HIST 4391.90L:

Gender, War, and the Military: Germany and Europe (1900-1945)

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Topic and Focus

Focusing on Germany and Europe—in particular, Great Britain, France, and Austro-Hungary—during the Age of the World Wars, this seminar engages with recent scholarship in the fields of new military history, women’s history, gender history, and the history of sexuality. Studying different topics and approaches, you will explore the interrelation between changing military systems, types of warfare, and gender roles as well as political, social, and cultural currents.

Two major interlinked questions will guide the overall structure of the class:

1. How did major changes in political and military systems as well as the conduct of warfare influence the gender order in different states and societies—i.e. norms and concepts of femininity and masculinity, the economic, political and social relations of men and women as well as the everyday lives of men and women?

2. In which ways did concepts of gender, together with other categories of difference such as race and class, influences countries' military politics, military systems, and the conduct of warfare?

Required and Recommended Readings

The course will work with the following edited volume:


You are required to purchase or rent a copy of this book. In addition, we will read and discuss other journal articles and book chapters, which will be made available as PDFs on Blackboard.
Format, Assignments, and Grading

This class is a 3.000 credit hours class. Since 1.00 credit hour translates roughly into 3 “real” hours per week, you are expected to spend about 9 hours each week on this course. Keep this in mind when planning your workweeks and your entire semester.

Furthermore, this is a reading-, writing-, and research-intensive class. It is my firm belief that you, as a historian-in-training and a college-educated citizen, should learn how to read and engage with more complicated texts, e.g. scholarly literature. In addition, if you are an active participant, you will improve your skills to conduct independent research and to present your findings in written form.

The first two-thirds of the class are comprised of eleven modules. For each module, you have to read a defined set of scholarly texts (approx. 50-100 pages per week) and complete writing, discussion, and/or research assignment(s). These assignments will require you to write at least 300 words per week. The last third of the class is dedicated towards writing a research paper (minimum 2,500 words, excluding notes and bibliography), which requires you do conduct independent research and present your findings in written form. Part of this exercise is the compilation of an annotated bibliography.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 Modules</td>
<td>66%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Research Essay</td>
<td>22%</td>
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Please note that no late assignments will be accepted except in cases of dire emergencies that you can document. Students have to provide official documentation (e.g. copies of doctor’s note, police reports, obituaries etc.) in order to be granted extensions on their assignments. Remember to make back-up copies of all your drafts and papers (a crashing hard drive is not an acceptable excuse for turning in an assignment late).

Policies

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services. Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.
MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD: Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available:

Spring 2018 Module 1  February 14 – February 20
Spring 2018 Module 2  April 11 – April 17
Spring 2018 (full semester)  April 11 – May 2

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE: In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

Schedule and Readings

Module One

Introduction to New Military History and Gender History

Deadline: Sunday, September 3, 2017 (by 11:59 PM)

Required Readings:

- Sonya Rose, What is Gender History? (Malden: Polity, 2010), 1-21.

Required Tasks:

- Complete Writing and Discussion Assignments
Module Two

World War I: Mobilizing Men for War

Availability: Friday, September 1, 2017 (after 11:59 PM)
Deadline: Sunday, September 10, 2017 (by 11:59 PM)

Required Readings:


- Sonya O. Rose, “‘Fit to Fight but Not to Vote?’ Masculinity and Citizenship in Britain, 1832-1918,” in Representing Masculinity: Male Citizenship in Modern Western Culture, ed. Stefan Dudink, Karen Hagemann and Anna Clark (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007), 131-150.

Required Task:
- Complete Discussion Assignment

Module Three

World War I: Mobilizing Women for War

Availability: Friday, September 8, 2017 (after 11:59 PM)
Deadline: Sunday, September 17, 2017 (by 11:59 PM)

Required Readings:


Required Tasks:
- Complete Writing Assignment

Module Four

World War I: The Concept of Home and Front

Availability: Friday, September 15, 2017 (after 11:59 PM)
Deadline: Sunday, September 24, 2017 (by 11:59 PM)

Required Readings:


Required Tasks:
- Complete Research and Writing Assignment
Module Five

World War I: Sexuality and Social Control in Wartime

Availability: Friday, September 22, 2017 (after 11:59 PM)
Deadline: Sunday, October 1, 2017 (by 11:59 PM)

Required Readings:


Required Tasks:

• Complete Writing Assignment

Module Six

World War I: Race, Sexuality, and Gender in Times of War and Occupation

Availability: Friday, September 29, 2017 (after 11:59 PM)
Deadline: Sunday, October 8, 2017 (by 11:59 PM)

Required Readings:

• Ruth Harris, “The ‘Child of the Barbarian’: Rape, Race and Nationalism in France during the First World War,” Past & Present, No. 141 (1993), 170-206


Required Tasks:

• Complete Writing Assignment

Module Seven

The Aftermath: Damaged Bodies – Damaged Minds

Availability: Friday, October 6, 2017 (after 11:59 PM)
Deadline: Sunday, October 15, 2017 (by 11:59 PM)

Required Readings:


Required Tasks:

• Complete Discussion Assignment
Module Eight

World War II: Sex and Violence in Nazi Germany
Availability: Friday, October 13, 2017 (after 11:59 PM)
Deadline: Sunday, October 22, 2017 (by 11:59 PM)
Required Readings:


Required Tasks:

• Complete Writing Assignment

Module Nine

World War II: Concepts of Sexuality – Heteronormativity and Homosexuality
Availability: Friday, October 20, 2017 (after 11:59 PM)
Deadline: Sunday, October 29, 2017 (by 11:59 PM)
Required Readings:


Required Tasks:

• Complete Writing Assignment

Module Ten

Dangerous Encounters: The Issue of “Fraternization" at the End of World War II
Availability: Friday, October 27, 2017 (after 11:59 PM)
Deadline: Sunday, November 5, 2017 (by 11:59 PM)
Required Readings:


Required Tasks:

• Complete Writing Assignment
Module Eleven
The Aftermath: Reconstructing Men, Women, and Families
Availability: Friday, November 3, 2017 (after 11:59 PM)
Deadline: Sunday, November 12, 2017 (by 11:59 PM)
Required Readings:

Required Tasks:
  • Complete Discussion Assignment

Research Part I
Annotated Bibliography for Research Essay
Availability: Friday, October 27, 2017 (after 11:59 PM)
Deadline: Friday, November 17, 2017 (by 11:59 PM)
Feedback on bibliography will be provided by Tuesday, November 21, 2017. Students will be given the opportunity to revise and improve their bibliography upon receiving feedback.

Research Part II
Research Essay
Availability: Friday, October 27, 2017 (after 11:59 PM)
Deadline: Sunday, December 10, 2017 (by 11:59 PM)