HISTORY 506:212    WOMEN IN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES, 1800 TO THE PRESENT

This course introduces students to the history (or histories) of women in the modern western world. Why and how did gender matter during periods of political, economic and cultural transformation? How have race, ethnicity and religious belief distinguished one group of women from another? What can be learned by comparing the history of women in the West to the histories of women throughout the world? We will examine these questions within the context of specific historical periods and specific themes. Among the themes and periods are: Enlightenment notions of human rights, slavery, the industrial revolution and women’s work, women and science, sexuality, the holocaust, World War II, Feminism, wars and revolutions of the twentieth century. Students will be required to write two take-home exams and to participate in one in-class group presentation.