English 108E: Women in Literature
Winter 1995, Tuesday and Thursday 11:30 -1:00
Room: MC 2036

Instructor: Tracy Whalen
Office: PAS 1061

Office Hours: Tuesday 10:00-11:00
             Thursday 10:00-11:00
             (Or by Appointment)

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Course Description:

Over the next twelve weeks, we will be studying different images of women in literature and will be making connections between the text and our experiences of the world. We begin our exploration with fairy tales, and will wind our way through happy and unhappy wives, witches, saints, figures of adoration, mothers, and writers. In addition to its focus on woman-centred analysis, our project will require critical thinking and will involve refinement in essay-writing and organizational skills. The journal-keeping component is included so that your personal voice and insight can interact with (and react to) those voices of the women and men who speak in these texts. Ultimately, we will consider the idea that woman is a figure in process, and that her complexities and diversities prevent her from being pinned in one role or image.

Evaluation:

1. Journal (Submitted on three dates: January 26, February 23, March 23) 10%
2. Attendance 10%
3. In-class Mid-Term exam (February 16) 20%
4. Essay (6 to 8 double-spaced pages, due March 16) 30%
5. Final Exam 30%

Assignment Regulations:
Late essays without prior approval or justified reason will be penalized 2% per day. For example, a 78% paper will receive 76% if it is one day late, 74% if two days late, 72% if three, etc.
Course Outline:

Week One:

January 3: Introduction to the Course

January 5: “Once upon a time...”: Fairy Tales
“Red Riding Hood” (Perrault/Samber) 502; “The Little Girl and the Wolf” (James Thurber) 1329; “Red Riding Hood” (Anne Sexton) 1427; “The Last of the Dragons” (Edith Nesbit) 1175-1179

Week Two: “She took of the fruit thereof, and did eat...”
Faces of Eve and images of the fallen woman

January 10:
Genesis, Chapters Two & Three, 243-245; “Eve’s Apology in Defense of Women” (Amelia Lanyer) 236-237; “Eve to her Daughters” (Judith Wright) 1387-1388 “Eve in Reflection” (Jay MacPherson) 1453; “Discourse in Eden” (Jennifer Strauss) 1476

January 12: “A woman’s face is full of wiles”: The Dissembling Woman or Temptress
“A Woman’s Face is Full of Wiles” (Humphrey Gifford) 209; “Sonnets From Delia” (Samuel Daniel) 223-224; “Song”, “The Bait” (John Donne) 255; “A Satire Upon a Woman” (John Oldham) 464-465; “Ring out your bells” (Sir Philip Sydney) 198; “Song: Still to be Neat” (Ben Jonson) 263

Week Three:

January 17: “I wol bistowe the flour of al myn age/In the actes and in fruyt of mariage.”: The Flamboyant Wife

“The Wife of Bath’s Prologue” (Chaucer) 40-51

Workshop: Writing an Essay and Preparing for an Exam

January 19: Hunger Artists and Innocent Maids: Images of the Good and Righteous Woman

“from The Book of Margery Kempe” (80-93); “A Fair and Happy Milkmaid” (Sir Thomas Overbury) 274; “Of Woman” (Owen Feltham) 306-308
Week Four:

January 24:  “I saw the tall bush burn”: Woman as Witch
“Witches, and other night fears” (Charles Lamb) 795-800; “Fall In Massachusetts” (Isabella Gardner) 1385-1386; The Burning Times (film)

January 26:  “When That Fatal Knot is Tied”: the Unhappy Wife
“To the Ladies” (Lady Chudleigh) 466; “An Answer to Another Persuading Another to Marriage” (Katherine (Fowler) Philips) 443; “Some Reflections Upon Marriage” (Mary Astell) 477-478; The Wife’s Lament 14-15; “The Emulation” (Sarah Frye Egerton) 489

Week Five

January 31:  The Knot Tightens: Unhappy Wives II
“An Essay on Woman” (Mary Leapor) 622-23; “Auld Robin Gray” (Lady Anne Lindsay) 712; “Marriage Rights and Wrongs” (Catherine Helen Spence) 1074-1077; “An Ancient Gesture” (Edna St. Vincent Millay) 1322-1323; “She Rose to His Requirement” (Emily Dickinson) 1082

