

Katalin Nun Stewart
BISLA
Tatarka Room

Spring Semester 2022
Tuesdays and Thursdays
10:40-12:10

Syllabus

Discovering Oneself: A History of Women in the 19th Century

The 19th century was the key period in history when women in larger numbers became dissatisfied with the limited possibilities for education and self-development. This dissatisfaction led to conflict and social-political change. Although the French Revolution ostensibly declared equality and human rights, in reality these things were only reserved for men. Women remained consigned to the narrow and closed private sphere of the family, and their subordination to men was codified by the law and countless customs in mainstream bourgeois society. However, gradually the number of social spheres where women gained the opportunity to become active increased: Women from wealthy families could afford to devote themselves, for example, to writing and publishing literary works, even if for a long time, they could only publish these under a male pseudonym or anonymously. Many of these literary personalities had salons that influenced politics and society significantly, though indirectly. The Industrial Revolution allowed many women from the less privileged classes to take up employment. They usually had to work long hours often under horrible conditions, but the women who became organized in the labor movement were also crucial in the suffrage movement.

Our focus in this class will be on how women step-by-step became conscious of their situation in society, and in what ways they demanded opportunities for development for themselves and others in the Western World. We will examine the historical and social context of these radical changes, including the point of view of men, the lived experience of women, the traditional and the new roles that women could have, and the domains available to women for self-realization.

The class will be divided into three main units, each with its own focus. In the first unit, the focus will be on questions regarding education, society, politics, and family. The second unit is concerned with philosophy, feminism, and emancipation. In the last unit we will examine the perception of women in literature and the literary production of women. Throughout the course the goal will be to create a critical debate: on the one hand, a debate between the different authors that we will be reading and, on the other, a debate in the class itself. We will also try to attain a rich and diverse overview of the status of women in several different countries: France, England, USA, Norway, Denmark, and Russia.

This class is of course not just for female students. On the contrary, male students with their opinions and perspectives are more than welcome!

The class will help to develop important skills such as reading primary source texts, formulating and defending one's opinion both in writing and orally, and critical thinking and reasoning. In addition, our goal is to learn the relevant factual information about the history of women in the 19th century, especially as it is related to the texts that we will be reading. The course is interdisciplinary, and the readings come from the fields of social-political thought, education, religion, philosophy, and literature. This course can be seen as complementing and supplementing the following BISLA courses: Western Civilization II: The Modern World and The History of Political Thought: Modernity.

Instructor: Katalin Nun Stewart

Journalism Degree (2005)
Ph.D. (German Literature, 2000)
Teaching Credential (1993)

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**Office Hours**

By appointment.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

The course assessment will consist of the following:

- 30% One in-class written Midterm exam
- 35% One in-class written Final exam
- 20% 2 Quizzes
- 10% 4 short in-class writing exercises
- 5% Class participation

All of these assignments must be completed in order to pass the class.

Participation

The course consists primarily of readings and in-class discussion. The readings build on one another, and so it is imperative to keep up with them. The class discussion will be dedicated to coming to a better understanding of the texts and to practicing for the exams. For this reason, attendance is mandatory. In accordance with BISLA policy, only four unexcused absences per term will be accepted.

Computer and Cell Phone Policy

You may use your computers and tablets in class to take notes or to read the texts, but during the class period it is not permitted to use Wi-Fi or to access the internet. Please turn off your cell phones during class. No surfing or texting during class is permitted.

Texts

Prologue: A Journey

1. Bird, Isabella Lucy [1879], *A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains*, Introduction by Iris Bass, New York: Barnes & Noble World Digital Library 2002, pp. 1-23. (England/Scotland)

Part I: Education, Society, Politics, and Family

A. Education

2. Rousseau, Jean-Jacques [1762], *Emile or On Education*, trans. by Allan Bloom, New York: Basic Books, pp. 357-368. (France and Geneva)
3. Wollstonecraft, Mary [1792], *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, Oxford: Oxford University Press 1999, pp. 76-83, pp. 150-160, pp. 165-166. (England)
4. Wright, Frances [1829], "On Free Enquiry," in *Course of Popular Lectures*, New York: The Office of the Free Enquirer 1829, pp. 41-62. (Scotland/USA)

B. Society and Politics

5. Martineau, Harriet [1837], *Society in America*, vols. 1-2, New York: Saunders and Otley 1837, vol. 2, pp. 226-231, pp. 236-244, pp. 255-259. (England)
6. Bebel, August [1879], *Woman and Socialism*, New York: Socialist Literature Co. 1910, pp. 3-7, pp. 174-178, pp. 222-233.

