

Week 1: Introductions. Course Overview. Some aspects of European women's intellectual and social experience in the early modern era: see the video on the website: "The character of female education in early modern Europe"

Week 2: Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia (1618 - 1680) on the mind-body problem.

Week 3: What is freedom?

Week 4: Gabrielle Suchon (1632 - 1703) The Neutralist.

Week 5: Émilie Du Châtelet (1706 - 1749) "On Happiness".

Week 6: Mary Wollstonecraft (1759 - 1797) on education and freedom.

Week 7: Reflection on some of the key ideas.

Week 8: Existentialism of Simone de Beauvoir (1908 - 1986)

Week 9: Hannah Arendt (1906 - 1975) on freedom and autonomy.

Week 10: Conclusions

Each week a student will give a short presentation of some aspect of the week's work, lasting 10 - 15 minutes, followed by discussion.

There will also be close readings in class of sections of the assigned texts.

WEEK 2 MATERIALS

Project Vox biographical background for Princess Elisabeth

The correspondence between Princess Elisabeth and René Descartes

Video on The Mind Body Problem

Handout 2: We will read through and discuss the portions of the correspondence I have put on the handout for this week.