Gender Issues in Science, Technology, and Medicine

The study of gender issues is one of the newest areas of research in the history of science, technology, and medicine, and while the historiography is not as well-developed as in more traditional topic areas, these new studies provide insights into a wide range of issues, raising new questions and pioneering new methods and models of research. Our approach will be an introductory one that samples selected topics to allow students to see the possibilities that exist for acquainting themselves more broadly with the histories of science, technology, and medicine more generally, and also focus in greater depth through gender analysis in their own chosen areas of research. Previous background in history and in women's and gender studies is helpful but not required.

While overview presentations will provide additional background, the class will primarily be centered on discussion, so coming prepared by doing the assigned reading is essential. In acknowledgment of the importance of this preparation, it will count for 10% of the course grade. In addition to the reading and discussion, the assignments are as follows:

1) three short essay assignments (approx. 5 pages) due on weeks 5, 9, and 12 from the perspective of science, medicine, and technology, using three of the assigned books as focal points. Each assignment is worth 10%.

2) a collective online knowledge-sharing project (30%). Due Week 15.

3) and either an individual final paper of 10-12 pages based on Feminism in Twentieth Century Science, Technology, and Medicine, our supplementary text, or an individual paper based on a specific topic of your own choosing, or an online final project accompanied by a 5 page written analysis. Individual paper or online options are encouraged, but must be discussed and approved in advance by the instructor. This final assignment is due Friday of Finals Week, May 10th. It will count for 30% of the course grade.
Books (in order of use)
Renee Bergland, *Maria Mitchell and the Sexing of Science: An Astronomer among the American Romantics* (Beacon Pr, 2008)
Rosalind Rosenberg, *Beyond Separate Spheres: The Intellectual Roots of Modern Feminism* (Yale U Pr, 1983)
Londa Schiebinger, *Has Feminism Changed Science?* (Harvard U Pr, 2001)
Nina Lerman, Ruth Oldenziel, and Arwen Mohan, eds. *Gender and Technology: A Reader* (Johns Hopkins U Pr, 2003)
Elizabeth Blum. *Love Canal Revisited: Race, Class, and Gender in Environmental Activism* (U Pr of Kansas, 2008)


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**Weekly Schedule of Readings and Due Dates**

**week 1: 1/15**

* introduction, course orientation

*pre-reading for week 1:*


Kessler-Harris, Alice. “Do We Still Need Women's History?” *Chron. of Higher Education*  
(12/7/2007), vol. 54(15)  

"Sugata Mitra's New Experiments in Self-Teaching" (TED Talk 2010)  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dk60sYrU2RU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dk60sYrU2RU)
this week's reading for next class (week 3)
Excerpts from The Enlightenment Reader [handout]
Student Play from The Enlightenment Reader [handout]
Read either Dzielska, Hypatia or Todd, Chrysalis

week 2: 1/22
• online project options exploration (individually-scheduled web study instead of group class meeting)

this week's reading for week 4
Bergland, Maria Mitchell and the Sexing of Science (first half)

week 3: 1/29
• The Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment Eras and the Place of Women in Science
• Discussion of Piecing Together Women’s History of Science from Historical Fragments, via Dzielska and Todd’s books
• Discussion of online options for collaborative and project work

this week's reading for next week's class
Bergland, Maria Mitchell and the Sexing of Science (finish)

week 4: 2/5
• Discussion of Women’s Science Education and Professional Options in the 19th century, with focus on Mitchell
• Academic scientific research and views of sex differences in the 20th century: Introduction

this week's reading for next week's class
Rosenberg, Beyond Separate Spheres
Schiebinger, Has Feminism Changed Science? [part 1]

week 5: 2/12
• Maria Mitchell bio assignment due 2/15 in the dl dropbox
• Discussion of Beyond Separate Spheres: Social science research, women social scientists, and the debate over sex differences in the 20th century

this week's reading for next week's class
Schiebinger, Has Feminism Changed Science? [parts 2-3]

week 6: 2/19
• Discussion of articles in Has Feminism Changed Science?
• Video: The Great Sperm Race

this week's reading for week 8
Read either Leavitt Make Room for Daddy or Grant, Raising Baby by the Book
week 7: 2/26
• No Class: Alan Liu Colloquium on ""Here Comes Everybody: What Happens to Scholarly Expertise when Everyone Can Participate in the Intellectual Commons of the Internet?" [more information to come / this is optional]

this week's reading for next week's class
Switch and read either Leavitt, Make Room for Daddy or Grant, Raising Baby by the Book Test Tube Babies: Special Features
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/babies/sfeature/index.html

week 8: 3/5
• Discussion of medical/health authorities and parental role expectations for men and women
• Reproductive technology and cultural repercussions: Video: Test-tube Babies (PBS)

this week's reading for next week's class
Start Wosk, Women and the Machine
Lerman, Gender & Technology (chapters 1-2)

week 9: 3/12
• Discussion of Women and the Machine
• Assignment on Cultural History of Medicine and Reproduction/Parenting due 3/15 in the d2l dropbox
• Discussion of Why "masculine" and "feminine" technologies matter

this week's reading for next week's class
Finish Wosk, Women and the Machine
Lerman, Gender and Technology (chapters 5-7)

week 10: 3/19 – no class spring break

week 11: 3/26
• Discussion of assigned chapters from Gender and Technology

this week's reading for next week's class
Lerman, Gender and Technology (chapter 11 and your choice of 8, 9, or 10; part 8 optional)
Kafai, Beyond Barbie and Mortal Kombat / e-reserve

week 12: 4/2
• Discussion of the Gendering of Computers
• Gaming Culture (especially re kids and young people)
• Assignment on Women and the Machine due 4/5 in the d2l dropbox

this week's reading for next week's class
Blum, Love Canal Revisited

week 13: 4/9
• Discussion of Love Canal Revisited
• Discussion of the cultural theme of women as closer to nature: Video: "Miss Goodall and the Wild Chimpanzees" or CBS Reports, "The Silent Spring of Rachel Carson"
this week’s reading

week 14: 4/16
• Final Questions, Hypotheses, Conclusions

week 15: 4/23
• Collective Project Presentation / Discussion of Individual Final Projects in Progress

week 16: 4/30
• Final Project Consultations (Final Paper/Project due May 10th)