

**Brescia University College  
Department of History  
Winter 2016**

**History 2159B (530)  
Midwives, Madonnas, Witches and Whores:  
Women in early modern Europe, 1500-1700.**

**Instructor:** Dr. Sara Morrison  
**Class Times:** Monday: 12:30-2:30 (UH 30)  
**Office:** Portable 5  
**Office Hours:** Monday: 2:30-3:30  
**Voice Mail:** 519 432 8353 ext. 28271  
**Office Hours:** Email: [smori5@uwo.ca](mailto:smori5@uwo.ca) Best contact method is email

This course will provide critical perspectives on the lives of European women 1500 to 1700. Students analyze early modern perceptions, life cycle, individuals, and various roles of women: wife, mother, nun, martyr, midwife, citizen, soldier, worker, property owner, and artist, plus female rulers and regents. The age of the witch hunting craze and the reformation is often considered a time of setbacks for women as they lost economic and political power, along with the prestige they had enjoyed during the Middle Ages. The age also produced a number of female rulers: Mary Queen of Scots, Mary Tudor, Elizabeth I in England, Queen Isabella in Castile and Christina of Sweden. Several Queen Mothers stood in as regents for their underage sons in France during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries: Catherine de Medici, Marie de Medici and Anne of Austria. Although Europe did not yet exist in 1500, the world of “Christendom” extended over present day western and central Europe.

The course explores some of the questions engaging early modern historians studying women in Europe: Did women have a renaissance? Were women inferior or more sinful than men? What was the everyday life for women in different occupations and social groups? How did life cycle influence status? Was life influenced by the reformation and the dissolution of monastic houses in Protestant countries like England? What role did Angela Merici play in the Catholic reformation in sixteenth century Italy? What impact, if any, did a significant cluster of women rulers and regents have in early modern Europe? These are just some of the questions to be addressed in a thematic analysis of the recent historical literature concerned with early modern women, which explores contemporary perceptions and the reality of their everyday lives.

**Prerequisite(s): Ant requisite(s):** None  
2 lecture hours, 0.5 course.

**Course Materials**

Merry Wiesner Hanks, *Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe* 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.  
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008. (ISBN-10: **0521695449** | ISBN-13: **978-0521695442**) **website:** [www.cambridge.org/womenandgender](http://www.cambridge.org/womenandgender)  
N.Z Davis, *The Return of Martin Guerre*. Cambridge: CUP, 1983.

### **Evaluation**

Weekly attendance & class participation	10	Ongoing
Short Responses (2 x 5%)	10	24 January & 27 March 2016
Mid Term Exam (in class) 8 February 2016	30	
Book Assignment (in class)	10	14 March 2016
Final Exam (2 hours)	40	Exam Period

Extra assignments will not be given out or accepted to compensate for poor exam or assignment results.

### **OWL powered by Sakai**

The course website is at owl.uwo.ca. Log onto the site using your UWO user name and password. Here you'll find the course syllabus, handouts, digitized versions of readings and documents, lecture slides, links to reliable internet sources. I will use OWL to make class announcements, so please check in at least once per week.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

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

1. Think historically about women, understanding contemporary perceptions and the reality of their everyday lives in early modern Europe.
2. Learn basic content, themes and important events 1500-1700 (the renaissance, reformation, scientific revolution and the enlightenment) and the role women played in these events in the social, economic, religious, cultural, political and military history of Europe.
3. Critically read, summarize and analyze secondary sources
4. Understand that historians have biases or perspectives — a product of their life experiences and the times in which they wrote
5. Understand how things change over time and recognize that the past may be interpreted from different perspectives
6. Develop a critical reading of primary sources and explain their significance
7. Communicate effectively using oral expression, in small and large groups
8. Demonstrate skills of reading comprehension, conceptualization, synthesis, and clear writing in a scholarly essay based on secondary sources.
9. Understand plagiarism and its forms

### **Class Format**

Through lectures, readings, films and discussions, students will consider the role of women in early modern Europe.

