

# **COURSE OUTLINE**

**WMST-228**

**Women in European History:**

**1750 to the Present**

**3 Semester Hours**

**Humanities Core Course**

## **HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

### **Description**

This course analyzes women's changing economic, family, and political roles from the eighteenth to the twentieth century. Topics include the effects of industrialization on women's work and status, the demographic revolution, and women's political activities in market riots, revolutions, and campaigns for women's rights.

Prerequisite: ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly) NOTE: Also listed as HIST-228.

### **Statement on General Education and Liberal Learning**

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition. This course is part of the general education core experience at Howard Community College.

### **Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Analyze the experiences of European women under the category of race.
2. Analyze the experiences of European women under the category of social class.
3. Analyze the experiences of European women under the category of gender.
4. Critically examine the standard periodization of European History and its applicability to the experiences of European women.
5. Analyze and describe changing roles of women during the transition from a pre-industrial world to the Industrial Revolution, the agricultural revolution, wars, political revolutions, and the struggles for equal rights.
6. Analyze fictional portrayals of women and their families during this period, comparing them with what we know about actual women and their families.
7. Describe and analyze the rise of illegitimacy and its effect on women's lives.
8. Describe and analyze legal changes, including protective legislation, divorce laws, and married women's property acts and their effects on the lives of women.
9. Describe and analyze the entry of women into factory and sweated work and the professions.
10. Describe and analyze the women's struggles for suffrage in Britain and France.

### **Major Topics**

- I. The Pre-Industrial World

- A. Aristocratic Women
  - B. Peasant Women
  - C. Spinners and Weavers
  - D. Birth, Death, and Marriage
  - E. Market Riots
- II. The Industrial Revolution
- A. Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions
  - B. Changes in the Sexual Division of Labor
  - C. Factory Work and Sweated Labor
  - D. The Rise of Illegitimacy
- III. Legal and Social Changes
- A. Changing Domestic Ideals
  - B. Protective Legislation
  - C. Divorce and the Married Women's Property Act
  - D. The Birth Control Movement
- IV. Women in War, Revolution, and the Struggle for Equality
- A. Women Revolutionaries in Russia
  - B. Women and Fascism in Germany
  - C. Suffrage Struggles in Britain and France
- V. Women in the Twentieth Century
- A. Women as Governesses and Teachers
  - B. Women and the Profession of Nursing
  - C. Women Shop Clerks and Typewriters
  - D. Careers, Jobs, and Families
  - E. Changing Demographics

### **Course Requirements**

**Grading/exams:** Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

Research assignments will focus on the similarities and differences in European women's experiences.

Final grades will be based on unit exams, research and writing assignments, and class participation.

**Writing:** Specific writing assignments will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include at least 2500 words of formal writing.

### **Other Course Information**

Meets College definition for **Cultural Diversity**.

This course is a Social Science elective and an Arts and Sciences elective.