The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the fields of Gender and Women’s History by focusing on questions related to war. Among the questions we will explore in class are the following. How do ideological gender systems influence the conduct of war and peace? In what ways are traditionally accepted gender differences ignored or overruled in the national interest during wartime? Does women’s wartime activity transform gender relations? Does change persist? How are gender systems and sex roles reconstituted after war? What characteristics differentiate home, staging and war fronts? How is the home front mobilized? How do cultural apparatus, political organizations, labor markets, and state policy attach meaning to women’s wartime activities? Does the nationalist solidarity of war accelerate or discourage feminism? How have women participated in the military? What limits and opposition have they experienced? How and when were these overcome? When and why have new opportunities emerged? What have been the costs and/or implications of these opportunities? How have states used gender discourse and ideology to craft national unity, denounce the enemy, fuel military aggression or diplomatic peacemaking? What special rights and opportunities has military service provided for veterans? How have these shaped civilian society and the state? What constitutes the obligation to fight and/or defend one’s country? How is it enforced? How is gender utilized in the commemoration of war? What qualities and/or behavior are valorized, demonized or ignored? How does the state regulate sexuality on the home and battlefronts? When and how does sexual violence become a tool of war?

Required Book List

**Anonymous, A Woman in Berlin: Eight Weeks in a Conquered City**  
(diary of a German woman in occupied Berlin)

**Lauren Burgess, An Uncommon Soldier**  
(correspondence of a female Civil War Soldier)

**Constance Bowman Reid, Slacks and Calluses: Our Summer in a Bomber Factory**  
(memoir of a summer in W.W.II)

**Helen Zenna Smith, Not So Quiet...**  
(novel of W.W.II)

In addition to these books, there are also a number of articles or book chapters that constitute required reading. All of these may be found on electronic reserve. These are listed in the syllabus for the week in which they must be read.

E-Reserves may be accessed from the library homepage at libraries.colorao.edu. Clicking on the “Reserve Lists” button on the homepage will take you to a dialogue box asking for the name of the instructor or course number.
Entering the course number or instructor name ("Chambers" or "History 4640") will bring up a list of reserve items including links to electronic reserves. You can then display a given article by clicking on the blue hyperlinked article title.

### Assignment Schedule

**Week of August 24:** Thinking about Women, Gender, & War

**Read:**

**August 30:** Warriers, Gender, and Identity

**Read:** Lauren Burgess, *An Uncommon Soldier*

**Sept 7:** Soldiering Women

**Read:**

**Sept 14:** Women, Conscription, and Military Reform

**Read:** Brenda J. Vallance, “Russia’s Mothers – Voices of Change,” *Minerva* (Fall/Winter 2000), pp. 109-128

---

**Sept 21:** Martial Ideal and Citizenship


**Sept 28:** Women and War Front

**Read:** Helen Zenna Smith, *Not So Quiet. . .*

**Oct 5:** Rape and War

**Read:** Iris Chang, *The Rape of Nanking*, pp. 81-139


**Oct 12:** Home Front/War Front


Oct 19:  Home Front

Constance Bowman Reid, *Slacks and Calluses: Our Summer in a Bomb Factory*

Oct 26:  Staging Front: Prostitution

Read: Beth Bailey and David Farber, “Hotel Street Sex,” *The First Strange Place: Race and Sex in World War II Hawaii*, pp. 95-132.


Nov 2:  Occupation

Read: Anonymous, *A Woman in Berlin: Eight Weeks in a Conquered City*

Nov 9:  Restoring the Gendered Order

Richard Bessel, *Germany After the First World War*, chapter 8, pp. 220-253


Nov 16:  Cold War and National Security State


Nov 23: Thanksgiving Recess

Nov 30: Peace, Rights, Dissent

Read:


Dec 7: Gender and Memory


Dec 12: Final Exam Essay: 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
This course is structured as a lecture/discussion class. On Mondays and Wednesdays I will lecture, on Fridays we will discuss the readings, any questions you have about the week’s lectures, and your assignments.

1. Weekly Class Assignment and Participation: 25%

   In order to prepare for class each week, you are expected to complete the assigned reading (averaging 34 pages per class meeting). In one paragraph (three to five sentences) identify the argument of one article among those assigned for the week, or describe the author’s purpose or central conflict for a primary source work (memoir, or correspondence).

   Formulate two questions arising from your reading that you would like to discuss for the week in question.

   These three will serve as the basis of our Friday discussions. Make two copies of your selections. Turn one in to me at the beginning of class and retain the other for your use. Be prepared to pose and discuss the questions (yours and others) arising from your reading.

2. Class Attendance: 10%

   Attendance and participation are mandatory. You will be allowed three unexcused absences before your grade is affected. Excused absences require written documentation (a doctor’s note or court summons, for example) and must be discussed with me. Religious observations are excused (see university policy below). Excused absences do not count against you and are reserved for matters that are outside your control and

3. Two Papers: 15% and 20%

   1. Analytical essay (4-5 pages) on your choice of book: 20%

   2. Photograph/poster paper: 15%

Papers must be turned in at the beginning of class on the Friday when we are scheduled to discuss the book. Papers must be provided as hard copy and will not be accepted via email. Late papers will not be accepted unless previously arranged. If you will not be in class you may turn your paper in early. Details to follow.
4. Final Exam Essay: 30%

The final exam will consist of an essay, of 7-10 pages in length, addressing one of the following questions: How does war shape gender; how does gender shape war? You will wish to contemplate this question over the course of the semester. Essays may be focused on a specific country or war as desired. While I encourage you to select a topic that is addressed by some course reading, you may utilize a theory or perspective from the reading and do additional research and reading to expand upon your example. I will be happy to help with bibliography. Almost certainly some additional reading/research will be necessary. Details to follow.

COURSE POLICIES

Classroom Decorum: Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students have a responsibility to treat faculty and each other with respect and dignity. This means that they will ask and answer questions and address subjects in a manner and with language that is attentive to common courtesy. They will turn off cell phones upon entry and leave them off for the duration of the class. They will not use their laptops in a manner other than to take notes on lectures and assignments. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline, including the removal of cell phones and laptops for the duration of class. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinions. Additional information may be found at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html

Honor Code: All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Additional information on the Honor Code can be found at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html

Religious Observance: Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. If you have a potential class conflict because of religious observance, you
must inform me of that conflict by the third week of class. See policy details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

**Sexual Harassment:** The University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment applies to all students, staff and faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises or create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite gender and between any combination of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Harassment can occur anywhere on campus, including the classroom, the workplace, or a residence hall. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Sexual Harassment (OSH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the OSH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed can be obtained at http://www.colorado.edu/odh/

**Disability Accommodation:** If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices
If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see guidelines at http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html