

IED 6/720 British Women Poets Reading List / Course Outline

Assoc.Prof.Dr.Hande Seber
2010-2011 Spring
Wednesdays, 13:00 - 16:45

Aim and Contents:

The aim of the course is to study the representative British women poets and their works, their contribution to British literature within the context of social and cultural background.

The course will begin with a discussion of the place of women poets and their works in the canon. Related articles about women's place in life and art, and the place of the women poets in a male poetic tradition will be studied. After the study of the theoretical background, the sample works of the women poets from Classical period and anonymous lyrics/works of the Medieval period written by women will be read and discussed in class along with the condition of women in those times and how they were represented in the predominant literary tradition.

Then representative English/British women poets of the Elizabethan period, 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th centuries and their works will be read and discussed. Each century will be individually studied with particular emphasis on the role of women in life, society and literature. The changing role of women in the society through centuries, and the place of women poets in the male poetic tradition, their choice of subject matter will also be discussed through a comparative study of their works.

Course Outline:

Some preliminary remarks on the aim, contents and requirements of the course. Then an introductory lecture covering the following topics will be given by the instructor:

- Women poets throughout ages and their place in the canon
- Male and female voices in literature, and in the poetic tradition.
- The muse for the male and female poets
- A comparative study of a selection of poems

- Myths about poetic creativity, and of poets
- Women and women's place in life/society/art in the Classical age.
- A discussion of Sappho's poetry

The Middle Ages:

- Women's education and culture in the Old English period and the Middle Ages.
- Women's place in the society, and her representation in the predominant literary tradition.
- Women's writing in the Middle Ages
- Study of some sample texts:

Liandan (Ireland, 7th C.) *Liandan Laments Cuirithir*

Anonymous (Ireland 9th C.) from *The Hag of Beare*

Gormley (Ireland, 10th C.) from *Gormley's Laments*: "T have loved thirty by three..."

Anonymous (Wales, 9th C.) *Eagle of Pengwern*

Anonymous (England 11th C) *Edvacer, Wife's Lament*

Marie de France *Guigemar, Lanval and Yonec*

Julien of Norwich From the Short (Carthusian) Version of *A Revelation of Love*

Margery Kempe, from the *Book of Margery Kempe*

Christine de Pisan from *The City of Ladies*

The Renaissance

- Women's education and culture in the Renaissance
- Women's place in the society, and her representation in the predominant literary tradition.
- Women's writing in the Renaissance

Queen Elizabeth I

"Written with a Diamond on her Window of Woodstock"

"Written on a Wall at Woodstock"

"Written in her French Psalter"

“In Doubt of Future Foes”
“On Monsieur’s Departure”
“Now Leave and Let Me Rest”
“When I Was Fair and Young”

Lady Mary (Sidney) Herbert, Countess of Pembroke

“To Queen Elizabeth”
“To the Angel Spirit of the Most Excellent Sir Philip Sidney”
“A Dialogue Between Two Shepherds, Thenot and Piers, in Praise of Astraea”
From her *Psalm* translations: 57, 58, 92, 139

Lady Mary Wroth

Sonnets from *Pamphilia to Amphilanthus*

* Female and Male Voice; a comparative study of Lady Mary Sidney Herbert, Countess of Pembroke’s “The Doleful Lay of Clorinda” and Henry Vaughan’s “Silence, and Stealth of Days”

17th Century

- Women’s education and culture in the 17th Century
- Women’s place in the society, and her representation in the predominant literary tradition.
- Women’s writing and the women poets of the 17th Century

Margaret Cavendish, Duchess of Newcastle

Atomic Poems
“An Excuse for so much writ upon my Verses”
“A Poet I am neither born, nor bred”
“Nature’s Cook”
“Soule, and Body”
“A Woman drest by Age”
“Of the Animal Spirits”
“A Dialogue betwixt the Body and the Mind”
The Description of a New World, Called The Blazing World

Anne Finch, Countess of Winchilsea

“The Introduction”
“Adam Pos’d.”
“On Myself.”
“The Appology.”
“The Bird and the Arras.”
“To Mr. F[inch] Now Earl of W[inchilsea]”
“From the Muses at Parnassus.”
“The Circuit of Apollo”
“Upon Ardelia’s Return Home.”
“To the Nightingale”
“The Spleen”
“A Nocturnal Reverie”

18th and 19th Centuries

- Women’s education and culture in the 18th and the early 19th centuries.
- Women’s place in the society, and her representation in the dominating literary tradition.
- Women’s writing and women poets of the 18th and the early 19th centuries.

