

History of Women in the Middle Ages

Code: 100368

ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Archaeology	OT	4
History	OT	4

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

Prerequisites

Have taken the compulsory subjects of the Bachelor's Degree in History and the optative subjects of the Bachelor's Degree in Archaeology relating to the Middle Ages.

Read in Catalan, Spanish, Italian, French and English.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The aim of this subject is to study the role of women from the 5th to the 15th century in different geographical and political areas of the Western European world from different perspectives (family, marriage, inheritance, church, social class, work and thought). Even today, historical research and its explanation are carried out without a gender perspective. The vision transmitted by medieval intellectuals, mainly from the Church, often excludes women or is simply impregnated with misogynistic ideas about the female sex. The direct testimonies of women are even rarer, and those of peasants and workers even more so. However, there is a great deal of research to be done on the basis of written documents of various origins: from biblical exegesis texts to wills or property deeds. Even from an archaeological point of view, little attention is paid to these issues. In general, historical and archaeological research on gender and women has been segregated from the main subjects of research, and the gender perspective is hardly integrated into historical narratives. Therefore, the main objective of the course is to approach the study of medieval women from a broad and diversified perspective, in accordance with the basic precepts of gender studies.

The contents of the subject will be sensitive to gender perspective.

Competences

Archaeology

- Contextualizing and analysing historical processes.
- Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
- Managing the main methods, techniques and analytic tools in archaeology.

- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethic relevant issues.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.

History

- Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
- Identifying the main historiographical tendencies and critically analysing their development.
- Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analysing the key issues that allow us to address the study of historical phenomena from a gender perspective.
2. Applying both knowledge and analytical skills to the resolution of problems related to their area of study.
3. Applying proper techniques and analytical tools in case studies.
4. Assessing and critically solving the characteristic historiographical problems of gender history.
5. Autonomously searching, selecting and processing information both from structured sources (databases, bibliographies, specialized magazines) and from across the network.
6. Critically analysing informational speeches, especially in relation to ideology and ethnocentric and sexist bias.
7. Describing the economic, social and political structures of the Middle Ages.
8. Effectively expressing themselves and applying the argumentative and textual processes of formal and scientific texts.
9. Engaging in debates about historical facts respecting the other participants' opinions.
10. Identifying main and supporting ideas and expressing them with linguistic correctness.
11. Identifying the context of the historical processes.
12. Identifying the main and secondary ideas and expressing them with linguistic correctness.
13. Interpreting and analysing documentary sources.
14. Knowing the main historiographical debates concerning the Middle Ages.
15. Organising and planning the search of historical information.
16. Properly using the specific vocabulary of History.
17. Reading and interpreting historiographical texts or original documents and transcribing, summarizing and cataloguing information produced in the Middle Ages.
18. Recognising and implementing the following teamwork skills: commitment to teamwork, habit of cooperation, ability to participate in the problem solving processes.
19. Recognising diversity and multiculturalism.
20. Recognising the importance of controlling the quality of the work's results and its presentation.
21. Relating elements and factors involved in the development of historical processes.
22. Solve the methodological problems posed by the use of medieval historiographical sources.
23. Solving problems autonomously.
24. Submitting works in accordance with both individual and small group demands and personal styles.
25. Using suitable terminology when drawing up an academic text.
26. Using the specific interpretational and technical vocabulary of the discipline.

Content

1. History and historiography of women in the Middle Ages.
2. Gender debates in the Middle Ages: "La Querelle des Femmes" (Women's Quarrel).
3. Family, heritage and lineage.
4. Power, authority and influence.
5. Religion, spirituality and popular culture.
6. Daily life and work.

