

Summer 2019

AP/EN 3150 6.0A (SU) Women in Literature: A Comparative Analysis

Course Director:

Ila Goody
Office 301F Stong College
Office Hours: TBA

Delivery Format:

Seminar

Time:

Mondays and Thursdays 5:30-8:30pm

Description:

This course explores the changing social and familial roles of women as they have been reflected and popularized in fiction from the 18th century to the present. The approach is comparative and historical, drawing on documents to complement the fiction.

We will compare the limited social and sexual agency of women depicted in popular male 18th century Gothic fiction with the transgressive portrayal of more fully sexualized women in female Gothic romance and vampire narrative. We will also consider the restricted marital options for women in several later 18th and 19th century narratives, such as *Evelina*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Jane Eyre*, and *Wuthering Heights* and compare some later 20th century counter-narratives that parody and satirize the limited choices of women in these earlier "family romances". In addition, we will examine and compare the revisionist social mythologies of Angela Carter, as well as the transgressive portrayal of the female detective in Laurie R. King's contemporary novel, *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* (a satire on and social critique of Sherlock Holmes' patriarchal attitudes to women). A selection of letters, biographical and socio-historical documents will also provide comparative contexts for these fictional works.

We will consider a variety of critical approaches, such as Marxisms, gender/feminisms, reader-response theory, rhetoric, and close textual analysis. The objectives of the course will be to enable students to engage with fiction dealing with the changing social and historical roles of women, and to acquire the skills to analyze, compare, and interpret those texts.

Writers to be considered will include: Jane Austen, Charlotte Dacre, Horace Walpole, Fanny Burney, Seth Graham-Smith, Charlotte and Emily Bronte, Jean Rhys, Daphne du Maurier, Sheridan Le Fanu, Angela Cater, and Laurie R. King.

Category:

B

Historical Requirement:

Period II (1700-1900) 3 credits

Requirements:

Bibliographic Assignment	10%
1st Essay (2000 words)	20%
2nd Essay (2500-3000 words)	30%
2nd Essay Proposal (500 words)	15%
Seminar Presentation	15%
Class Participation	10%

Reading List:

Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto*
Charlotte Dacre, *Zofloya* , or *The Moor*
Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*
Seth Graham-Smith, *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*
Fanny Burney, *Evelina*
Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre*
Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*
Daphne du Maurier, *Rebecca*
Sheridan Le Fanu, "Carmilla"
Angela Carter, *The Bloody Chamber*
Laurier R. King, *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*

First three texts to be read: Walpole, Dacre, Austen

Open To:

YR 3, 4