

## English 5306-W01 Early Modern Women's Writing

Spring 2015

Dr. Sarah Roche

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### Course Description

In this online seminar, students will explore the preprofessional literary world of the 1500s to the 1700s to find a wide range of female writers using surprisingly different genres. To provide context, students will read materials on the social, historical, and literary contexts of the literature. The course grade will be earned by completing weekly discussions, a researched paper, and two exams.

### Course Text

*Early Modern Women's Writing: An Anthology 1560-1700* edited by Paul Salzman. Oxford UP, ISBN 978-0-19-954967-2

### Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate familiarity with early modern women's writing in a range of genres
- Analyze the various social, historical, and literary contexts in which these texts were written
- Develop and hone critical writing skills, research methods, and the skills of electronic communication

### Weekly Schedule

Mondays: Major assignments are usually due on Mondays

Tuesdays:

Wednesdays: Discussions are due on Wednesdays

Thursdays: Responses to two other students are due Thursdays

Fridays:

### How You Earn Your Grade

Assignment	Due Date	Percent of Course Grade
Discussions	weekly	200
Proposal	2/19	C/I
Midterm	3/2	200
Annotated Bibliography	3/9	100
Abstract	3/23	100
Project/Paper	4/20	200
Final Exam	5/11	200

### Course Policies

**DISTANCE EDUCATION STATEMENT:** Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

### Scholastic Honesty

All work submitted must be your own and must be written exclusively for this class; the use of sources must be appropriately, correctly, and consistently documented. Quotations, paraphrases, or summaries that are not documented and the use of papers written by others constitute plagiarism. According to the *Rio Grande College Student Handbook*, "The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials" (p. 39). In English 5306, the penalty for plagiarism is a grade of F for the

course.

### **Late Papers/Assignments**

For this class to work effectively as a student-centered and lively learning community, everyone must turn in papers on time. If you fail to turn in any assignments, even one, you may earn an F for the course. Late papers may be submitted, but the grade will be reduced by 10 percent.

### **Grade Changes**

Once the semester is over and I have entered grades into the system, I will not consider grade changes unless I miscalculated. Please do not ask for extra credit or chances to revise after the fifth week of class because I will refuse such appeals. You should know that you have the right to appeal your grade.

### **Schedule** (subject to change)

Note: readings in Paul Salzman's *Early Modern Women's Writing: An Anthology 1560-1700* will be referred to with Salzman. Readings located in Blackboard will be marked with BB and will be located in the appropriate weekly folder in Blackboard.

#### **Week 1: 1/20 – 1/23**

Reading: Salzman: Introduction; also familiarize yourself with Salzman's Explanatory Notes and Textual Notes

BB: Anita Pacheco, Introduction

#### **Week 2: 1/26 – 1/30** introduction to poems

Reading: Salzman: Mary Wroth, sonnets from 'Pamphilia to Amphilanthus,' Isabella Whitney 'I.W. To Her Unconstant Lover,' Katherine Philips 'Epitaph . . .,' 'On the Death of my First and Dearest Child,' 'To Mrs Awbrey at Parting,' Margaret Cavendish 'A world Made by Atoms,' 'Of the Ant,' 'The Hunting of the Hare'

BB: Review of poetry

#### **Week 3: 2/2 – 2/6** introduction to prose fiction

Reading: Salzman: Margaret Cavendish 'The Matrimonial Agreement,'

BB: Review of prose

#### **Week 4: 2/9 – 2/13** introduction to non-fiction—diaries, letters, essays

Reading: Salzman: Anne Clifford "From her Diary," Margaret Cavendish 'Of a Civil War,' Dorothy Osborne "Letters"

#### **Week 5: 2/16 – 2/20 PROPOSAL DUE ON THURSDAY 2/19**

Reading: Salzman: Eleanor Davies, Priscilla Cotton and Mary Cole, Hester Biddle

BB: Diane Willen's "Religion and the Construction of the Feminine," Mary Sidney, Psalms

#### **Week 6: 2/23 – 2/27**

Reading: Salzman: Margaret Cavendish's Preface to *Observations Upon Experimental Philosophy*, Aemilia Lanier *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum*

BB: Margaret Ezell's "Women and Writing,"

#### **Week 7: 3/2 – 3/6 MIDTERM EXAM MONDAY 3/2**

Reading for after Monday's Midterm:

Salzman: Isabella Whitney 'The Admonition,' and 'Will and Testament'

BB: Tim Stretton "Women, Property and Law," Readings from Elaine Hobby *Virtue of Necessity*, Jane Sharp, Hannah Wolley, Mary Trye

#### **Week 8: 3/9 – 3/13 ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY MONDAY 3/9** Plays

Reading: Salzman: Mary Wroth *Love's Victory*

#### **Spring Break: 3/16 – 3/20**

#### **Week 9: 3/23 – 3/27 ABSTRACT DUE MONDAY 3/23** fiction

Reading: Salzman: Aphra Behn *The Wandering Beauty. A Novel*

**Week 10: 3/30 – 4/3** plays

Reading: Salzman: Margaret Cavendish *Bell in Campo*

**Week 11: 4/6 – 4/10**

Reading: Salzman: Margaret Cavendish *Bell in Campo*

**Week 12: 4/13 – 4/17**

Reading: Salzman: Aphra Behn *The City-Heiress: Or, Sir Timothy Treat-All*

**Week 13: 4/20 – 4/24 PAPER/PROJECT DUE 4/20**

Reading: Salzman: Aphra Behn *The City-Heiress: Or, Sir Timothy Treat-All*

**Week 14: 4/27 – 5/1**

Reading: Salzman: Aphra Behn *The City-Heiress: Or, Sir Timothy Treat-All*

**Week 15: 5/4 – 5/8**

Reading: Salzman: Katherine Philips poems (pages 271-281), Aphra Behn poems (pages 377-388)

**Final Exam: Monday, May 11, 2015**