

Fall/Winter 2018-2019

AP/EN 4515 6.0A (Y)

Early Modern Women Writers

Course Director:

Dr. Judith Anderson Stuart
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Office phone # TBA, during office hours only
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 3:00-4:00 p.m. in 303 Bethune College

Delivery Format:

Seminar

Time:

Wednesdays, 4:00 p.m-7:00 p.m in Bethune 325

Description:

During the socio-political and religious turbulence of the Early Modern period, Englishwomen 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:

C

Historical Requirement:

Time Period I

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%	2500-3000 words; 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, ed. *Early Modern Women's Writing: An Anthology 1560-1700*.
(Oxford)

Note: Frequent online readings (TBA) are also required. Bring these to the relevant classes (on your laptop, or printed from the internet). Other required readings will be provided in photocopy form, and there is at least one film shown in class (on Day 2) for which students are responsible.

Recommended Reading: a good literary dictionary such as J. A. Cuddon (ed.) *Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory* (Penguin) and a recent edition of *The MLA Handbook*

Suggested 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:

4th Year Honors