St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo, Winter 2010  
ENGL 208N: Sex and Marriage in Literature  
12:30 - 1:20 MWF, STJ 2011  

Prof. Tristanne Connolly  
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Required texts to purchase:  
Course package (purchase at bookstore)  

Additional required reading online (please print out):  
Thomas Gray, "Ode on the Death of a Favourite Cat, Drowned in a Tub of Gold Fishes" available online at the Thomas Gray Archive:  
<http://www.thomasgray.org/cgi-bin/display.cgi?text=odfc>  
Oliver Goldsmith, "When lovely woman stoops to folly..." available online at Representative Poetry Online, University of Toronto: <http://rpo.library.utoronto.ca/poem/2518.html>  
William Blake. *Visions of the Daughters of Albion*, available online at the Blake Digital Text Project:  
<http://www.english.uga.edu/nhilton/Blake/blaketxt1/visions_of_the_daughters_of_albion.html>  
Also look at the illustrated version at the Blake Archive:  
<http://www.blakearchive.org/exist/blake/archive/work.xq?workid=vda&java=yes>  
(pick a copy / link and explore)  

*There are also a number of supplementary readings of interest, and of use to assignments (especially the theoretical / critical essay), on reserve in the St. Jerome's library; please see the list via the UW Library Course Reserves link.*  

Course description and objectives:  
This course offers an examination of the varieties of sexuality, the concept of marriage, and the tension between the two, as expressed in literary works written in English from the middle ages through the twentieth century. Objectives of the course include coming to an understanding of the ways in which sexuality and marriage are culturally constructed, and the ways those constructions have changed over time; recognizing the role of literature in informing as well as reflecting those constructions; considering the issues involved (formal as well as moral) in depicting sex and marriage in literature; and encountering some major literary and cultural theories which articulate these questions. As it could easily be said that all literature is about sex and/or marriage, the readings won't attempt to be comprehensive, even within the arbitrary parameters of concentrating on (mostly) British and (some) Canadian literature. The readings have been selected for representation of the periods from the middle ages to the twentieth
century, and for interest, interrelation, and variety. The readings seek to feature homosexual, bisexual, and transgender possibilities, and the diversity of supposedly normative heterosex, and to go beyond object choice in representing variety (for instance, encompassing a spectrum from passionate friendship to prostitution). Additional themes include the projection of human sexuality on other species, and the relationship between sexuality and religion.

**Course requirements and grade distribution**

- Short interpretation: 20%
- Comparison and contrast essay: 25%
- Theoretical / critical essay: 25%
- Final examination: 30%

The short interpretation (3 pages) will take a stand on a question about one text on the reading list. The comparison and contrast essay (4 - 5 pages) will analyze two texts on the reading list in relation to each other. The theoretical / critical essay (4 - 5 pages) will relate a theoretical or critical source to a text on the reading list. For each essay, specific topics and instructions will be distributed in class. The final exam will include identification of passages and a short essay. *For grading criteria and essay writing advice, please see my website.*

**Policy on late assignments**

Deadlines are indicated in the schedule below. Essays submitted on time will receive full written comments and corrections; essays submitted after the deadline will receive a grade only. Essays will be accepted without penalty up to a week after the deadline. After that a flat penalty of 20% will apply, unless there is a valid, documented excuse. Regardless of when an assignment is handed in, students can always get feedback on their work by dropping by during office hours or making an appointment.

**Schedule**

The following schedule is flexible. Any changes will be announced in class. Each selection will be discussed on the day listed; be sure to have the reading done in full for that day.

