

Course Syllabus
HUSL 6372: English Women Writers to 1800
Spring 2010
JO 4.708, Thursday 1-3:45
Professor Jessica C. Murphy

Professor Contact Information

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1-2, Wednesday 2-3

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

Graduate Standing, Arts & Humanities, or by permission of instructor

Course Description

Early modern women writers engaged in a dangerous craft—dangerous because the very act of writing for an audience (however small) could endanger one's reputation. Yet, as the work of twentieth century feminist critics has shown, there were a good number of women writing in English before 1800 (published and unpublished alike). In this class we will read a sampling of these women writers with special attention to how they responded to, shaped, and thought about the political, historical, and social moment in which they lived. We will be interested in not only uncovering these writers' milieus, but also in engaging with the interdisciplinary study of early English women writers since the late twentieth century.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should demonstrate:

- a detailed knowledge of the texts we read;
 - an understanding of the relationship between those texts and the social history of early modern women's writing; and
 - a familiarity with some of the major scholarly arguments about the texts.
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Required Textbooks and Materials

- *The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women: The Traditions in English* Volume 1. 3rd Edition. Edited by Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar, 2007. ISBN: 978-0-393-93013-9 (*LW* in schedule)
- *Feminist Literary Theory and Criticism: A Norton Reader* Edited by Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar, 2007. ISBN: 978-0-393-92790-0 (*FLTC* in schedule)
- Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*, Edited by Catherine Gallagher, Bedford Cultural Edition, 2000. ISBN: 978-0-312-10813-7
- Electronic Reserves Readings (please see professor for password):
<http://utdallas.docutek.com/eres/coursepage.aspx?cid=739> (ERes in schedule)
- UTD email account that you check frequently (see below for information on email)

Suggested Course Materials

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (7th edition), ISBN: 9781603290241

Academic Calendar

| Date | Assignment |
|------|---|
| 1/14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction |
| 1/21 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Short Writing 1• Cixous, "The Laugh of the Medusa," <i>FLTC</i> pp. 414-429• Kelly-Gadol, "The Social Relation of the Sexes," <i>FLTC</i> pp. 430-436• Elizabeth I's early letters, ERes• Behn, "Preface," <i>FLTC</i> pp. 24-27• De Pizan, Selections, <i>FLTC</i> pp. 13-19 |
| 1/28 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Short Writing 2• Zimmerman, "What has Never Been," <i>FLTC</i> pp. 551-565• Philips, Selections, <i>LW</i> pp. 169-174<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ "Content," "Friendship," "Retir'd friendship," ERes• Andreadis, "Reconfiguring," ERes |
| 2/4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Short Writing 3• Speght, "Muzzle for Melastomus," <i>LW</i> pp. 109-122• Sowernam, "Esther hath Hang'd Haman," ERes• Swetnam, "The arraignment," ERes• Schnell, "Muzzling," ERes |
| 2/11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Julian of Norwich, Selections, <i>LW</i> pp. 37-45• Margery Kempe, Selections, <i>LW</i> pp. 45-60• Gertz-Robinson, "Stepping," ERes |
| 2/18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Short Writing 4• Anne Askew, "The Ballad," <i>LW</i> pp. 62-65• Lanyer, <i>Rex Judaeorum</i>, ERes<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ <i>LW</i> p. 82 headnote |

| Date | Assignment |
|------|---|
| 2/25 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary Sidney Herbert, Selections, <i>LW</i> pp. 77-82 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Triumph,” ERes Hannay, “Doo what men,” ERes Paper 1 |
| 3/4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short Writing 5 Elizabeth Cary, <i>Tragedy</i>, ERes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>LW</i> p. 96 headnote Ferguson, “Spectre,” ERes |
| 3/11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short Writing 6 Mary Wroth, Selections, <i>LW</i> pp. 101-109 Cavendish, Selections, <i>LW</i> pp. 160-164; <i>FLTC</i> pp. 21-24 Gilbert and Gubar, “Infection,” <i>FLTC</i> pp. 448-460 |
| 3/18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring Break |
| 3/25 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short Writing 7 Bradstreet, “Author to her Book,” <i>LW</i> p. 152 Isabella Whitney, “Will and Testament,” <i>LW</i> pp. 68-77 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Copy of a Letter,” ERes Wall, “Legacy,” ERes |
| 4/1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short Writing 8 Phyllis Wheatley, Selections, <i>LW</i> pp. 358-364 Sarah Wentworth Morton, Selections, <i>LW</i> pp. 391-396 Helen Maria Williams, “One the Bill,” <i>LW</i> pp. 398-400 Spivak, Selections, <i>FLTC</i> pp. 798-809 |
| 4/8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop |
| 4/15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short Writing 9 <i>Oroonoko</i>, pp. 1-100 Brown, “Romance of Empire,” <i>FLTC</i>, pp. 861-871 Mandeville, “Dialogue,” <i>Oroonoko</i> pp.166-168 West Africa, <i>Oroonoko</i>, pp. 208-217 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selection, pp. 234-259 Caribbean, <i>Oroonoko</i>, pp. 326-334 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selections pp. 334-365 Britain, <i>Oroonoko</i>, pp. 393-401 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selection, pp. 414-423 |
| 4/22 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short Writing 10 Wollstonecraft, Selections, <i>LW</i> pp. 370-391 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selections (except what is in <i>LW</i>) <i>FLTC</i> pp. 41-48 Edgeworth, Selections, <i>FLTC</i> pp. 49-54 Anger, Selection, <i>FLTC</i> pp. 19-21 Chudleigh, Selection, <i>LW</i> pp. 231-233 Fetterley, “Resisting,” <i>FLTC</i> pp. 443-448 |
| 4/29 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mini-Conference |
| 5/7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Paper Due |

