WOMEN AND GENDER COMPREHENSIVE READING LIST

This list is intended as a reading guide for students doing majors and minors in the field of Women's and Gender History. We are suggesting significant works organized by sub-field and domains, but we are not providing exhaustive lists. In consultation with their advisors and the two main examiners, students are expected to tailor their own reading lists to their own chosen fields and to consider specific topics comparatively, across geographical areas and chronological periods. The faculty recognizes that students will have different needs and interests, and they expect students to refine the categories and the readings within them to serve their particular long-term teaching and research goals. Students taking a major field will be examined by a committee of three faculty members, usually consisting of the student’s own advisor, and the two common examiners in Women’s and Gender History. Students doing a minor field will be examined by a committee of only the two common examiners. We encourage students to consult with one another while preparing their lists and reading for their exams.

In addition to the readings below, we assume that students will keep up with relevant literature in the major journals in women's and gender history, feminist studies, and in their own regional, national, and chronological areas of research. These include but are not limited to historical journals, such as the American Historical Review, Gender & History, Journal of American History, Journal of Women's History, Journal of the History of Sexuality, Past & Present, and interdisciplinary journals, including Feminist Studies, Signs, Difference, and Meridians. Students should be especially aware of special issues of relevant journals that focus on their particular areas of interest.

The Categories

The list is divided into the following ten categories:
1. Gender and Sexuality
2. Private and Public Labor
3. Creative Expressions
4. Secular and Religious Cultures
5. Families and Households
6. Nation, State, and Civil Society
7. Institutional and Associational Power
8. Varieties of Feminism
9. Methodologies and Historiographies
10. Paradigms and Epistemologies

Minor Requirements

For the minor exam, students will select two out of ten categories. The two common examiners (appointed each year by the Graduate Vice-Chair from the core Women's and Gender History faculty) will ask six questions of which the student will choose one from each category.

Major Requirements

For the major exam, students will select three categories. The student's dissertation director will ask three questions related to one of the selected categories, and the student will answer one of those questions. The common examiners will ask three questions for each of the other two categories, and the student will answer one in each category.
Each of the works below appears in only one place in the list. We have chosen this method to streamline an already long document. Many articles and books can easily appear in several categories. For example, Bonnie Smith’s book, *The Gender of History* appears in the section on Methodologies and Historiographies, but could fit equally well in the section on Creative Expressions.

In developing their lists and writing their exams, students should feel free to include the same work in more than one category. Students should consider both the content of the individual book and the place of the book in historical debates. Studying for, and ultimately writing the exam, means grappling with both history and historiography and forming ideas and analysis about the relationship between the two.

Students are expected to respond to the questions posed by the examiners by writing essays rather than annotated bibliographies. Each essay should have an overarching thesis, which is subsequently developed in the body of the essay through subordinate points or sub-themes that refer back to that central argument. The essay will marshal relevant literature from the student’s list to support and develop the thesis.

Please ask Dawn Ruskai for copies of past exams in Women’s and Gender history that are on file in the department. These exams will give students a sense of the types of questions asked.

1. **Gender and Sexuality**

Gender and Sexuality is a microcosm of the entire field, but seeks to explore these two categories in relationship to the body and morality, the organization of reproduction, power and society, and queer history, with special attention to race, class, and ethnicity. Students who choose to write on this section will choose two of the domains listed. In developing their lists for this section, students should bear in mind that, as with the list as a whole, works appear only once here, yet many books and articles are appropriate for several domains. For example, Neil Hertz’s, "Medusa's Head: Male Hysteria Under Political Pressure." *Representations* 4 (Autumn 1983) could easily appear under Sex and Gender, Methodologies and Historiographies, or Paradigms and Epistemologies.

As historians, you are responsible for contextualizing the topic you are studying, taking into account regional variations, particular national histories, social class, race, and changes over time.

**The Body and Morality**


**The Organization of Reproduction**


The Politics of Gender and Sexuality


Hurtado, Albert. *Intimate Frontiers: Sex, Gender, and Culture in Early California*, University of New Mexico Press, 1999.


**Queer History**


Burger, Glenn and Steven F. Kruger. *Queering the Middle Ages*, University of Minnesota Press, 2001.


### 2. Private and Public Labor

**Pre-1700: Private and Public Labor**


1700-1880: Private and Public Labor


Davis, Angela Y. "Reflections on the Black Woman's Role in the Community of Slaves," *Black Scholar* 3 (December 1971).


Eltis, David and Stanley Engerman. "Was the Slave Trade Dominated by Men?" *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 23 (Autumn 1993).


