

Course Title	: WAR, GENDER, AND SOCIETY IN 20TH-CENTURY EUROPE
Course Code	: HST4005
Recommended Study Year	: 3 or 4
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Sectional
Class Contact Hours	: 3 hours per week
Category in Major Prog.	: Elective Category 3: The West
Prerequisite(s)	: Two HST 3000-level courses
Co-requisite(s)	: None
Exemption Requirement(s)	: None

Brief Course Description

This course explores how war shaped twentieth-century European societies through the lens of gender. Warfare touched the lives of nearly all residents of Europe during this time, yet not in the same ways. We will study how gender shaped both peoples' experiences of the world wars and the policies that the wars generated, ranging from efforts to raise birthrates following World War I to the gendered punishments meted out to fascist collaborators after World War II. We will also study how gender intersected with cultural representations of warfare, and how it affected the memorialization of war in postwar societies.

Aims

This course familiarizes students with secondary literature on war and gender in twentieth-century European history. It prompts students to construct original historical arguments, to substantiate these arguments with primary sources, and to synthesize claims with relevant historiography. Finally, the course prepares students to conduct independent research.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate mastery of key themes and arguments in the historiographies of war and gender in twentieth-century Europe.
2. Synthesize historical sources in a contextualized fashion.
3. Construct original, evidence-based historical arguments.
4. Communicate effectively in written and spoken English.

Indicative Content

- I. Pre-1914 gender relations
- II. Gendered fronts and home fronts in World War I
- III. War trauma, interwar society, and the “brutalization thesis”
- IV. Interwar population engineering
- V. Women waging total war, 1939-1945
- VI. Close encounters and queer encounters
- VII. Sexual violence in World War II
- VIII. The punishment of “horizontal collaborators”
- IX. The (gendered) politics of remembrance after 1945
- X. Post-socialist conflict and sexual violence in the Balkans

Teaching Method

The course will be taught in small seminars emphasizing the close analysis of texts and regular student participation.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

- Literature reviews (LOs 1, 2, 4)
Literature review assignments will prompt students to integrate and evaluate the claims of different secondary sources.
- Research presentations (LOs 1, 3, 4)
Students will present on their research during the semester, explaining their bibliographies, methodologies, and theses.
- Research paper (LOs 1, 2, 3, 4)
Students will be expected to develop an original argument and to support it with primary and secondary sources in a research-paper assignment.
- Class participation (LOs 1, 4)
Students will be expected to participate actively and constructively in all class discussions.

Assessment

Continuous Assessment: 100%

- Literature reviews 30%
- Research presentations 15%
- Research paper 35%
- Class participation 20%

Required Readings

Readings will include selections from the following (the precise readings may vary from term to term):

Alexievich, Svetlana, *The Unwomanly Face of War: An Oral History of Women in World War II*, trans. Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky, New York, Random House, 2017 [1985].

Allen, Ann Taylor, *Women in Twentieth-century Europe*, Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

Baker, Catherine, ed., *Gender in Twentieth-Century Eastern Europe and the USSR*, Red Globe Press, 2016.

Bourke, Joanna, "Wartime Rape: The Politics of Making Visible," in *Liberal Democracies at War*, eds. Andrew Knapp and Hilary Footitt, London, Bloomsbury, 2013.

Bourke, Joanna, *Dismembering the Male: Men's Bodies, Britain, and the Great War*, Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1996.

Grossmann, Atina, *Jews, Germans, and Allies: Close Encounters in Occupied Germany*, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2007.

Hagemann, Karen, and Stefanie Schuler-Springorum, eds., *Home/Front: The Military, War, Gender in 20th Century Germany*.

Herzog, Dagmar, ed., *Brutality and Desire: War and Sexuality in Europe's Twentieth Century*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.

Houlbrook, Matt, "Soldier Heroes and Rent Boys: Homosex, Masculinities and Britishness in the Brigade of Guards: c.1900-1960," *Journal of British Studies*, 42/3 (2003), 351-388.

Kuhlman, Erika, *Of Little Comfort: War Widows, Fallen Soldiers, and the Remaking of the Nation after the Great War*, New York, New York University Press, 2012.

Mosse, George L., *Fallen Soldiers: Reshaping the Memory of the World Wars*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1990.

Roberts, Mary Louise, *Civilization without Sexes: Reconstructing Gender in Postwar France, 1917-1927*, Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1994.

Supplementary Readings

Bourke, Joanna, "Gender Roles in Killing Zones", in Jay Winter, ed., *Cambridge History of the First World War*, vol. 3, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2014, 310-61.

Bridenthal, Bridenthal, Atina Grossman and Marion Kaplan, eds., *When Biology Became Destiny: Women in Weimar and Nazi Germany*, 1984.

De Grazia, Victoria, *How Fascism Ruled Women: Italy, 1922-1945*, Berkeley, University of California Press, 1993.

Fishman, Sarah, *We Will Wait: Wives of French Prisoners of War, 1940-1945*, New Haven, Yale University Press, 1991.

Gerber, David A., ed., *Disabled Veterans in History*, Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Press, 2000.

Grossmann, Atina, *Reforming Sex: The German Movement for Birth Control and Abortion Reform, 1920-1950*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1995.

Herzog, Dagmar, *Sexuality in Europe: A Twentieth-century History*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Paxton, Robert O., and Julie Hessler, *Europe in the Twentieth Century*, 5th edn, Cengage Learning, 2011.

Pedersen, Susan, *Family, Dependence, and the Origins of the Welfare State: Britain and France, 1914-1945*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1993.

Remarque, Eric Maria, *The Road Back*, trans. Arthur Wesley Wheen, New York, Random House, 1998 [1931].

Surkis, Judith, *Sexing the Citizen: Masculinity and Morality in France, 1870-1920*, Ithaca, NY, Cornell University Press, 2006.

Sweets, John, *Choices in Vichy France: The French under Nazi Occupation*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1986.

Wingfield, Nancy M., and Maria Bucur-Deckard, eds., *Gender and War in Twentieth-Century Eastern Europe*, Bloomington, Indiana University Press, 2006.

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.