Companion Website, Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe, [www.cambridge.org/womenandgender](http://www.cambridge.org/womenandgender). Click on "Resources" tab for access to primary sources readings.

**Participation (10%)**

Students are expected to: attend all classes, do the assigned readings, and participate actively in all discussions related to the course material; an engaged student by asking questions; learn from and support your peers. Attendance (5%) and Breadth of input to discussions (5%). It is hard to do well in this course if you do not attend class. If you fail to attend more than 25% of classes you will not be permitted to write the final exam.

**Mid-Term 8 February 2016 (30%) and Final (40%) Exam Period**

Each test will deal with the course material (lectures, assigned readings, discussions) covered up to the time of writing. These are a combination of brief historical identifications, short answers and an essay. Answers are evaluated on the basis of concrete evidence of sound understanding of the course material, the ability to analyse and examine the themes covered and the clarity and precision of expression.

**Short Responses (2 x 5% = 10%) 24 January & 27 March**

Readings posted on course website

**Assignment (10%) 14 March 2016 (in class)**

TBA

Students submit all their assignments to the instructor in hard copy, and electronically to the course website, where they will be checked for plagiarism using Turnitin.com. A failure to submit your written work to turnitin.com will result in a 0 grade, even if you submit a paper copy.

**Classroom Etiquette**

As a courtesy to your fellow students and to your instructor, please arrive on time for class as late arrivals disrupt other students and the flow of lectures and discussions. Do not leave class before it ends and be sure to notify me before class if this cannot be avoided. In addition, please refrain from reading newspapers, texting, or having conversations during lectures. Finally, while students are encouraged to debate and discuss the course issues and themes in class, any discussions must be conducted within the grounds of appropriate classroom behaviour. Inappropriate disruptions, disregard for speakers, and/or personal attacks will not be tolerated. In short, please respect the views of your fellow students.

**Technology Use in Class**

In order to keep electronic distractions to a minimum please turn off all cell phones, mp3 players and other electronic devices before entering the classroom. If your phone rings, I reserve the right to answer it. It is also forbidden to tape or electronically record lectures and/or discussions. Students must have a good reason to use recording devices and must request permission from me privately. The use of notebook computers and tablets is acceptable provided it does not disturb the class. Inappropriate use of notebooks during lectures and tutorials not only distract you, they also distract those around you and their use may be limited or banned if students are found to be using notebooks and tablets for purposes not class related. For safety reasons, students are also strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords. No electronic devices are permitted during tests and examinations.

## LECTURE SCHEDULE & Suggested Readings

Please Note: The course texts, grade scheme and general course direction will remain, but the pace and structure of the lectures and readings may be altered.

- 4 Jan                    **Introduction: Women, Gender and Early Modern Europe: Structures**  
(Wiesner Hanks (WH) 1-16)
- 11 Jan                   **Ideas about Women**  
(WH Ch. 1)
- 18 Jan                   **The Body: The Female Life Cycle**  
(WH Ch. 2)
- 24 Jan – Short Response Assignment due owl sakai (5%)**
- 25 Jan                   **The Midwife**  
Class Discussion: The Midwife’s Tale
- 1 Feb                    **Working Women: Rural & Urban**  
(WH Ch 3)
- 8 Feb                    **MID TERM EXAM (30%)**
- 15 Feb                   **READING WEEK**
- 22 Feb                   **Students & Scholars**  
(WH Ch 4)
- 29 Feb                   **Exceptional Women: Artists, Scientists and Writers**  
(WH Ch 5)
- 7 March                 **Women & Popular Religion**  
Catholicism (medieval & reformed); Protestantism (mainstream to radical)  
(WH Ch 6: 201-243)
- 14 March – In class Book Assignment (10%)**
- 14 March                **The Return of Martin Guerre**  
In Class Assignment and Discussion (10%)
- 21 March                **“The Other”: Heretics, Jews, Muslims & Witches**  
Jewish & Muslim Women’s Life, (WH Ch 6: 243-251)  
Witchcraft (WH Ch 7)
- 27 March- Short Response Assignment due owl sakai (5%)**

28 March

**Women, Warfare and Empire**

Class Discussion: Missionaries and Mercenaries

4 April

**Women with Power and Privilege**

Queens, Aristocrats and Abbesses (WH Ch 8)

Summary and Review

**FINAL EXAM (40%) April Exam Period**

## Help & Resources

If you are feeling lost or have any questions or concerns....

