Course Description

We’ll be studying the role of women in literature with particular emphasis on how gender is established, maintained and transgressed. We’ll look at various genres of texts to identify the markers of femininity in each (and the corresponding representations of masculinity), but we’ll also pay careful attention to the material conditions that produce such representations. Careful attention will be paid to the relationships that develop between and among these various representations, and we will find that the way genders are represented often determines the nature of those relationships. We’ll be examining multimedia productions and adaptations of these texts in order to complicate our understanding of gender.

The primary concern of the course is to facilitate close reading and analysis in class discussion and written assignments. Students are required to read critically and carefully and come to class prepared to discuss the works.

Required Texts

Behn, Aphra. The Rover, The Feigned Courtesans, The Lucky Chance, The Emperor of the Moon
Crichton, Michael. Disclosure
Swan, Susan. The Wives of Bath
Weldon, Fay. Life and Loves of a She-Devil

Course Packs

Poetry
“The Ballad of Mulan”
Bishop. “In the Waiting Room”
Dickinson. 712 -1100
Williams. pgs. 1758-1762
Rossetti. “Goblin Market”

Stories
O’Connor. “Greenleaf”

Theory
Butler. “Gender Trouble”
Cixous. “Laugh of the Medusa”
Rich. “Compulsory Heterosexuality...”
Wollstonecraft. “Vindication of the Rights of Women”
Woolf. “A Room of One’s Own”

Supplementary
Prologue to the Wife of Bath’s tale
Glossary
Assignments

**Essay** worth 35% (2,000 words, double spaced): I will provide a topic list (as opposed to a thesis statement). I want you to compare one main text and one text from the course pack and I expect you to move beyond plot issues and concentrate on craft – explore how the authors achieve the particular effects you are discussing. **All submissions made outside class time should be made to the English department drop-box on the second floor of HH – not my office!**

**Journal** 20%: Every week I expect a journal entry of at least 500 words. The entry will address questions from the discussion list and will be handed in the last day of each discussion section. The journal will be marked on both completion and thought – formal essay style is not required. They will be marked (with a check or a minus) and returned. The complete package will be handed in with the final paper. This is an all or nothing deal: if you keep up and hand in everything (and indicate that you’ve actually read the stuff) it’s an easy 20 marks. Fall behind and you’ll be writing hack entries while you are finishing your final paper.

**Quizzes** 15%: I will administer a series of quizzes to test whether or not you have read the texts. No trick questions – I just want to know if you are keeping up on your reading.

**Final Exam:** 30%

**Academic Offences** (and other unpleasantness): The faculty of arts requires me to politely let you know that

All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with policy #71 (student academic discipline). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (p. 1:11). If you need help in learning how to avoid offenses such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of any aspect of discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean.

To briefly expand on one point: **plagiarism** is “the act of presenting ideas, words, or other intellectual property of another as one’s own.” Make everything easy for all of us and remember to cite all your sources.

**Schedule (Tentative)**

**September**

10- syllabus
12- Intro to “literature” and gender
17- Behn *The Rover*; Grimms; Woolf
19- Behn; Grimms; Woolf
24- Behn; Grimms; Woolf
26- Behn; Grimms; Woolf

**Recommended films:** Twelfth Night; Orlando

**October**

1- Austen; Wollstonecraft; Dickinson
3- Austen; Wollstonecraft; Dickinson
8- Austen; Wollstonecraft; Dickinson
10- Austen; Wollstonecraft; Dickinson
15- Weldon; Williams; Butler; Saroyan; Perrotta **Recommended films:** Ghostworld; American Beauty
17- Weldon; Williams; Butler; Saroyan; Perrotta
22- Weldon; Williams; Butler; Saroyan; Perrotta
24- Weldon; Williams; Butler; Saroyan; Perrotta
29- O'Connor; Bishop
31- O'Connor; Bishop

November
5- Crichton, “Ballad of Mulan”; Cixous
7- Crichton, “Ballad of Mulan”; Cixous
12- Crichton, “Ballad of Mulan”; Cixous
14- Crichton, “Ballad of Mulan”; Cixous
19- Swan; Rossetti; Rich
21- Swan; Rossetti; Rich
26- Swan; Rossetti; Rich
28- Swan; Rossetti; Rich

December
29- conclusions – Paper due

**Recommended films:** Last Seduction; Amelie

**Recommended films:** Heavenly Creatures; Lost and Delirious
THE FACULTY OF ARTS REQUIRES THAT WE NOTIFY YOU OF THE FOLLOWING:

"Note on avoidance of academic offenses: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline) which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (p. 1:11). If you need help in learning how to avoid offenses such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean."

Dean of Arts: Robert R. Kerton
ML 236, ext. 2217

Associate Dean of Arts, Undergraduate Affairs
Sheila Ager
ML 254, ext. 3554