

English and Women's Studies 408C
Literature by Women Before 1800: Geographies & Worlds, 1400-1700

SYLLABUS

Fall 2011 | MW 9:30 am to 10:45 am | 1106 Tawes Hall

Instructor: Karen Nelson, PhD

Office: 2103 Tawes | Office hours: MW 11 am to 12 pm & by appointment

Email: knelson@umd.edu | Telephone: 301 405-3185

Required Texts:

- Elizabeth Cary (author), Weller & Ferguson (editors). *The Tragedy of Mariam, Fair Queen of Jewry, with the Lady Falkland, Her Life*. University of California Press, 1994. ISBN 2883440050
- Paul Davis, Gary Harrison, et al. *Bedford Anthology of World Literature: the Early Modern World, 1450-1650* (book 3), Bedford/St. Martin's Press, ISBN 0312402627
- Betty Travitsky, ed. *The Paradise of Women*. Columbia UP, ISBN 9780231068857.
- Materials available on course ELMS site (elms.umd.edu)

SCHEDULE (subject to change)

- W Aug 31 Introduction: Mapping the Course, Discussing Texts and Translations.
Handouts: Code of Academic Integrity, Psalm Translations (also available on ELMS)
- M Sep 5 NO CLASS. Campus closed for Labor Day
- W Sep 7 Mapping the World
Read *Anthology of World Lit*: xix, 2-15, 48-66; *Paradise of Women*: 3-13
Quiz (see study questions on ELMS)
- M Sep 12 Lyric Verse
Read *Anthology* 80-119, 913-928, *Paradise* 17-34, 114-142
Quiz (see study questions on ELMS)
- W Sep 14 Lyric Verse
Reports: Mirabai, Gaspara Stampa, Mary Stuart, Isabella Whitney
- M Sep 19 Lyric Verse
Recitation due this week. Make an appointment.
- W Sep 21 Lyric Verse
Reports: Mary Sidney, Anne Bradstreet
- M Sep 26 Petitions, Debates, Letters & Diaries
Read *Paradise* 49-114 and "Queen Njinga Mbandi Ana de Sousa of Ndongo/Matamba" (on ELMS)
Quiz (see study questions on ELMS)
- W Sep 28 Petitions, Debates, Letters & Diaries
Reports: Katherine Grey, Ann Cooke Bacon, Margaret Dakins Hoby
- M Oct 3 Petitions, Debates, Letters & Diaries

PAPER 1 DUE.

- W Oct 5 Petitions, Debates, Letters & Diaries
Reports: Anne Edgcumbe Dowriche Trefusis, Aemelia Bassano Lanyer, Jane Anger
- M Oct 10 Drama: *Tragedy of Mariam*
Read *The Tragedy of Mariam, the Fair Queen of Jewry* 63-176
Quiz (see study questions on ELMS)
- W Oct. 12 Drama: *Tragedy of Mariam*
Performance Group One
- M Oct 17 Drama: *Tragedy of Mariam*
Performance Group Two
Make an appointment this week to discuss your planned paper revisions.
- W Oct 19 Drama: *Tragedy of Mariam*
Reports: Elizabeth Tanfield Cary, English public (outdoor) drama, English private (indoor) drama, English closet drama
- M Oct 24 Loa for *The Divine Narcissus*
Read *Anthology* 694-707, 803-819
Quiz (see study questions on ELMS)
Reports: Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Spanish Golden Age drama
- W Oct 26 Drama: Loa for *The Divine Narcissus*
Performance Group Three
REVISION PAPER 1 DUE
- M Oct 31 Epic Excerpts: *Princely Deeds*
Read Tyler (trans.), *Princely Deeds*, xxx; Uman & Bistue essay, 298-323, all available on ELMS
Quiz (see study questions on ELMS)
- W Nov 2 Epic Excerpts: *Princely Deeds*
Reports: Margaret Tyler, Diego Ortúñez de Calahorra, Atukuri Malla
- M Nov 7 Epic Excerpts: *Urania*
Excerpts available on ELMS
Quiz (see study questions on ELMS)
- W Nov 9 Epic Excerpts: *Urania*
Written reports due to ELMS; submit by midnight.
- M Nov 14 Epic Excerpts: *Urania*
- W Nov 16 Epic Excerpts: *Ramayana*, Examples from the Art of China & India
Excerpts available on ELMS
- M Nov 21 Story Collections: Christine de Pisan, *Treasury of the City of Ladies*

- Read selections on ELMS
- W Nov 23 NO CLASS
- M Nov 28 Story Collections: Marguerite de Navarre, *Heptameron* (selections)
Read *Anthology* 180-208
Quiz (see study questions on ELMS)
- W Nov 30 Story Collections: *Tale of Genji*
Read selections on ELMS
Submit revised reports to editors of Wikipedia
- F Dec 2 Celebration of Undergraduate Research and Writing,
2-4 pm, Tawes Second Floor**
- M Dec 5 Biography and Autobiography
Read *Paradise* 167-186, *The Lady Falkland Her Life*, 183-203
Quiz (see study questions on ELMS)
- W Dec 7 Biography and Autobiography
ANALYSIS PAPER DUE
- M Dec 12 CONCLUSIONS & REVIEW

FINAL EXAM: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2011, 8 am to 10 am, Tawes 1106

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Literature by Women Before 1800: Geographies & Worlds, 1400-1700

COURSE POLICIES

Fall 2011 | MW 9:30 am to 10:45 am | 1106 Tawes Hall

Instructor: Karen Nelson, PhD

Office: 2103 Tawes | Office hours: MW 11 am to 12 pm & by appointment

Email: knelson@umd.edu | Telephone: 301 405-3185

Prerequisites: Two literature courses.