### 1. Come and see me

You are welcome to speak to me before or after class, to email me, stop by during my office hours or make an appointment to meet at another time. Most questions and concerns can be easily resolved this way.

### 2. Get to know the Library staff

The library staff is eager to answer any questions and to familiarize you with the library's holdings and resources.

### 3. Visit an Academic Advisor

An academic advisor can help you make sense of University policies and help you to achieve your academic goals. Please note that you need to visit an advisor in your home institution or faculty (Brescia students at Brescia, main campus students at main campus etc).

[http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/academic\\_advising/index.html](http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/academic_advising/index.html)

### 4. Support Services

For OWL and other computer related issues students are encouraged to contact the Information Technology Services Support Centre (519-661-3800 or ext. 83800).

<http://www.uwo.ca/its/helpdesk/>

Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western:

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

## The Fine Print

### Regarding Academic Misconduct:

The College (and I) have a zero tolerance policy for cheating and academic misconduct. Please read carefully the Policy on Cheating & Academic Misconduct attached to the syllabus.

Scholastic offenses are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offense, at

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

**Medical and non-Medical Academic Accommodation:** If you have extenuating or medical circumstances that will prevent you from writing a test or exam or meeting an assignment deadline you should advise the instructor immediately. A make-up exam may be written or an extension granted but only after an adequate justification is provided. If documentation is required for either medical or nonmedical academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the Dean's Office of the student's home institution or faculty (Brescia students at Brescia, main campus students at main campus etc) and **not to the instructor**. Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic accommodation shall be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor. For further information please see the The Policy Regarding Makeup Exams and Extensions of Deadlines attached to the syllabus.

**A Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** is required where a student is seeking medical academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial

consultation with the physician or walk-in clinic. Note that most walk-in clinics in London will have SMCs available, but for family physician visits, you should bring an SMC with you. For work representing less than 10% of the overall grade, if a student is unable to meet a deadline etc. for reasons beyond their control, they should discuss the matter with the instructor in advance and give adequate justification.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Tests/Examinations

Students are responsible for seeking accommodation with appropriate documentation, **prior** to writing tests/examinations, if they are of the view that their performance may be affected by extenuating circumstances. **NOTE:** Contact **Brescia's Senior Academic Advisors**.

### Policy Regarding Essay Submission, Late Essays, and Written Work Not Submitted

1. A penalty of five (5) marks will be assessed for essays submitted the first day after the deadline.
2. A penalty of one (1) mark will be assessed for each subsequent day, including weekends.
3. No essays will be accepted after the 7th day beyond the deadline, including weekends.
4. Exceptions to the above provisions will be granted only on the basis of
  - (a) humanitarian grounds (**Note:** In fairness to all students, documented evidence will be required when a death or serious illness in the family has occurred);
  - (b) medical grounds for which written proof must be provided (**Note:** This may be submitted to the Dean's Office). **NOTE:** Contact **Brescia's Senior Academic Advisors**.
5. Computer breakdowns will not be considered under provision 4 (a).
6. A student who fails to submit all the required written assignments, which together make up the "Essay" component of the course, will not receive credit for the course.
7. Brescia is committed to Academic Integrity. All required papers are subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software at Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

## Support Services

**To book an appointment with an Academic Advisor, call 519-432-8353 ext. 28266.**

*1 June 2016*

## BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

### 1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> . If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician/nurse practitioner, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2015/pg117.html>

### 2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, [www.registrar.uwo.ca](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca), for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

### 3. ABSENCES

**Short Absences:** If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

**Extended Absences:** If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

#### **4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

##### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

##### **Computer-marked Tests/exams:**

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

#### **5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS**

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

## 6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

## 7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. The Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.html>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.