

OLLSCOIL NAISIUNTA NA hEIREANN, GAILLIMH
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY
THIRD YEAR and VISITING
HI399: Approaches to the History of Women in Europe, 1700-1939

Professor Owen Dudley Edwards
Professor Nicholas Canny
Dr Caitriona Clear

TIME: Two hours
ANSWER **three** questions

1. 'Revolution as rights and revolution as motherhood – the two interpretations coexisted in women's discussion but with growing tension.' (Bonnie Smith) Discuss, with reference to women's public activity in eighteenth-century Europe.
2. '...petty housework crushes, strangles, stultifies and degrades [woman], chains her to the kitchen and the nursery, and she wastes her labour on barbarously unproductive, petty, nerve-wracking and crushing drudgery.' (Lenin, 1919) This was a common revolutionary perspective on housework; has it any relevance to the changes and continuities in women's household work (not domestic service) over the period 1780-1914?
3. 'To a former male servant, [domestic] service was "something like...a bird shut up in a cage. The bird is well housed and well fed but deprived of liberty."' (Simonton). Discuss, although with reference to female rather than male servants for the years 1780 to 1914.
4. Martha Vicinus's chapter on nurses is entitled 'Discipline and Cleanliness'. Is this too simple a summary of the nursing profession as it developed in the mid-nineteenth century?
5. What were the most important developments in female education in the years 1780-1914, and why?
6. Linda Mahood argues that the term 'prostitute', as it was used in the nineteenth century, was a category invented by those who responded in various ways to what they termed 'the Great Social Evil' in Europe in this period. Do you agree with her?

7. Who supported sex-specific labour legislation for working women, in Britain and France, in the years 1870-1914? Who opposed it, and why?
8. Insensitive, oppressive pressure brought to bear on mothers, or real, practical help for them –which do you think best describes the ongoing attempts to reduce infant mortality in the years c.1890-1914?
9. Martin Pugh believes that the British suffrage campaign was only part of the reason for the granting of the vote to women in 1918. Discuss this view, in the light of women's involvement in politics in Britain from the 1860s to 1914.
10. What were 'women's issues', and who defined them as such, in interwar Europe?