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Seminars and other activities guided by lecturers	13.5	0.54	6, 1, 3, 2, 4, 8, 11, 10, 13, 17, 15, 9, 24, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 16, 26
Theoretical Classes	27	1.08	6, 1, 2, 4, 11, 10, 13, 17, 15, 9, 19, 20, 21, 22, 16, 26
Type: Supervised			
Tutorial seasons for the preparation of assignments (oral and written) and for the preparation of theoretical and practical content.	14	0.56	1, 3, 2, 4, 14, 7, 11, 13, 17, 15, 18, 20, 21, 22, 16, 26
Type: Autonomous			
Elaboration of essays and commentaries.	30	1.2	6, 1, 3, 2, 23, 4, 5, 8, 25, 11, 10, 13, 17, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 16, 26
Individual Study	49	1.96	6, 1, 3, 2, 23, 4, 5, 14, 7, 11, 13, 17, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26

1. Directed activities.

- Read and interpret historiographical texts or original documents and transcribe, summarise and catalogue information related to women during the Middle Ages.
- Describe the gender relations during the Middle Ages.
- Solve the methodological problems posed by the handling of medieval sources.
- Develop analytical and synthesis skills.

2. Supervised activities (tutorials).

- Manage information and coordinate interdisciplinary work with other groups.
- Guidance in the preparation of the work.

3. Autonomous activities.

- Read and interpret historiographical texts or original documents and transcribe, summarise and catalogue information related to women during the Middle Ages.
- Describe the gender relations during the Middle Ages.
- Solve the methodological problems posed by the handling of medieval sources.
- Develop analytical and synthesis skills.
- Communicate orally and in writing the results of the activities.

At the beginning of the course, the lecturers will inform students of the schedule of face-to-face tutorials that will take place during the quadriimester, with the aim of guiding students in the completion of their work and in the general preparation of the practical and theoretical content of the subject.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Discussion	10%	1.5	0.06	6, 1, 3, 2, 4, 5, 8, 25, 11, 10, 12, 9, 24, 19, 20, 21, 16, 26
Essay	30%	12	0.48	6, 1, 3, 2, 23, 4, 5, 8, 25, 11, 12, 10, 13, 17, 15, 9, 24, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 16, 26
Practical Exercise	40%	1.5	0.06	6, 1, 3, 2, 4, 8, 25, 11, 10, 13, 17, 24, 19, 20, 21, 22, 16, 26
Reading control	20%	1.5	0.06	6, 1, 3, 2, 4, 14, 7, 8, 25, 11, 10, 12, 19, 20, 21, 16, 26

Continuous Assessment

The continuous assessment system will be governed by the completion of four activities. The types of test and the percentage that each one represents in the overall assessment are expressed below:

1. Reading control: 20%.
2. Discussion: 10%.
3. Practical exercise: 40%
4. Essay: 30%.

On carrying out each evaluation activity, professors will inform students (on Moodle) of the procedures to be followed for reviewing all grades awarded, and the date on which such a review will take place.

To pass the subject, an average mark of 5 or higher must be obtained in all the evaluation activities. In addition, to obtain an average, the reading control or the practical exercise must be passed with a minimum mark of 5. The student who has failed the two synthesis tests will have to sit the resit exam, whatever the final weighted average.

Any evaluation task not completed or not handed in will be graded as 0 when calculating the average.

It will be possible to obtain 0.5 additional points to the final average grade of the course if the student attends seminars, congresses, conferences or other activities previously indicated by the professors of the subject and as long as they are strictly related to the content of the subject. Attendance must be certified and a report of the activities carried out must also be submitted. The professors will provide the instructions on these activities at the beginning of the quad trimester. In any case, these additional 0.5 points can be used to reach 5 and pass the course without having to take the recovery exam if the final average mark does not reach the minimum required. In the same way, the student will not be able to exceed the maximum mark of 10 points in the overall mark of the course.

Students will be able to access the resit exam provided that the evaluation activities have been handed in or completed within the deadlines established by the subject's lecturers. It will not be possible to submit an exercise for the first time during the resit period.

To participate in the resit process, the student must have been assessed in 2/3 of the evaluable tests. In addition, students must have obtained a minimum average grade of 3.5 across all assessment activities. If the total score falls below 3.5, they will not be eligible to participate in the resit.

The resit of the entire subject will consist of a written exam on the entire course syllabus and will be carried out on the date established by the faculty. The maximum mark for the resit exam will be a 5. Under no circumstances will the resit exam be considered as an alternative to raise a mark.

