

## History 195C: Historical Perspectives on Gender and Science

Winter 2004

MW 2:00 - 3:15

Haines A44

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This course will explore the roles that assumptions about gender have played in scientific and medical knowledge since the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Using cases taken from different times and places, we will look at how changing concepts of masculine and feminine affected the practice of science (and medicine). Other general themes will be how science may have been gendered as masculine over the years; how women did or did not do science; and how science has contributed to the meaning of femininity and masculinity through the study of sex difference.

Weekly reading assignments (usually several articles or book chapters, and sometimes a short book) will complement the material covered in class. Reading will be discussed in the Wednesday class each week. A brief (no more than one page double-spaced) response to the reading will also be required each week. These will count as part of your participation grade. Exams will cover lecture and reading material; the final exam will be cumulative.

### **Course Grading:**

Reading & Participation = 20%

Take-Home Midterm = 40%

Take-Home Final exam = 60%

### **\*\*\*\*\* TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM \*\*\*\*\***

It is possible to substitute a term paper for the final exam, at the discretion of the professor. You must have a B+ or better on the midterm to pursue this option, **and you must propose a topic, with a preliminary bibliography, for professor=s approval by Week 7.** If you do not follow these instructions, you must take the final. No exceptions.

Books available in ASUCLA bookstore:

Marianne van den Wijngaard, Reinventing the Sexes

Bonnie Spanier, Im/Partial Science

Villiers de l=Isle Adam, Tomorrow=s Eve

Brenda Maddox, Rosalind Franklin: The Dark Lady of DNA

Other readings will be available online via the course website from any UCLA computer or dialup connection. These are indicated in the calendar of assignments below (though links are not active before the beginning of Winter quarter.

### **Schedule of Lectures and Weekly Assignments:**

Week 1: Introduction and The Science of Sex Differences

Reading: Nelly Oudshoorn, selection from [Beyond the Natural Body: An Archaeology of Sex Hormones](#), .pdf file  
and van den Wijngaard, [Reinventing the Sexes](#), chaps. 1 & 2

Week 2: Science of Sex Difference, continued

Reading: van den Wijngaard, [Reinventing the Sexes](#), chaps. 3, 4,5

Week 3: Early Modern Feminism and Science

Margaret Cavendish, from [The Blazing World](#) (1666)  
Sarasohn, [A Science Turned Upside Down](#)@ (article about Margaret Cavendish)  
Poullain de la Barre, from [On the Equality of the Two Sexes](#) (1673)

Week 4 : Women Doing Science in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century

Terrall, AEmilie du Châtelet and the Gendering of Science" [[Part 1](#)] [[Part 2](#)]  
Findlen, [A Science as a Career in Enlightenment Italy](#)@

Week 5: From Midwifery to Obstetrics (18<sup>th</sup> Century)

Adrian Wilson, selections from [The Making of Man-Midwifery](#) [[Part 1](#)] [[Part 2](#)]  
[[Part 3](#)]  
<http://www.dohistory.org/archive/doc030/> (AMan-Midwifery Dissected@)  
<http://www.dohistory.org/archive/indexTopic.html#midwifery> (index of docs)

[TAKE-HOME MIDTERM EXAM](#), due Friday, Feb. 14, 6265 Bunche Hall (History Dept office)

Week 6: Medical Science and Childbirth

B. Jordan, [Birth in Four Cultures](#), Chap. 6  
another reading on pain relief in childbirth  
[Brought to Bed](#), Chapter 5

Week 7: Romantic Masculinity and the Investigation of Nature

Golinski, [AHumphry Davy=s Sexual Chemistry](#),@ online at:  
Jordanova, [AMelancholy Reflection...](#)@

Week 8: Gender and Technology in 19<sup>th</sup> Century

Villiers de L=Isle Adam, [Tomorrow=s Eve](#)

Week 9: 20thc Biology: Discovering the Structure of DNA

Maddox, *The Dark Lady of DNA*

Week 10: Gender and Molecular Biology

Spanier, *Im/Partial Science*