Objectives:

In this course we will consider relationships between women's writing 1400-1700 and shifts in existing and emergent conventions of describing the world textually and graphically. We will read selections from a variety of genres (poetry, drama, epic, autobiography, and letters) by English authors and their counterparts in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas. We will also consider visual arts and historical contexts.

Methods:

This course will be primarily a discussion class with students participating almost every class period. Discussion will be encouraged in the group as a whole by in-class writing and by small group discussion. In addition, students will give reports on the biographies of women writers, and will lead panel discussions of the critical readings included in the course or participate in performance panels for the plays. Students will report on authors of their choice; those reports will serve as the basis for contributions to Wikipedia resources.

Required Texts:

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- Materials available on course ELMS site (elms.umd.edu)

Requirements and Grades:

Grades will be based on participation (discussion, report, recitation, performance, 20% in sum), regular reading quizzes (20% in sum), three papers (one 4-5 pp. paper and a required revision, 10% each, and one 7-10 pp. analysis, 20%), and a final examination (20%). Additional information about these assignments is included in this document and is available on ELMS.

Note that **attendance** will radically affect the class participation grade and may also affect quiz grades. Those with more than three unexcused absences may not earn an A in participation, and those who miss reading quizzes due to unexcused absences may not make them up. Course preparation outside of class should average two to three hours of study for every hour in class. Regular attendance and participation in this class is the best way to grasp the readings under consideration in this course.

For every **medically necessary absence** from class, a reasonable effort should be made to notify the instructor in advance of the class. When returning to class, students must bring a note identifying the date of and reason for the absence, and acknowledging that the information in the note is accurate. If a student is absent more than once, the student must provide documentation signed by a health care professional. If a student is absent on days when tests or quizzes are scheduled or papers are due, the student must notify the instructor in advance (either by sending email to knelson@umd.edu or by leaving a voice mail message at 301-405-3185), and upon returning to class, bring documentation of the illness, signed by a health care professional.

Students whose **religious observances** conflict with deadlines in this class must notify me of projected absences within the first two weeks of the semester so that we may make arrangements together for accommodations.

Students with **disabilities** should work with the campus's Disability Support Services office (301-314-7682 or dissup@umd.edu) to have their disabilities documented. Please provide letters of accommodation prior to the end of the add/drop period or, if documentation is in process, please alert me so that we can determine together the best way to support specialized learning styles.

Academic Integrity:

As noted on the Honor Council's website,

the student-administered University Honor Code and Honor Pledge (shc.umd.edu/code.html) prohibits students from cheating on exams, plagiarizing papers, submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without authorization, buying papers, submitting fraudulent documents and forging signatures. On every examination, paper or other academic exercise not specifically exempted by the instructor, students must write by hand and sign the following pledge, *"I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this examination or assignment."* Compliance with the code is administered by the Student Honor Council, which strives to promote a community of trust on the College Park campus.

This course is designed to help ensure compliance. Nonetheless, each individual is responsible for his or her own ethical behavior. For additional information, please see:

<http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/docs/III-100A.pdf>

Additional information and Policies:

Readings: Complete assigned readings **before** the class day for which they are listed.

Papers: You will write three papers, although the second paper is a required revision of the first. These papers should be typed, double-spaced, with 1" margins, in a "standard" 12-point font (Times, Cambria, or the like). Papers should have a separate title page, and the pages should be numbered. Please staple pages together, and please **do not** put your name on pages other than the title page. Please proofread carefully; spelling and mechanics count toward your overall grade. See the assignment sheets on ELMS for additional details and guidelines.

Quizzes: At the beginning of the first class for many of the reading assignments, I will give the class a quiz. See your syllabus for scheduled quiz dates. Quizzes will cover aspects of plot, important quotations, and central issues in the reading. You may use your notes but not your text for these quizzes. If you keep notes in an on-line or computerized format, you will want to print them and place them into a reading notebook of some sort; access to computers will not be allowed during quizzes. See ELMS for suggestions for a reading notebook that will help you prepare for quizzes and for study questions that will help guide your reading and our discussions.

Recitation: During the week of September 19, you are required to meet with me for a recitation appointment. During your appointment, you will recite a portion of a text of your choosing. I must approve your choice PRIOR to your appointment. It must be at least 14 lines long. You can choose something we are covering in class, something from any of the anthologies that we won't have time to discuss in class, or something from the period writ large. You will need to be able to discuss the text you've chosen as well as recite it, and you should be able to explain why you've chosen the text you're working with. You may also use this appointment time to discuss your ideas for your first paper assignment, or ask questions about the course.

Reports: In the first weeks of class, you will select a topic for a report. These reports have two parts: a brief oral presentation, made to the class, not to exceed 5 minutes, outlining the most relevant information, on the day listed on the syllabus; and a written component, including bibliography of two or more sources, submitted first to the ELMS site and, revised, submitted to the editors of Wikipedia for inclusion in Wikipedia.

Participation: Much of our class time will be devoted to discussion, which means that student participation is crucial. Your participation grade will be determined based on the quality of your contributions to class discussion and your work on any in-class or group projects. In general, but this depends a bit upon the group, average participation is one useful or thoughtful question or comment per class period. If you are not comfortable addressing the class, you might make a list of two or three questions that you have about the reading and start with one of those.

Deadlines: Papers are due **at the beginning of class** on the due date. Late papers (i.e. any papers submitted after the class begins) will be marked down one letter grade, and the grade will continue to fall one letter for every day it is late. If you are unavoidably absent, make arrangements to submit your paper in advance of the deadline.

Make-up Work: Quizzes and exams can only be made up if I have received notification in advance of your absence, at which point we will arrange together the possibility of a make-up session. If you do not show up for a quiz or an exam and have not made arrangements in advance, I will assume you will not be completing that assignment.

Draft dated 8/30/2011

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