WOMEN’S HISTORY

Please answer one question from Part I and one question from Part II. You are allowed a total of four hours to complete this exam (two hours per question.) You are on your honor not to consult any materials, including notes or papers or anything stored in your computer. You are also on your honor not to discuss the exam or its content with any faculty or student until the exam period is over.

PART I:

1) Did women have a Renaissance? Be sure to discuss which kinds of evidence can be made pertinent to this question.

2) Textbooks (and some new ones too!) describe the eighteenth century as “woman’s century.” Do you agree or disagree?

3) Christianity has both encouraged and frustrated women’s autonomy. It has allowed women to play important roles and prevented them from exercising self-determination. Show how this paradox has unfolded in Europe since the Protestant/Catholic Reformations.

4) What role do biological theories and doctrines play in determining the position of women in European society? Be sure to discuss theories and doctrines both before and after 1789.

5) You have been asked to teach a course in European women’s history (1348 to the present) at an undergraduate institution which observes the 15 week semester. Your class will meet either two or three times a week and the students must read at least five books during the quarter. They will take a mid term and a final exam. Prepare the syllabus giving titles for every lecture and a very brief description of the material covered in each lecture. Also, assign the books and provide questions/study questions for both the mid term and the final exam.

PART II:

1) Was the French Revolution “bad” for women? Give some sense of the competing arguments and defend your own position with concrete references to events, laws, individuals, etc.

2) Did industrialization fundamentally transform the position of women in either the economy or the family? Be sure to discuss some of the evidence on the opposing side to your position as well as well as the evidence that supports your view.
3) Were women’s roles in World War II very different from the roles they played in the Thirty Years’ War, 1618-1648? In what ways were they different?

4) Did Italian fascism and German Nazism repress women or favor them? What does their attitude toward women and the family tell us about them as ideologies and political regimes?

5) English women got the vote in 1918; French women only in 1945. What explains the difference in timing?