

UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STUDIES

ENG514 EARLY MODERN WOMEN AND WRITING
COURSE OUTLINE - SPRING SEMESTER 2018/2019
MONDAY / THURSDAY, 10:30-12:00, ROOM A109 (Kallipoleos)

Instructor: Dr. Stella Achilleos

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Office Hours: Monday / Thursday, 9:30-10:30 and 13:30-14:30 (or by appointment)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The aim of this course is to examine early modern women's writing, concentrating especially on women's contribution to the literary culture of England from the early years of the seventeenth century till its final decades when women gradually emerged as professional authors. Material selected for this course covers the generic diversity of women's writing during this period (ranging from poetry, prose fiction and drama to auto-biography and prophecy). Focusing on selected readings, students are invited to: situate early modern women's writing within the social, cultural, and political contexts within which the authors wrote; examine how texts under study interrogate the intersections between gender, class and/or race; explore how female authors of the period revised and refashioned male literary traditions; consider such important topics as the representation of female friendship and the female body; explore the major theoretical questions that arise from early modern women's literary production and to reflect on the continuing significance of these questions for the reader nowadays. By the end of the course, students are expected to: be able to demonstrate their familiarity with texts under study; develop the ability to analyse the texts within the social, political and historical context of the early modern period; be able to engage critically with the wide range of issues raised by the texts.

TEXTBOOKS

The majority of primary texts as well as a selection of secondary material for this course will be made available to students in a course packet. In addition, students are required to get hold of the following textbook:

- Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko, The Rover and Other Works*, ed. by Janet Todd (Penguin Books, 1992; repr. 2003)

ASSESSMENT

Midterm Exam (take-home paper):	30%
Final examination (take-home paper):	50%
Presentation / Report:	10%
Participation / Attendance:	10%

Weekly schedule of classes, assigned readings, and deadlines

Week

1. Jan.14/17 Introduction to the Course
Extracts from early modern advice manuals: John Dod and Robert Cleaver, from *A Godly Form of Household Government* (1598); T.E. (?), *The Law's Resolutions of Women's Rights* (1632)
Extract from James I, *The True Law of Free Monarchies* (1598)
Extract from *The Book of Common Prayer* (1559)
- Further Reading:
Jane Anger, from *Her Protection for Women* (1589)
Joseph Swetnam, *The Arraignment of Lewd, Idle, Froward, and Unconstant Women* (1615)
Rachel Speght, from *A Muzzle for Melastomus* (1617)
2. Jan.21/24 Aemilia Lanyer, from *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum; The Description of Cookham* (1611)
3. Jan.28/31 Aemilia Lanyer, *The Description of Cookham* (1611)
- Suggested Secondary Material
i) Ann Baynes Coiro, 'Writing in Service: Sexual Politics and Class Position in the Poetry of Aemilia Lanyer and Ben Jonson,' *Criticism* 35.3 (1993): 357-76.
ii) Jonathan Goldberg, 'Canonizing Aemelia Lanyer,' *Desiring Women Writing* (California: Stanford University Press, 1997), pp. 16-41
4. Feb.4/7 Anne Clifford, from *Diary* (1616-17)
- Suggested Secondary Material
Paul Salzman, 'Anne Clifford: Writing a Family Identity,' *Reading Early Modern Women's Writing* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 90-108.
5. Feb.11/14 Lady Mary Wroth, from *Pamphilia to Amphilanthus* (1621)
- Suggested Secondary Material
i) Rosalind Smith, 'Lady Mary Wroth's *Pamphilia to Amphilanthus*: The Politics of Withdrawal,' *ELR* 30 (2000)
ii) Paul Salzman, 'Mary Wroth: From Obscurity to Canonization,' *Reading Early Modern Women's Writing* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006), pp.60-89
6. Feb.18/21 Anna Trapnel, excerpt from *Strange and Wonderful News from Whitehall*; excerpt from *Anna Trapnel's Report and Plea* (1654)
- Suggested Secondary Material
i) Diane Purkiss, 'Producing the Voice, Consuming the Body: Women Prophets of the Seventeenth Century,' *Women, Writing, History 1640-1740*, ed. by Isobel Grundy and Susan Wiseman (London: B. T. Batsford, 1992), pp.139-158

ii) James Holstun, 'The Public Spiritedness of Anna Trapnell,' *Ehud's Dagger: Class Struggle in the English Revolution* (London and New York: Verso, 2000), pp. 257-304