Assignments & Grading Policy

Below are the required assignments for this course. I will provide more detailed information as the due dates approach. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about assignments.

Completion of all of the assignments in this course is a condition for earning a passing grade. The instructor reserves the right to amend any policies or assignments at her discretion.

Participation 20%

Participation includes attending class, leading class discussion once throughout the semester, participating in discussions and in-class activities, completing assignments (on time—no late work will be accepted), and in-class writing assignments.

Book Review 10%

You will write a 3-5 page review of one book relevant to the topic of the class or your research topic. Reviews relevant to the study of early modern women may have the opportunity to be published through *Everything Early Modern Women* (<http://jcmurphy.wordpress.com/>). Multiple due dates.

Short Writing Assignments 10%

Throughout the semester, you are responsible for ten 1-page short writings. I will sometimes offer you possible topics for the writings, but their main purpose is to get you to engage with the class reading and prepare you to write your final paper. Multiple due dates.

Paper 1 20%

One 3-5 page paper that is a close reading of one of the texts we read in the course. We will discuss topics at the beginning of week two. *Due*: February 25th.

Paper 2 30%

One research-based 12-15 page paper. You may expand on the close reading paper for this assignment by adding in another text and criticism and rewriting accordingly or you may choose to begin with another text. I encourage you to meet with me about this assignment. *Due*: May 7th.

Mini-Conference Presentation 10%

Our last meeting will be an opportunity for you to discuss your ideas for the final paper in a 5-7 minute presentation. The class will be set up like a mini-conference with panels. More information will be available closer to the end of the semester.

Grades

This class will use “plus/minus” grades.

Course & Instructor Policies

In this class, students will examine a selection of early modern women’s works through reading assignments, writing assignments, and class discussion with attention to the ways that these works respond to and shape early modern culture. To that end, the policies below are meant to create the best possible learning environment for the students. Please contact the instructor if you

have any questions about these policies. I will consider your continued enrollment in this class as evidence that you accept these policies.

Attendance

Because this class is a seminar, participation in discussions is essential to your learning. You may miss one class without penalty, but you will lose credit for each class above one that you miss.

Community

It is expected that we will respect one another and one another's ideas. When we are in class, we are present: no cell phones, pagers, or other forms of electronic communication. If your phone rings, I or a classmate will answer it (if my phone rings, you may answer it).

Disability Services

If you are a student with a disability and would like to see me to discuss special academic accommodations, please contact me after class or during my office hours. For more information about Disability Services, visit their website: <http://www.utdallas.edu/disability/> or call 972-883-2098. (see below for more detailed information)

Avoid Plagiarizing by Accident!

Using another's ideas or language without acknowledging the source or passing off another's ideas or language as your own is plagiarism and will not be tolerated. Students often plagiarize without intending to because they are unsure about how to cite sources. Plagiarism by accident is still plagiarism (and will be punished as such), so please feel free to come see me if you are unsure about how to cite sources. (see below for policy on Academic Integrity)

Technical Support

If you experience any problems with your UTD account you may send an email to: assist@utdallas.edu or call the UTD Computer Helpdesk at 972-883-2911.

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD printed publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Series 50000, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391) and online at <http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html>

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic Dishonesty, any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials, including music and software. Copying, displaying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted works may infringe the copyright owner's rights and such infringement is subject to appropriate disciplinary action as well as criminal penalties provided by federal law. Usage of such material is only appropriate when that usage constitutes "fair use" under the Copyright Act. As a UT Dallas student, you are required to follow the institution's copyright policy (Policy Memorandum 84-I.3-46). For more information about the fair use exemption, see <http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/copypol2.htm>

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork

to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:

The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22

PO Box 830688

Richardson, Texas 75083-0688

(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

disabilityservice@utdallas.edu

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with the Coordinator of Disability Services. The Coordinator is available to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with Disability Services to notify them of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. Disability Services can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.