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BACKGROUND
This course will be conducted in association with Project Vox, an international, web-based, collaborative effort to bring neglected ideas and writings by women in the early modern period into colleges and universities worldwide. We currently have colleagues working on the project in six countries. Students may be able to contribute to the content on Vox through their work in this course.

TEXTS
3. Roger Ariew (editor), *Correspondence/Leibniz & Clarke*, Hackett Press
5. All other readings will be posted online in advance.

REQUIREMENTS
Students must attend, and participate in, each class. Since this is a seminar, participation is important. Please note that participation in our discussion of research proposals is especially important; students will provide and receive important feedback on that day worth 10% of their grades.

Two short essays on assigned topics = 20% each

Each student will conduct research on one philosopher working between 1600–1800 who has been excluded from the canon. Research papers will involve both archival and library research and targeted research online.

An outline of the research paper = 10%
The research paper = 40%
PART ONE: GENDER, THE CANON, AND ARCHIVES

Lecture 1
Introduction: gender and the canon
Focus:
1. Learning to use the archives
2. Learning to be savvy about online sources
Archive: *Foundations of Physics*

Lecture 2
Where did the canon come from?

Lecture 3
Londa Schiebinger, “The exclusion of women and the structure of knowledge (last chapter of The Mind Has No Sex?)
Archive: *La Mettrie*

Lecture 4
Canonical background for all projects, part I
Readings:
1. Descartes, Meditations, 1st meditation
Optional reading: 2. Jacqueline Broad, introduction to Women Philosophers of the Seventeenth Century (on Cartesianism)

Lecture 5
Canonical background for all projects, part II
Readings:
1. Descartes, Meditations, 2nd meditation
Optional reading: 2. Lisa Shapiro, “Princess Elisabeth and Descartes” (from Feminism and the history of philosophy)

PART TWO: CASE STUDY – MADAME DU CHÂTELET

Lecture 6
Who was Madame Du Châtelet?
Readings:
1. *Selected Philosophical and Scientific Writings*, editor’s introduction; preface to the Mandeville translation.
2. Erica Harth, selection from *Cartesian Women* on Châtelet
Archive: *Foundations of Physics*; Algarotti text
Due: first short essay
Lecture 7
Historical background: What was the Enlightenment?
Readings:
1. Darnton, “Philosophers trim the tree of knowledge.”
2. D’Alembert, Preliminary Discourse to the Encyclopedia, selections
Archive: Diderot & D’Alembert’s Encyclopedia; Algarotti text

Lecture 8
Discussion of research techniques in archives and online
Focus: Intensive study of Project Vox materials to learn archival and online research techniques

Lecture 9
Break / make-up class

Lecture 10
Philosophical background: Leibniz & Clarke
Readings:
2. Ariew, editor, Leibniz-Clarke Correspondence
Archive: Des Maizeaux
Due: second short essay

Lecture 11
Madame Du Châtelet’s Philosophy, Part I
Readings:
1. Selected Philosophical and Scientific Writings, 105-150
Archive: Foundations of Physics

Lecture 12
Madame Du Châtelet’s Philosophy, Part II
Readings:
1. Selected Philosophical and Scientific Writings, 150-201
Archive: Foundations of Physics
Due: Brief outline of research proposals

Lecture 13
The afterlife of Madame Du Châtelet’s Philosophy
Readings:
1. Review D’Alembert, Preliminary Discourse, selections
2. Voltaire et al., excerpts
Archive: compare Encyclopedia & Foundations of Physics
PART THREE: RESEARCH TECHNIQUES FOR NON-CANONICAL FIGURES

Lecture 14  Review research techniques & discuss research proposals
Due: Discuss all research proposals in class

Lecture 15  Reconsidering the canon in light of new research
Readings:
1. Mary Ellen Waithes, “From cannon fodder to canon formation,”
2. Joan Scott, “Gender: a useful category of historical analysis”

Lecture 16  Last class: Wrap-up & final review of research projects

Lecture 17  ALL RESEARCH PAPERS DUE