Graham, Sandra Lauderdale. *House and Street: The Domestic World of Servants and Masters in Nineteenth*


1880-Present: Private and Public Labor


3. **CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS**

**Women and gender in art and literature, in artistic and literary movements:**


Chopin, Kate. *The Awakening*, 1899.


Hurston, Zora Neale. *Dust Tracks on a Road*, 1942.


Woolf, Virginia. *A Room of One’s Own*, 1929.

**Performance: gendered spectacle:**


**Mass Culture:**


**General Cultural Issues from which students will craft more narrow topics:**


**1700-1880: Creative Expressions**


1880-Present: Creative Expressions


### 4. Secular and Religious Cultures

**Pre-1700: Secular and Religious Cultures**


Roper, Lyndal. *Oedipus and the Devil: Witchcraft, Sexuality, and Religion in Early Modern Europe,*


1700-1880: Secular and Religious Cultures


1880-Present: Secular and Religious Cultures


5. Families and Households

Pre-1700: Families and Households


Duby, George. The Knight, the Lady, and the Priest: The Making of Modern Marriage in Medieval France, Pantheon, 1983.


**1700-1880: Families and Households**

Bell, Rudolph M. *Fate and Honor, Family and Village: Demographic and Cultural Change in Rural Italy Since 1800*, University of Chicago Press, 1979.


1880-Present: Families and Households


6. **Nation, State, and Civil Society**
Pre-1700: Nation, State, and Civil Society


1700-1880: Nation, State, and Civil Society


Gilfoyle, Timothy. *City of Eros: New York City Prostitution, and the Commercialization of Sex 1790-1920,*


1880-Present: Nation, State, and Civil Society


Kessler-Harris, Alice, *In Pursuit of Equity: Women, Men and the Quest for Economic Citizenship* in


### 7. Institutional and Associational Power

**Pre-1700: Institutional and Associational Power**


1700-1880: Institutional and Associational Power


Yellin, Jean Fagan and John C. Van Horne, eds. *The Abolitionist Sisterhood: Women's Political Culture in

1880-Present: Institutional and Associational Power


Hanson, Paul R. "The 'Vie Chère' Riots of 1911: Traditional Protests in Modern Garb," *Journal of Social History* 21 (Spring 1988).


Female Identity in Modern Spain, State University of New York Press, 1999.


Steven, Lynn. Women and Social Movements in Latin America: Power From Below, University of Texas, 1997.


8. Varieties of Feminism

Pre-1700: Varieties of Feminism


**1700-1880: Varieties of Feminism**


**1880-Present: Varieties of Feminism**


Bennett, Judith. "Feminism and History," *Gender and History* 1 (Autumn 1989).


9. **Methodologies and Historiographies**

Methodologies and Historiographies consider the relationship between women’s and gender history and developments in other fields of history.


Hall, Catherine. *White, Male and Middle Class: Explorations in Feminism and History*, Routledge, 1992.


Hull, Gloria T., ed. *All the Women are White, All the Blacks are Men, But Some of Us Are Brave*, Old Westbury, NY: Feminist Press, 1982.


Scott, Joan, ed. *Feminism and History*, Oxford University Press, 1996.


10. **Paradigms and Epistemologies**

Paradigms and Epistemologies is concerned with the relationship between women's and gender history and developments in related fields of scholarship outside of history. Students who choose to write on this section will choose two domains from the following categories: Feminist Theory, Post-Structuralism, Post-Colonialism, Psychoanalysis, Queer Theory, and Social Theory. In developing their lists for this section, students should bear in mind that, as with the list as a whole, works appear only once, yet many books and articles are appropriate for several domains. For example, Judith Butler's book, *Gender Trouble* could easily be listed under Feminist theory, Post-structuralism, or Queer Theory. While developing your list and preparing for an examination in this section, remember that while many of the sources below are not histories per se, your task is to explore the relationship between women’s and gender history and theoretical and analytic insights from other disciplines.

**Feminist Theory:**


Nair, Janaki. "On the Question of Agency in Indian Feminist Historiography," *Gender and History*.


Reily, Denise. *Am I that Name? Feminism and the Category of 'Women' in History*, University of Minnesota Press, 1988.


Post-Structuralism:


de Grazia, Victoria and Ellen Furlough, eds. *The Sex of Things: Gender and Consumption in Historical Perspective*, University of Californian Press, 1996.


Post-Colonialism:


**Psychoanalysis:**


Herman, Judith L. *Trauma and Recovery: From Domestic Abuse to Political Terror*, Basic Books, 1992.


**Queer Theory:**


**Social Theory:**


