



Module WS 821.2 (2022-23)

Thinking Differently: European Women's Studies. 5 ECTS

Module Co-ordinator: Mary Clancy Mary.clancy@nuigalway.ie

Class time: Tuesday: 14:00-16:00 (2.00 p.m.- 4.00 p.m.). Venue: AC201 Lecture Room, Concourse.

Module Description:

The aim of the Module is to examine how gender, and multiple other categories relating to personal and political context, has influenced personal and public effort and experience. It examines a variety of topics in order to show diversity and continuities across social class, political change, time and place. The course enables students to learn about political, intellectual and social contexts from the late 18th century to the present. There is attention, therefore, to analysis of both historical and contemporary effort and lives. In so doing, students acquire critical insight into themes of international interest and the opportunity to discuss questions of personal interest. A core object is to reveal the complex extent of connections, continuities and change in a variety of contexts.

Teaching and Learning

The course is delivered through a combination of lectures, discussion, exercises and presentations. For example, there are short exercises in relation to e.g. sweated labour, local feminist campaigns, and topical matters. There is also emphasis on a class project where students have the opportunity to work around agreed themes relating to the broad topic of citizenship. This participatory approach helps to nurture learning and development in a way that is questioning, student-led and relevant to active teaching, learning and assessment. Active participation in class activities is crucial to the learning and students build upon small group activities over the course of the Semester on a weekly basis.

Mary Clancy, Course Co-ordinator, has a research background in women's history and gender research. She has participated at European level through membership of the research alliance, Athena, and Atgender (www.atgender.eu). A former editor of *Saothar: Journal of the Irish Labour History Society*, she organises public talks and exhibitions in association with archivists, artists and librarians and contributes to radio and television documentary. Recent publications include: Beaumont, C; Clancy, M; Ryan, L (2020) 'Networks as 'laboratories of experience': exploring the life cycle of the suffrage movement and its aftermath in Ireland 1870-1937', *Women's History Review*.

Module Delivery:

Learning content and materials will be posted to Blackboard and students will be required to complete relevant readings or tasks in advance of class. The class relies upon student participation and students are encouraged to contribute questions and ideas of interest.

Public Health guidelines in relation to Covid-19 will be in place as necessary.

Assessment:

Written end-of-module assignment (100%: 2,500 words). Students will discuss and agree topics in advance and further guidelines will be available.

Module Overview, Semester 1 (2022). Tuesday 14:00-16:00

Week 1. 10 January. This session explains objectives, resources, possibilities, Europe today. Introduce Class Project- *Citizenship: Inspiring Change*.

Week 2. 17 January. This lecture introduces the theme of international feminisms. Discuss: Mary Wollstonecraft and early feminists. Exercise: Questions of interest today.

Week 3. 24 January. Women's Suffrage. This lecture traces the 19th and 20th century campaigns for political rights and representation. Exercise: Analysis of suffrage art, writings, legislation.

Week 4. 31 January. Political Representation: how does gender influence participation? This session examines 20th & 21st century voices and campaigns. Exercise: EU parliament.

Week 5. 07 February. Life Stories: locating digitised resources, narratives of agency and the importance of lives led. Exercise: writing life stories.

Week 6. 14 February. Reading Week. Preparing class project.

Week 7. 21 February. Hidden and Hard Labour: Struggles and Narratives of Working-Class Lives. Discuss: Intersectional experiences. Debate: Who benefits from sweated labour?

Week 8. 28 February. Post-1989 Europe: this session will contextualise equality, gender and participation in former soviet-sphere Europe. Exercise: feminist activisms and formal politics.

Week 9. 07 March. This session traces the arts as a space and place of agency and protest. Event: International Women's Day.

Week 10. 14 March. Citizenship: Future Directions in citizenship. Class debate. Identify key unresolved topics; contextualise; agree recommendations. Guidelines will be available.

Week 11. 21 March. Assignment preparation: discuss options and guidelines.

Week 12. 28 March. Review of Module and Class Project. Final Discussions.

Note: the schedule of lectures may vary according to class project requirements and progress.

The main focus of the module is on how analysis of gender, citizenship and life-stories helps us to understand questions of agency, visibility and the complexities of social and political power. It will explore also how stories of past effort offer important contextual foundation and sources of influence. Such an approach will help to equip students who are interested in contemporary feminisms, social change and democratic research. It will also enable students to introduce themes of interest.

Class Project. *Citizenship: Inspiring Change*. The module will focus also on a class project inspired by recent centenaries of votes for women. The project will enable students to find out about stories of citizenship, and questions that remain of interest today. It will build upon class projects produced by previous groups of students (available to consult on Blackboard). It will allow students to highlight matters of continuing interest relating to e.g. gender, social class, ethnicity, race, ability, rights, work, international influence. The class will decide and agree the format of the Project. Deadline: to complete by 08 March, International Women's Day (Week 9).

Core Resources: European Women's Lobby <https://womenlobby.org/>; European Institute for Gender Equality <https://eige.europa.eu/> International Labour Organisation <https://www.ilo.org/>; Atgender <https://atgender.eu/> Gender & Europe <https://ehne.fr/en/encyclopedia/themes/gender-and-europe>

Full module outline, with readings and resources, will be available on Blackboard.

Mary.clancy@nuigalway.ie (December 2022)