C. Family

7. Fourier, Charles [1808], *The Theory of the Four Movements*, ed. by Gareth Stedman Jones, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2008, pp. 109-124, pp. 124-143. (France)
8. Engels, Friedrich [1884], *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State. In the Light of the Researches by Lewis H. Morgan*, in *Marx-Engels Collected Works*, vols. 1-50, Moscow: Progress Publishers 1975-2004, vol. 26, *Engels 1882-1889*, pp. 131-133, pp. 142-153, pp. 156-159; pp. 162-167, pp. 170-182. (Germany)

Part II: Philosophy, Feminism, and Emancipation

A. Philosophy and Feminism

- 9.1. Heiberg, Johan Ludvig [1833], *On the Significance of Philosophy for the Present Age*, in *Heiberg's On the Significance of Philosophy for the Present Age and Other Texts*, trans. and ed. by Jon Stewart, Copenhagen: C.A. Reitzel 2005 (*Texts from Golden Age Denmark*, vol. 1), pp. 118-119. (Denmark)
- 9.2. Kierkegaard, Søren [1834], "Another Defense of Woman's Great Abilities," in *Early Polemical Writings*, trans. by Julia Watkin, Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press 1990, pp. 3-5. (Denmark)
- 9.3. Kierkegaard, Søren [1845], *Stages on Life's Way*, trans. by Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong, Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press 1988, pp. 56-71. (Denmark)
10. Schopenhauer, Arthur [1851], "On Women," in his *Parerga and Paralipomena: Short Philosophical Essays*, vols. 1-2, trans. by E.F.J. Payne, Oxford: Clarendon Press 1974, vol. 2, Chapter XXVII, pp. 614-626. (Germany)
11. Kropotkin, Peter [1899], *Memoirs of a Revolutionist*, vols. 1-2, London: Amith, Elder & Co. 1899, vol. 2, pp. 83-91. (Russia)

B. Philosophy and Emancipation

12. Mill, Harriet Taylor, "Enfranchisement of Women" [1851], Reprinted from the *Westminster Review* for July, 1851, London: Trübner and Co. 1868, pp. 3-22. (England)
13. Mill, John Stuart, "The Subjection of Women" [1869], in *Collected Works of John Stuart Mill*, vols. 1-33, ed. by John M. Robson, Toronto and Buffalo: University of Toronto Press and London: Routledge & Kegan Paul 1963-1991, vol. 21, *Essays on Equality, Law, and Education* (1984, pp. 259-340), pp. 261-269, pp. 283-289, pp. 292-298; pp. 323-340. (England)

14. Martensen, Hans Lassen [1878], "The Emancipation of Woman" and "Parents and Children," in his *Christian Ethics. Special Part. Second Division: Social Ethics*, trans by Sophia Taylor, Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark 1899, pp. 46-57 and pp. 61-68. (Denmark)
15. Stanton, Elizabeth Cady, "Letter to the Hartford Equal Rights Club" [1889] and "The Solitude of Self" [1892], in *The Selected Papers of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony*, ed. by Ann D. Gordon, New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press 2009, pp. 175-176, pp. 423-434.

Part III: The Perception of Women in Literature and the Literary Production of Women

16. *The Memoirs of Harriette Wilson Written by Herself* [1825], vols. 1-2, London: Eveleigh Nash Fawside House 1909, vol. 1, Chapters 1-2, pp. 5-31. (England)
17. Davis, Rebecca Harding [1868], "In the Market," in *Rebecca Harding Davis's Stories of the Civil War Era*, ed. by Sharon M. Harris and Robin L. Cadwallader, Athens and London: The University of Georgia Press 2010, pp. 285-304. (USA)
18. Ibsen, Henrik [1879], *A Doll House*, in *The Complete Major Prose Plays*, trans. by Rolf Fjelde, New York: Penguin Books 1978, pp. 123-153, pp. 154-175, pp. 175-196. (Norway)
19. Dohm, Hedwig [1894], *Become Who You Are*, trans. by Elizabeth G. Ametsbichler, Albany: State University of New York Press 2006, pp. 1-34, pp. 34-66. (Germany)

Epilogue: Towards the 20th Century

20. Goldman, Emma [1906], "The Tragedy of Woman's Emancipation," in *Mother Earth*, vol. 1, no. 1, 1906, pp. 9-18. (Lithuania/USA)

Further Reading

- Bauer, Dale M. and Gould, Philip (eds.), *The Cambridge Companion to Nineteenth-Century American Women's Writing*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2001.
- Catling, Jo (ed.), *A History of Women's Writing in Germany, Austria and Switzerland*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2000, pp. 47-128.
- Duby, Georges and Perrot, Michell (eds.), *A History of Women in the West*, vols. 1-5, Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press 1994-1996, vol. 4: *Emerging Feminism from Revolution to World War* (1995).
- Eagleton, Margaret (ed.), *A Concise Companion to Feminist Theory*, Oxford: Blackwell 2003.
- Evans, Richard J., *The Feminists: Women's Emancipation Movements in Europe, America and Australasia 1840-1920*, London and New York: Routledge 2013 [1977].
- Nun, Katalin, *Women of the Danish Golden Age: Literature, Theater, and the Emancipation of Women*, Copenhagen: Museum Tusulanum Press 2013 (*Danish Golden Age Studies*, vol. 8).
- Peterson, Linda H. (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Victorian Women's Writing*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2015.
- Walters, Margaret, *Feminism: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford: Oxford University Press 2005.