6. Feb.25/28 Katherine Philips, from *Poems* (1667)

Suggested Secondary Material

- Harriette Andreadis, 'Re-Configuring Early Modern Friendship: Katherine Philips and Homoerotic Desire,' *SEL* 46.3 (2006): 523-542.
- Hero Chalmers, "'Her Harmonious Numbers": the Politics of Friendship in the Poems and Plays of Katherine Philips,' *Royalist Women Writers, 1650-1689* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), 56-104.

8. March 4/7 Margaret Cavendish, from *A True Relation of my Birth, Breeding and Life* (1656)
Margaret Cavendish, *Assaulted and Pursued Chastity* (1656)

9. March 11 **HOLIDAY - CLEAN MONDAY**

March 14 Margaret Cavendish, *Assaulted and Pursued Chastity*

Thursday March 14: Deadline for the submission of midterm essay

10. March 18 Margaret Cavendish, *Assaulted and Pursued Chastity*

Suggested Secondary Material

- Marina Leslie, "Evading Rape and Embracing Empire in Margaret Cavendish's *Assaulted and Pursued Chastity*," in *Menacing Virgins: Representing Virginity in the Middle Ages and Renaissance*, ed. Kathleen Coyne Kelly and Marina Leslie (Newark: University of Delaware Press; London: Associated University Presses, 1999) pp. 179-197.

March 21 Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko* (1688)

11. March 25 **HOLIDAY**

March 28 Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*

12. April 1 **HOLIDAY**

April 4 Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*

Suggested Secondary Material

- Margaret W. Ferguson, 'Juggling the Categories of Race, Class, and Gender: Aphra Behn's *Oroonoko*,' *Women, "Race," and Writing in the Early Modern Period*, ed. by Margo Hendricks and Patricia Parker (London and New York: Routledge, 1994), pp. 209-224.
- Jonathan Goldberg, 'Aphra Behn's Female Pen,' *Desiring Women Writing* (California: Stanford University Press, 1997), pp. 42-74.

13. April 8/11 Aphra Behn, *The Rover* (1677)

Suggested Secondary Material

Anita Pacheco, 'Rape and the Female Subject in Aphra Behn's *The Rover*,' *ELH* 65.2 (1998): 323-45.

14. April 15 Attendance of the 3rd Early Modern Women Writers' Colloquium - to be held at the CVAR (Center of Visual Arts and Research) as part of *Othello's Island 2019: the 7th Annual Interdisciplinary Conference on Medieval and Early Modern Studies*.

April 18 Aphra Behn, *The Rover*, continued
Course overview

EASTER VACATION: 22 APRIL - 5 MAY 2019

FINAL EXAM PERIOD: 10-24 MAY 2019

Please note that this is a tentative schedule and it may have to be slightly modified during the course of the semester based on the needs of the particular class.

CLASS POLICIES

You are required to work systematically so as to keep pace with the material assigned for each session. Your active participation in in-class discussions is essential, so you need to make sure that you always read the relevant material before coming to class. Systematic failure to come to class prepared or contribute to discussions may have a negative impact on your final grade.

You are expected to attend all classes and scheduled assignments (e.g. presentations), except in case of illness or any other exceptional circumstances. In that case, you need to inform me. Please keep in mind that missed in-class assignments cannot be made up unless you present a valid medical certificate or other formal document justifying your absence.

All written work needs to be handed in by the deadline (agreed in advance) and no extensions will be given except in special circumstances. Assignments handed in late without any valid excuse will not be accepted.

Finally, you must come to class on time and always bring with you the text to be read.

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Please keep in mind that any form of academic dishonesty (such as cheating in exams or plagiarism) is a very serious offence and will be penalized according to departmental regulations. Students who commit such offences may risk failing the entire course.

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's work (language and/or thoughts) as one's own original work.

All written work - whether produced in class or at home - needs to be the student's own work. In order to avoid plagiarism, you should always make sure that any sources used in your work (whether copied directly, summarized or paraphrased) are clearly acknowledged. You are expected to be familiar with the MLA citation format and to use that to cite your sources whenever that is required.