Students will obtain a Not assessed/Not submitted course grade unless they have submitted more than 30% of the assessment items.

The scheduling of the evaluation tests cannot be modified, except in duly justified exceptional cases. Erasmus students who wish to advance an exam, will have to present to the teaching staff a written document from their home university justifying their request.

In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the event of irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject.

Those evaluation acts in which there are irregularities (copying, plagiarism, unauthorized use of digital watches, smartphones, headphones or other similar devices) will be graded with a 0 and will not be recoverable.

This subject entirely prohibits the use of AI technologies in all of its activities. Any submitted work that contains content generated using AI will be considered academic dishonesty; the corresponding grade will be awarded a zero, without the possibility of reassessment. In cases of greater infringement, more serious action may be taken.

In all exercises, spelling, clarity of exposition and correctness of writing will be assessed. Serious faults in these aspects may result in the failure of the subject.

Throughout the quad trimester, there will be the possibility of visiting an archive, a museum, a monastery or some other place related to the theoretical and practical content of the subject. This departure will be voluntary and will have no effect on the final grade. The faculty will inform about the characteristics of this activity during the course. Students will have to assume the possible expenses generated during the confinement, such as travel and entry to the place visited.

Single assessment

The single assessment system will be governed by the performance of three activities. The types of test and the percentage that each one represents in the overall assessment are expressed below:

1. Reading control: 30%.
2. Practical exercise: 40%
3. Essay: 30%.

Professors will announce in the first week of class, both in the classroom and through the Virtual Campus, the single date for the completion and delivery of the assessment tests.

On carrying out the evaluation activity, professors will inform students (on Moodle) of the procedures to be followed for reviewing all grades awarded, and the date on which such a review will take place.

To pass the subject, an average mark of 5 or higher must be obtained in all the evaluation activities. In addition, to obtain an average, one of the two synthesis tests must be passed with a minimum mark of 5. The student who has failed the two synthesis tests will have to sit the resit exam, whatever the final weighted average.

Any evaluation task not completed or not handed in will be graded as 0 when calculating the average.

Students who take the single assessment will be exempt from participating in any face-to-face activity throughout the quad trimester related to the essay. In their case, this assessment test will consist solely of completing a written assignment that will follow the same guidelines that govern the assignment for students in the continuous assessment and that will be submitted on the day indicated by the professors in the first week of the quad trimester.

Students will be able to access the resit exam provided that the evaluation activities have been handed in or completed within the deadlines established by the subject's lecturers. The same assessment method as continuous assessment will be used.

Students will obtain a Not assessed/Not submitted course grade unless they have submitted more than 30% of the assessment items.

The scheduling of the evaluation tests cannot be modified, except in duly justified exceptional cases. Erasmus students who wish to advance an exam, will have to present to the teaching staff a written document from their home university justifying their request.

In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the event of irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject.

Those evaluation acts in which there are irregularities (copying, plagiarism, unauthorized use of digital watches, smartphones, headphones or other similar devices) will be graded with a 0 and will not be recoverable.

This subject entirely prohibits the use of AI technologies in all of its activities. Any submitted work that contains content generated using AI will be considered academic dishonesty; the corresponding grade will be awarded a zero, without the possibility of reassessment. In cases of greater infringement, more serious action may be taken.

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Throughout the quad trimester, there will be the possibility of visiting an archive, a museum, a monastery or some other place related to the theoretical and practical content of the subject. This departure will be voluntary and will have no effect on the final grade. The faculty will inform about the characteristics of this activity during the course. Students will have to assume the possible expenses generated during the confinement, such as travel and entry to the place visited.

Bibliography

Recommended basic bibliography

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Foquerne, Yves-René & Isabel Alfonso Antón: *La condición de la mujer en la Edad Media*. Madrid: Casa de Velázquez-Universidad Complutense de Madrid, 1986.

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Woodacre, Elena: *Mediterranean Queenship; Negotiating the Role of the Queen in the Medieval and Early Modern Era*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.

Complementary bibliography

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How to cite and preparate the bibliography:
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Software

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Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed