

## **HISTORY 607: SEMINAR IN EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY TECHNOLOGY**

### **EMPHASIS: GENDER AND THE HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY**

Amy Bix, Iowa State University - spring, 1999

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This research seminar will concentrate on the history of American technology as linked to gender issues. We will investigate the ways in which men and women have approached technological change, the ways in which evolving technology has defined and redefined the workplace, the home, and personal lives. Our focus will cover issues such as gender and health technology, domestic technology, architecture, and workplace techniques.

#### **REQUIRED BOOKS -**

1. Ruth Schwartz Cowan, More Work for Mother; Basic Books, 1983.
2. Virginia Scharff, Taking The Wheel; Free Press, 1991.
3. Judy Wajcman, Feminism Confronts Technology; Penn St., 1991.
4. Sharon Strom, Beyond the Typewriter; Illinois, 1992.

#### **Recommended books -**

1. Marcus, Alan & Howard Segal; Technology in America: A Brief History, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. HBJ, 1999.

**Thursday, January 14** - Course introduction,

**Thursday, January 21** – Introductory articles;

**Thursday, January 28** - Judy Wajcman, Feminism Confronts Technology;

**Thursday, February 4** - Ruth Schwartz Cowan, More Work for Mother;

**Thursday, February 11 - Domesticity and Technology;**

Phyllis Palmer, Domesticity & Dirt;

Dolores Hayden, The Grand Domestic Revolution: A History of Feminist Designs;

Barbara Ehrenreich, For her Own Good;

Laura Shapiro, Perfection Salad: Women & Cooking;

Carolyn Goldstein, Do It Yourself: Home Improvement in 20thC

Daphne Spain, Gendered Spaces;

Daniel Cohen, The Last Hundred Years: Household Technology;

Maureen Ogle, All the Modern Conveniences;

**Thursday, February 18** – Sharon Strom, Beyond the Typewriter; Illinois, 1992.

**Thursday, February 25** – **Technology, Gender, and the Workplace**

Thomas Dublin, Women At Work: Transformation Work & Community in Lowell;  
 Judith McGaw, Most Wonderful Machine: Mechanization & Social Change in Papermaking;  
 Thomas Dublin, Transforming Women's Work: New England Lives Industrial Revolution;  
 Patricia Cooper, Once a Cigar Maker: Men, Women, Work Culture American Cigar Factories;  
 Margery Davies, Woman's Place is at the Typewriter;  
 Lisa Fine, The Souls of the Skyscraper;  
 Stephen Norwood, Labor's Flaming Youth: Telephone Operators;  
 Michele Martin, Hello Central: Gender, Technology, Culture in Formation Telephone Systems

**Thursday, March 4** – Virginia Scharff, Taking The Wheel;

**Thursday, March 11** – Gender and Aviation/Transport;

Deborah Douglas, United States Women in Aviation, 1940-1985;  
 Doris L. Rich, Amelia Earhart;  
 Mary Lovell, The Sound of Wings;  
 Susan Ware, Still Missing: Amelia Earhart;  
 Molly Merriam, Clipped Wings;  
 Sally Keil, Those Wonderful Women in their Flying Machines;  
 Mary Caodgan, Women With Wings;  
 Michael Schiffer, Taking Charge: Electric Auto in America;

**Thursday, March 25** – Gender, Invention, and Technology Issues;

Autumn Stanley, Mothers and Daughters of Invention;  
 Anne MacDonald, Feminine Ingenuity: How Women Inventors Changed America;  
 Cynthia Cockburn, Gender & Technology in the Making;  
 Cynthia Cockburn, Machinery of Dominance;  
 Cynthia Cockburn and Ruza Dilic, Bringing Technology Home;  
 Jan Zimmerman, The Technological Woman: Interfacing with Tomorrow;  
 Katherine Jellison, Entitled to Power: Farm Women & Technology, 1913-1963;  
 Roger Horowitz & Arwen Mohun, His and Hers: Gender, Consumption, and Technology;

**Thursday, April 1** - *Preliminary version of papers due*;

**Thursday, April 8** – *In-class paper critiques*;

**Thursday, April 15** - Gender and Health Technology/Leisure;

Kathryn Ratcliff, Healing Technology: Feminist Perspectives;  
 H. Patricia Hynes, Reconstructing Babylon;  
 Susan Squier, Babies in Bottles: 20thC Visions of Repro. Tech;  
 Robbie Davis-Floyd & Joseph Dumit, Cyborg Babies;  
 Anne Balsamo, Technologies of the Gendered Body;  
 Claudia Clark, Radium Girls: Women & Industrial Health Reform;  
 Kathy Peiss, Cheap Amusements: Working Women & Leisure;  
 Kathy Peiss, Hope in a Jar: The Making of America's Beauty Culture;

**Thursday, April 22 – Gender and Computer Technology;**

Alison Adam, Artificial Knowing: Gender & the Thinking Machine;  
 Lynn Cherny, Wired Women: Gender & New Realities in Cyberspace;  
 Justine Cassell, From Barbie to Mortal Kombat;  
 Cheris Kramarae, Technology and Women's Voices;  
 Marguerite Zientara, Women, Technology & Power: Ten Stars;  
 Sally Hacker, Doing It the Hard Way: Investigations of Gender & Technology;  
 Sherry Turkle, Life on the Screen;  
 Steven Levy, Hackers: Heroes of the Computer Revolution;

**Thursday, April 29** – Articles to be assigned;

**Final version of papers due Monday, May 3**

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**UPDATED REFERENCE LIST – 2011 – ADDITIONAL BOOK POSSIBILITIES**

Rachel Maines, The Technology of Orgasm  
 Ruth Cowan, Heredity and Hope: The Case for Genetic Screening  
 Judy Wajcman, TechnoFeminism  
 Sherry Turkle, Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology & Less from Each Other  
 Jane Margolis, Unlocking the Clubhouse: Women in Computing  
 Thomas Misa, Gender Codes: Why Women Are Leaving Computing  
 Mary Frank Fox, Women, Gender, and Technology  
 Ruth Oldenziel, Making Technology Masculine: Men, Women, & Modern Machines in America  
 Nina Lerman, Gender and Technology: A Reader  
 Yasmin Kafai, Beyond Barbie and Mortal Kombat: New Perspectives on Gender and Gaming  
 Ruth Oldenziel, Cold War Kitchen: Americanization, Technology, and European Users  
 Georgine Clarsen, Eat My Dust: Early Women Motorists  
 Kurt Beyer, Grace Hopper and the Invention of the Information Age  
 Megan Elias, Stir it Up: Home Economics in American Culture  
 Sarah Stage, Rethinking Home Economics: Women and the History of a Profession  
 Jennifer Scanlon, The Gender and Consumer Culture Reader  
 Elaine Tyler May, America and the Pill: A History of Promise, Peril, and Liberation  
 Andrea Tone, Devices and Desires: A History of Contraceptives in America  
 Lara Marks, Sexual Chemistry: A History of the Contraceptive Pill  
 Elizabeth Watkins, On the Pill: A Social History of Oral Contraceptives  
 Andrea Tone, Controlling Reproduction: An American History  
 Rebecca Skloot, The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks  
 Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, The Age of Homespun: Objects & Stories in Creation of American Myth  
 Linda Layne, Feminist Technology  
 Francesca Bray, Technology and Gender: Fabrics of Power in Late Imperial China  
 Francine Moccio, Live Wire: Women and Brotherhood in the Electrical Industry  
 Susan Eisenberg, We'll Call You if We Need You: Women Working Construction  
 Janice Rutherford, Selling Mrs. Consumer: Christine Frederick & Rise of Household Efficiency  
 Venus Green, Race on the Line: Gender, Labor and Technology in the Bell System, 1880-1980  
 Betty Ann Holtzmann Kevles, Almost Heaven: The Story of Women in Space

Martha Ackmann, The Mercury 13: The True Story of Thirteen Women & the Dream of Space  
 Margaret Weitekamp, Right Stuff, Wrong Sex: America's First Women in Space Program  
 Stephanie Nolen, Promised the Moon: The Untold Story of the First Women in the Space Race  
 Sarah Byrn Rickman, Nancy Love and the WASP Ferry Pilots of World War II  
 Molly Merryman, Clipped Wings: The Rise and Fall of the WASPs  
 Leslie Haynsworth, Amelia Earhart's Daughters  
 Eileen Lebow, Before Amelia: Women Pilots in the Early Days of Aviation  
 Gene Nora Jessen, Powder Puff Derby of 1929  
 Doris Rich, Queen Bess: Daredevil Aviator  
 Jessamyn Neuhaus, Manly Meals and Mom's Home Cooking: Cookbooks & Gender  
 Sherrie Inness, Kitchen Culture in America: Popular Representations of Food, Gender & Race  
 Arwen P. Mohun, Steam Laundries: Gender, Technology & Work, US & Britain 1880-1940  
 Jane Lancaster, Making Time: Lillian Moller Gilbreth  
 Laurel Graham, Managing On Her Own: Dr. Lillian Gilbreth & Women's Work Interwar Era  
 Jane Farrell-Beck, Uplift: The Bra in America  
 Valerie Steele, The Corset: A Cultural History  
 Paula Treichler, The Visible Woman: Imaging Technologies, Gender, and Science  
 Margarete Sandelowski, Devices and Desires: Gender, Technology & American Nursing  
 Margaret Layne, Women in Engineering: Pioneers and Trailblazers  
 Margaret Layne, Women in Engineering: Professional Life  
 Glenna Matthews, Silicon Valley, Women & the California Dream: Gender, Class, Opportunity  
 Ellen Lupton, Mechanical Brides: Women and Machines from Home to Office  
 Julie Wosk, Women and the Machine: Representations from Spinning Wheel to Electronic Age  
 Julie Wosk, Alluring Androids, Robot Women, and Electronic Eyes