Eng 3903-001: Women, Literature, and Language

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English 3903: Women, Literature, and Language
Renaissance Women Writers in Context: Poetry, Romance, and Drama

Fall 2000

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Texts
Packet, at Copy X on Lincoln.

Course Objectives
The general objective is to introduce students to the salon and academic culture of Renaissance Europe, emphasizing that the salons and academies were key sites for the production of much literature of the period. Specifically, we will look at the lives and texts of several women writers who were members of salons and academies, and we will examine their writing in tandem with texts by their male contemporaries. The major theme that we will explore is the discontinuity of received history regarding Renaissance women, i.e., the notions that women were to be silent, chaste, and obedient, and were to be objects of spiritual and artistic inspiration for men vs. the facts that women were actively and vocally participating in salon and academic society, writing and publishing their work, and searching for ways to represent women’s experiences in love in their writing. We will also look at the ways in which women writers engage in the *Querelle des femmes* and voice their disenchantment with Petrarchan and neoplatonic literary conceits.

Policies
--The English Department statement on plagiarism stipulates that any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism--"The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author and representation of them as one’s original work" (*Random House Dictionary of the English Language*)--has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of NC for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

--Hand papers in on time. If you’re having problems, let me know. Papers a week or more late will not be accepted at all. Also plan to show up for exams. Again, if you
have problems, let me know. You will have no more than one week to make up an exam, and the make-up exam will be different from the one given during class.

--If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

--Be prepared for class. You’ll get a lot more out of class discussions if you are participating in them, and I’ll notice if you do not seem prepared to participate.

Requirements
--Two exams. .................................. 25% each of final grade
--One 7-10 page paper ......................... 25% of final grade
--One presentation ........................... 10% of final grade
--Response writings ......................... 15% of final grade

The paper topic will be chosen from subjects that arise in class, regarding the assigned texts. You should use at least three outside sources to support your arguments, and you will use MLA Parenthetical Style, with a Works Cited page, for documentation.

The presentation will be a short (about 5-7 minutes) introduction to a writer or some aspect of background material the texts and topics covered.

The response writings will be concerned with specific reading assignments and are meant to generate class discussion. I will give you a series of questions to answer or a short topic to address.

Tentative Schedule

T. Aug. 22—Introduction to the course.
Th. Aug. 24—Introduction to the Renaissance period.

T. Aug. 29—Italian Renaissance Writers: Academies and Ridotti
Th. Aug. 31—Petrarch: exercise—In 2 or 3 paragraphs, describe Laura

T. Sept. 5—Petrarch
Th. Sept. 7—Michelangelo and Vittoria Colonna

T. Sept. 12—Michelangelo and Vittoria Colonna, Veronica Gambera
Th. Sept. 14—Tullia d’Aragona and Veronica Franco

T. Sept. 19—Tullia d’Aragona, Veronica Franco, Tasso, Guarini, Chiabrera, etc.
Th. Sept. 21—More on the above. Add Gaspara Stampa and Isabella Andreini

T. Sept. 26—Stampa and Andreini; Andreini and Tasso
Th. Sept. 28—French Renaissance Writers: Academies and Salons

T. Oct. 3—Marguerite de Navarre
Th. Oct. 5—Ronsard, Du Bellay, and the Pléiade
T. Oct. 10—Review for Exam
Th. Oct. 12—Midterm Exam

T. Oct. 17—Labé, Du Guillet

T. Oct. 24—English Renaissance Writers: Literary Circles and European Imitation
Th. Oct. 26—Elizabeth I and Sir Thomas Wyatt

T. Oct. 31—Countess of Pembroke, Samuel Daniel
Th. Nov. 2—Elizabeth Cary, Shakespeare

T. Nov. 7—Philip Sidney and Lady Mary Wroth
Th. Nov. 9—Lady Mary Wroth and William Herbert

T. Nov. 14—Wroth and Shakespeare
Th. Nov. 16—Wroth and Shakespeare

T. Nov. 21 & Th. Nov. 23—Thanksgiving break.

T. Nov. 28—Cross-cultural Currents: Review and comparison, Ren. Women Writers
Th. Nov. 30—Conferences

T. Dec. 5—Conferences
Th. Dec. 7—Papers are due.

Final Exam