 9: Women and Learning.
   Amt, Women’s Lives in Medieval Europe, chapter II, pp. 95-118.
   Ward, Women in Medieval Europe, 1200-1500, chapter 8, pp. 133-153.
   Short Paper on The Letters of Abelard and Heloise due at the Beginning of Class.
   THE LATE MIDDLE AGES

Week 12:
Wednesday, November 16: The Disastrous Fourteenth Century: War and Plague and Their Effects on Women.
Week 13:
Wednesday, November 23: Women and Popular Piety.
Class Discussion of The Book of Margery Kempe.
Ward, Women in Medieval Europe, 1200-1500, chapters 11-14, pp. 191-251.

Week 14:
Wednesday, November 30: Minority Women: Jewish and Muslim Women in Medieval Texts.
Amt, Women's Lives in Medieval Europe, chapter VI, pp. 277-304.

Week 15:
Wednesday, December 7: Conclusion: Women at the Dawn of the Renaissance.
Ward, Women in Medieval Europe, 1200-1500, conclusion, pp. 252-255.
Research Paper Due at the Beginning of Class.

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 14.