- **Mon 4 Jan**  Introduction. Medieval lyrics (course package): "I Have a Noble Cock"
- **Wed 6 Jan**  Medieval lyrics: "The Wily Clerk", "I Sing of a Maiden", "When Ye blostes springe", "Mosti ryden by Rybbesdale"
- **Fri 8 Jan**  Medieval lyrics; Marie de France, "Laustic", "Bisclavret"

- **Mon 11 Jan**  Marie de France, "Guigemar", "Eliduc"
- **Wed 13 Jan**  Marie de France
- **Fri 15 Jan**  Shakespeare, *Sonnets*
  9: "Is it for fear to wet a widow's eye"
  20: "A woman's face with nature's own hand painted"
  41: "Those petty wrongs that liberty commits"
  42: "That thou hast her it is not all my grief"
  95: "How sweet and lovely dost thou make the shame"
  116: "Let me not to the marriage of true minds"
  129: "Th'expense of spirit in a waste of shame"
  135: "Whoever hath her wish, thou hast thy Will"
  136: "If thy soul check thee that I come too near"
  138: "When my love swears that she is made of truth"
  144: "Two loves I have, of comfort and despair"

- **Mon 18 Jan**  Shakespeare, *Sonnets*
Wed 20 Jan  Shakespeare, *Sonnets*
Fri 22 Jan  Rochester, "Song to Cloris", "Song [Love a woman? You're an ass]", "A Dialogue between Strephon and Daphne"

Mon 25 Jan  Rochester, "The Maimed Debauchee", "On Mistress Willis", "Song [By all love's soft yet mighty powers!]
Wed 27 Jan  **Short interpretation due.** Rochester, "The Imperfect Enjoyment"
Fri 29 Jan  Aphra Behn (course package): "The Disappointment"

Mon 1 Feb  Behn (course package): "On a Juniper Tree, cut down to make Busks", "To my Lady Morland at Tunbridge"
Wed 3 Feb  Behn, "To the fair Clarinda, who made Love to me, imagined more than Woman", "A Letter to the Earl of Kildare, dissuading him from marrying Moll Howard"
Fri 5 Feb  Cleland, *Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure* (aka *Fanny Hill*)

Mon 8 Feb  Cleland, *Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure*
Wed 10 Feb  Cleland, *Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure*

15 - 19 Feb: **Reading Week**

Wed 24 Feb  Blake, *Visions of the Daughters of Albion*
Fri 26 Feb  Austen, *Sense and Sensibility*

Mon 1 Mar  **Comparison / contrast essay due.** Austen, *Sense and Sensibility*
Wed 3 Mar  Austen, *Sense and Sensibility*

Mon 8 Mar  Rossetti (Course package): "Goblin Market"
Wed 10 Mar  Oscar Wilde (Course package): Introduction; from *De Profundis*; from *The Trials of Oscar Wilde*
Fri 12 Mar  Lord Alfred Douglas (Course package): "In Praise of Shame", "Two Loves"

Mon 15 Mar  Michael Field (pseudonym of Katharine Bradley and Edith Cooper) (Course package): Introduction, "Ah, Eros does not always smite...", "Prologue [It was deep April...]", "Constancy", "A Girl", "Unbosoming", "Beloved, Now I Love God First"
Wed 17 Mar  Lawrence, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*
Fri 19 Mar  Lawrence, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*

Mon 22 Mar  Lawrence, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*
Wed 24 Mar  Cohen, *Beautiful Losers*
Fri 26 Mar  Cohen, *Beautiful Losers*

Mon 29 Mar  **Theoretical / critical essay due.** Engel, *Bear*
Other information

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo and its Federated University and Affiliated Colleges are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: All students registered in courses at St. Jerome's University are expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under St. Jerome's University Academic Discipline Policy and UW Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. In such a case, contact the St. Jerome's University Grievance Officer. Read St. Jerome's University Handbook, Section4, item 8, www.sju.ca/faculty/SJU_handbook/grievance_policy.html.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under St. Jerome's University Academic Discipline Policy or Grievance Policy if a ground for an appeal can be established. In such a case, contact the St. Jerome's University Appeals Officer. Read St. Jerome's University Handbook, Section 6.4, www.sju.ca/faculty/SJU_handbook/examinations_grades_standings_and_appeals.html.

Academic Integrity website (Arts): http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (UW): http://uwwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity

Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.