

Fall/Winter 2017-2018

AP/EN 4515 6.0A (Y)

Early Modern Women Writers

Course Director:

Dr. Judith Anderson Stuart
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 10:15-11:15 a.m., location TBA
Office phone # TBA, during office hours *only*
Email: jstuart@yorku.ca (put EN 4515 in the subject header)

Delivery Format:

Seminar

Time:

Wednesdays, 11:30am - 2:30pm, MC-215

Description:

During the socio-political and religious turbulence of the Early Modern period, English women from wide class and experiential backgrounds found increasing opportunities to express their concerns and interests through writing. Mindful of the society and culture in which these texts arose, this course will examine generically various texts in English by women of the era. Our theoretical apparatus will include close reading, feminist historicism, and social criticism. Authors to be considered include a queen, noblewomen, and women from the merchant and “middling” ranks; we consider polemic, dramatic, prose fiction, and poetic works, as well as such less-familiar genres as the mother’s legacy. Course objectives include the honing of skills in critical reading, course-specific research, and coherent communication in seminars and essays.

Category:

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Area:

4.2 or 5

Period:

1

Historical Requirement:

Time Period I (pre-1700)

Requirements:

Active participation: 20% will include homework and “pop” quizzes

1st major essay: 15% 1500 words; MLA style

Oral seminar: 10% presentation; 20–30 mins; see below for details

Seminar Handout: 10% due at the time of above presentation; approx. 500 words

2nd major essay: 25% 2500 w’ds; MLA style

Final in-class test: 20% during final class; 2-1/2 hrs; no aids permitted

Reading List:

Cavendish, Margaret. *The Blazing World and Other Writings* . (Penguin Classics)

Salzman, Paul. *Early Modern Women's Writing: An Anthology 1560-1700* .
(Oxford World's Classics)

Additionally, frequent online readings (TBA) are required. Bring these to the relevant classes in some form (on your laptop, or printed from the internet). Other required readings will be provided in photocopy form, and there will be at least two films shown in class for which students are responsible.

Some suggestions for additional reading:

Fraser, Antonia. *The Weaker Vessel: Women's Lot in Seventeenth-Century England* . (Methuen)

Mendelson, Sara, and Patricia Crawford, eds. *Women in Early Modern England 1550-1720* (Oxford)

Open To:

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