

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION IN WOMEN'S HISTORY

Answer four of the following questions, selecting at least one from each category. Be sure to cite specific works and relevant historiographical debates in your essays.

United States

1. Many historians have seen parallels between the relationship between the women's movement of the 1960s and 1970s and the civil rights movement, on the one hand, and that between the 19th-century woman movement and the abolitionist movement. Compare the two relationships. What accounts for differences between them?
2. Using the concept of gender, American women's historians have undertaken a major revision of American labor history. Discuss their critique and outline their major findings with regard to women's labor force participation in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
3. Historians debate the implications of war for women. Define the major positions and discuss them with reference to the Civil War and at least one other war in which the U.S. was involved.

Europe

1. Until recently, the French Revolution has not been regarded as a major event in women's history. How has the historiography changed, and why?
2. Can the old question, Is Russia part of Europe? be answered using the prism of women's history? Discuss by comparing the history of Russian and Soviet feminism with more western European variants under both capitalism and socialism.

Comparative

1. Compare the development of maternalist reform movements in the United States and Europe. What were the strengths and weaknesses of maternalism as a political strategy and rhetoric?
2. Women's history, gay and lesbian history, and the history of sexuality sometimes work in tandem, sometimes at odds with one another. Compare their approaches to issues of sexuality, gender, and sexual identity and practices, using specific examples from the United States and Europe (including Russia).