February 2:  “Come then, Domestic Muse”: Woman in the Domestic Sphere
“from The Lady’s New-Year’s Gift or Advice to a Daughter” (George Savile) 449-455; “Washing Day” (Anna Laetitia Barbauld) 691-692
“Suburban Sonnet” (Gwen Harwood) 1400; “Untitled” (Nikki Giovanni) 1512; “Paper Matches” (Paulette Jiles) 1513; “Two Women” (Carol Rumens) 1521

Week Six

February 7:  Home Alone: The Domestic Sphere II
“The Three Fishers” (Charles Kingsley) 1018; “from The Thresher’s Labour” Stephen Duck 576; “from The Woman’s Labour: An Epistle to Mr. Stephen Duck” (Mary Collier) 500-502; “The Passing of Sister Barsett” (Sarah Orne Jewett) 1128-1135

February 9:  “And I will make thee beds of roses”: Woman On a Pedestal
“The Passionate Shepherd to his Love” (Christopher Marlowe) 226; Sonnet 18 (William Shakespeare) 227; “There is a Garden in her Face” (Thomas Campion) 233; “The ‘Lucy Poems’” (William Wordsworth) 757-758; “She
Week Seven
February 14: The Pedestal Discarded...

"The Rape of the Lock" (Alexander Pope) 521-533; Sonnet 130 (Shakespeare) 229; "An Elegy on that Glory of Her Sex, Mrs. Mary Blaize" (Oliver Goldsmith) 645; "from Sonnets from the Portuguese" (Elizabeth Barrett Browning) 931

February 16: Mid-Term Exam

Week Eight: READING WEEK - HAPPY READING!!

Week Nine: "In her tomb by the sounding sea": Woman imprisoned

February 28:

"Annabel Lee" (Edgar Allan Poe) 941; "The Lady of Shalott" (Alfred Lord Tennyson) 957; "My Last Duchess" (Robert Browning) 1001; "Eveline" (James Joyce) 1268-1271

March 2: Women in the Wilderness: Strength against the unknown

"from Roughing it in the Bush" (Susanna Moodie) 919-923; "from The Journals of Susanna Moodie" (Margaret Atwood) 1500-1501; "The Drover’s Wife" (Henry Lawson) 1220-1225

Week Ten: If the shoe doesn’t fit: Woman “out of [her] place"

March 7: "Anacreontic" (Mary Whateley Darwall) 682; Poem 435- “Much Madness is Divinest Sense” (Emily Dickinson) 1081; "The Female Transport" (Anonymous) 887; "Meneseteung" (Alice Munro) 1453-1467; "Shawnandithit" (Joan Crate) 1534-1535
March 9: "What I am telling you is told by a white woman": The Woman of Color

"Frame" (Adrienne Rich) 1440-1441; “Something for the Time Being” (Nadine Gordimer) 1408-1415; “from The Journal of a Residence on a Georgian Plantation in 1838-1839” (Frances Anne Kemble) 976-977; “Yuh Hear About?” (Valerie Bloom) 1537

Week Eleven: Voices ringing out: Woman as Writer and Thinker

March 14: “Letters” (Lady Mary Wortley Montagu) 551-555, “Epilogue to Sir Patient Fancy” (Aphra Behn) 459; “An Academy for Women” (Daniel Defoe) 468-473; “Letter to His Daughter” (Thomas Jefferson) 692-693;

March 16: “A Vindication of the Rights of Woman” (Mary Wollstonecraft) 737-743 “Political Non-existence of Women” (Harriet Martineau) 894-897; “The Woman as Workmate” (Rebecca West) 1323-1326

Week Twelve: (March 21, 23) A Room of One’s One

Week Thirteen: Proper Deafinitions: Woman Becoming

March 28: “Other” (Dorothy Livesay) 1369; “Myth” (Muriel Rukeyser) 1373; “Song at the Beginning of Autumn,” “Still Life and Observer” (Elizabeth Jennings) 1422-1423

March 30: “from Letters to Alice on First Reading Jane Austen” (Fay Weldon) 1477-1486. “Beauty: When the other Dancer is the Self” (Alice Walker) 1523-1528