Letitia Elizabeth Landon

From “The Improvisatrice”
“Love’s Last Lesson”
“Felicia Hemans”
“The Princess Victoria”
“The Poet’s Lot”
“Death in the Flower”
“Experience too Late”
“The Farewell”

Felicia Dorothea Hemans

“The Records of Women”
“Properzia Rossi”
“Indian Woman’s Death Song”
“The Grave of a Poetess”
“Corinne at the Capitol”
“To the Poet Wordsworth”

- Women's education and culture in the Victorian Period
- Women's place in the society, and her representation in the predominant literary tradition.
- Women's writing and the women poets of the Victorian Period, poetic theory of the age.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Sonnets from the Portuguese

Aurora Leigh (with particular emphasis on Books 1 and 5)

"The Deserted Garden"

"The Lost Bower"

"The Dead Pan"

"A Musical Instrument"

"Lord Walter's Wife"

Christina Rossetti

Goblin Market

20th Century

Rich, Adrienne. "Women's Poetry" An Introduction to Twentieth -Century Poetry in English. Ed. R.P.Draper. New York: St Martin's Press,1999.

Related articles from Acheson, James and Romana Huk eds. Contemporary British Poetry: Essays in Theory and Practice. New York: State Univ.of New York Press, 1996.

Edith Sitwell

"Waltz"

"From Façade "Trio for Two Cats and a Trombone," "Sir Beelzebub"

"Still Falls the Rain"

"The Poet Laments the Coming of Old Age"

Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill

"As For the Quince"

"The Language Issue"

"Miracle Grass"

Caroll Ann Duffy

"Standing Female Nude"

"Psychopath"

"Poet of Our Times"

"Anne Hathaway"

"Warming her Pearls"

Jackie Kay

From "Adoption Papers"

"In My Country"

"In the Red Graveyard"

"So you think I am a mule"

"Self-centre"

"The visit"

Lavinia Greenlaw

"Galileo's Wife"

"The man Whose Smile Made Medical History"

"The Innocence of Radium"

"From Scattered Blue"

"Hurting Small Animals"

Grace Nichols

"Those Women"

"Tropical Death"

"Abra Cadabra"

"My Northern Sister"

"The Fat Black Woman Remembers"

Further Reading:

- Acheson, James and Romana Huk. *Contemporary British Poetry*. New York: State UP, 1996.
- Adcock, Fleur. *The Faber Book of Twentieth Century Women's Poetry*. London: Faber, 1987.
- Armstrong, Isobel. *Victorian Poetry: Poetry, Poetics and Politics*. London: Routledge, 1993.
- Barratt, Alexandra, ed. *Women's Writing in Middle Ages*. London: Longman, 1992.
- Bristow, Joseph. ed. *Victorian Women Poets*. Houndsmill: Macmillan, 1995.
- Cooper, Helen M. *Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Woman and Artist*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina P, 1988
- Cosman, Carol, et al., eds. *The Penguin Book of Women Poets*. London: Allen Lane, 1978.
- Cosslett, Tess ed. and int. *Victorian Women Poets*. London: Longman, 1996.
- Diehl, Joanne Feit. " 'Come Slowly-Eden' : An Exploration of Women Poets and Their Muse." *Signs* 3 (1978): :572-587.
- Draper, R.P. *An Introduction to Twentieth-Century Poetry in English*. New York: St Martins, 1999.
- Edmond, Rod. *Affairs of the Hearth: Victorian Poetry and Domestic Narrative*. London: Routledge, 1988.
- Erol, Burçin. "Christine de Pisan: Ortaçağ'da Bir Kadın Hakları Savunucusu" *Kuram* 10 (1996): 79-84.
- Gilbert, Sandra M and Susan Gubar ed. and int. *Shakespeare's Sisters: Feminist Essays on Women Poets*. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1979.
- Greer, Germaine. *Slip-Shod Sibyls: Recognition, Rejection and the Women Poet*. London: Viking, 1995.
- Homans, Margaret. *Women Writers and Poetic Identity*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton UP, 1980.
- Hulse, Michael, et al., eds. *The New Poetry*. Newcastle: Bloodaxe, 1993.
- Leighton, Angela. *Victorian Women Poets: Writing Against the Heart*. New York: Harvester, 1992
- . "Victorian Women's Poetry: Text and Context." *Proceedings of XVth All Turkey English Literature Conference* (6-8 April 1994). Ankara: Hacettepe Univ., 1995: 13-24.
- . Ed. *Victorian Women Poets: A Critical Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1996.
- Lipking, Lawrence. "Aristotle's Sister: A Poetics of Abandonment" *Critical Inquiry* 10 (1986): 61-81.
- Mermin, Dorothy. "The Damsel, the Knight, and the Victorian Woman Poet." *Critical Inquiry* 13 (1986): 64-80.
- Ostriker, Alicia. "The Thieves of language: Women Poets and Revisionist Mythmaking" *Signs* 8 (1982): 68-90.
- Pritchard, R.E. ed. *Poetry by English Women: Elizabethan to Victorian*. Manchester: Fyfield, 1990.
- Reis, Huriye. "The 'Weaker Sex' as Author: Medieval Women's Writing" *Journal of English Literature and British Culture* 6 (1997):1-14.
- . "'Presenting it, as it is': Poetics of Realism and Politics of Representation In Carol Ann Duffy's Poetry." *HU. Journal of Faculty of Letters*. 21. 2 (2004): 133-142.
- Rumens, Carol, ed. *New Women Poets*. Newcastle: Bloodaxe, 1990.
- Sadun, Hande. "The Sonnet Tradition Reversed: Elizabeth Barrett Browning's Sonnets from the Portuguese" *Journal of English Literature and British Culture* 7 (1998):117-128.
- . "Women and the Redemptive Power of Experience in Christina Rossetti's *Goblin Market*" *Journal of British Literature and Culture* 10 (2003):105-119.
- . "Where Science Meets With Fancy: The Atomic Poems of Margaret Cavendish, Duchess of Newcastle." *Hacettepe University, Journal of Faculty of Letters*. 22. 2 (2005): 187-202.
- Shaw, Marion, ed. *An Introduction to Women's Writing: From the Middle Ages to the Present Day*. London: Prentice Hall, 1998.
- Wu, Duncan, ed. *Romantic Women Poets : An Anthology*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1997.
- Wynne-Davies, Martin, ed. *Women Poets of the Renaissance*. New York: Routledge, 1999.
- Zonana, Joyce. "The Embodied Muse: Elizabeth Barrett Browning's *Aurora Leigh* and Feminist Poetics." Angela Leighton ed. *Victorian Women Poets: A Critical Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1995. 53-74.

ED 6/720 British Women Poets. 2015-16 Spring Tentative Course Outline Assoc.Prof.Dr. Hande Seber. Aim and Contents: The aim of the course is to study the representative British women poets and their works, their contribution to British literature within the context of social and cultural background. Then representative English/British women poets of the Elizabethan period, 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th. centuries and their works will be read and discussed. Each century will be individually studied with particular emphasis on the role of women in life, society and literature. The changing role of women in the society through centuries, and the place of women poets in the male poetic tradition, their choice of subject matter will also be. What's inspiring women to get involved in politics? Georgina One thing I would like to see in politics, particularly British politics, is more women in parliament. About 34% of our MPs are women, which is the highest it's ever been, but it's still not close to 50%. Sam In order to be elected though, you first have to stand, don't you? Georgina Of course. To stand is the verb we use when someone is a candidate in an election "when someone stands for election you can vote for them. Sam If you can see yourself as something, it means that you can imagine yourself doing that thing.