Course Schedule		
Date	Topic	Reading
Week 1 Jan 11	Prologue: A Journey Bird, <i>A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains</i> , Chapters 1-2 (1879)	pp. 1-23
Jan 13	Part I: Education, Society, Politics, and Family A. Education Rousseau, <i>Emile or On Education</i> (1762)	pp. 357-368
Week 2 Jan 18	Wollstonecraft, <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i> (1792)	pp. 76-83 pp. 150-160 pp. 165-166
Jan 20	(1 st short in-class writing exercise) Wright, "On Free Enquiry" (1829)	pp. 41-62
Week 3 Jan 25	B. Society and Politics Martineau, <i>Society in America</i> , vol. 2 (1837)	pp. 226-231 pp. 236-244 pp. 255-259
Jan 27	Bebel, <i>Woman and Socialism</i> (1879)	pp. 3-7 pp. 174-178 pp. 222-233
Week 4 Febr 1	C. Family Fourier, <i>The Theory of the Four Movements</i> (1808)	pp. 109-124
Febr 3	(1 st Quiz) Fourier, <i>The Theory of the Four Movements</i> (1808)	pp. 124-143
Week 5 Febr 8	Engels, <i>The Origin of the Family</i> , Preface, Chapter 2 (1884)	pp. 131-133 pp. 142-153 pp. 156-159
Febr 10	(2 nd short in-class writing exercise) Engels, <i>The Origin of the Family</i> , Chapter 2 (1884)	pp. 162-167 pp. 170-182
Week 6 Febr 15	Part II: Philosophy, Feminism, and Emancipation A. Philosophy and Feminism J.L. Heiberg, <i>On the Significance of Philosophy for the Present Age</i> (1833) Kierkegaard, "Another Defense of Woman's Great Abilities" (1834) Kierkegaard, <i>Stages on Life's Way</i> (1845)	pp. 118-119 pp. 3-5 pp. 56-71
Febr 17	Schopenhauer, "On Women," from his <i>Parerga and Paralipomena</i> , vol. 2, Chapter XXVII (1851)	pp. 614-626
Week 7 Febr 22	Kropotkin, <i>Memoirs of a Revolutionist</i> , vol. 2 (1899)	pp. 83-91
Febr 24	Midterm Exam	
Week 8 March 1	No Class: Reading Week	
March 3	No Class: Reading Week	

Week 9 March 8	A. Philosophy and Emancipation Harriet Taylor Mill, "Enfranchisement of Women" (1851)	pp. 3-22
March 10	John Stuart Mill, <i>The Subjection of Women</i> (1869)	pp. 261-269 pp. 283-289 pp. 292-298
Week 10 March 15	(3 rd short in-class writing exercise) John Stuart Mill, <i>The Subjection of Women</i> (1869)	pp. 323-340
March 17	Martensen, "The Emancipation of Woman" "Parents and Children" (1878)	pp. 46-57 pp. 61-68
Week 11 March 22	Stanton, "Letter to the Hartford Equal Rights Club" (1889) "The Solitude of Self" (1892)	pp. 175-176 pp. 423-434
March 24	Part III: The Perception of Women in Literature and the Literary Production of Women <i>The Memoirs of Harriette Wilson Written by Herself</i> , vol. 1, Chapters 1-2 (1825)	pp. 5-31
Week 12 March 29	Davis, "In the Market" (1868)	pp. 285-304
March 31	(2 nd Quiz) Ibsen, <i>A Doll House</i> (1879), Act 1	pp. 123-153
Week 13 April 5	Ibsen, <i>A Doll House</i> , Act 2	pp. 154-175
April 7	Ibsen, <i>A Doll House</i> , Act 3	pp. 175-196
Week 14 April 12	(4 th short in-class writing exercise) Dohm, <i>Become Who You Are</i> (1894)	pp. 1-34
April 14	Dohm, <i>Become Who You Are</i> (1894)	pp. 35-66
Week 15 April 19	Epilogue: Towards the 20th Century Goldman, "The Tragedy of Woman's Emancipation" (1906)	pp. 9-18
April 21	Final Exam	