Eighteenth-Century Women Writers

SYLLABUS

Note: all course readings (apart from handouts and the novels by Austen and Radcliffe) are from Robert DeMaria, Jr., ed., *British Literature 1640-1789*, 4th ed. (Wiley, 2016)

January 6: Introduction: From Aphra Behn to Jane Austen

January 8 & 13: Prelude: New Contexts, New Energies:
   Behn, “The Disappointment” (in DeMaria); “Epilogue” to *Sir Patient Fancy* (H = handout)
   Finch, “The Introduction”

I. Utopias and Dystopias

January 15 & 20: The Status of Women:
   Cavendish, from *The Description of a New World, called the Blazing World*
   Behn, “The Golden Age”
   Astell, from *A Serious Proposal to the Ladies*
   Chudleigh, “To the Ladies” (H)

January 22 & 27: Women’s Powers:
   Philips, “To Mrs. Wogan, My Honoured Friend, on the Death of Her Husband,”
   “Orinda to Lucasia,” “Parting with Lucasia: A Song”
   Collier, “The Woman’s Labour”

II. Confronting Others

January 29 and February 3: Noble, African, Anti-Christian
   Behn, *Oroonoko*

February 5 & 10: Subaltern Voices
   Wheatley, “On Being Brought from Africa to America,” “To Maecenas” (H)

February 12: Midterm

February 17 & 19: Reading Week--no classes
III. The Rights of Woman

February 24 & 26 and March 2: The Bechdel Test
  Behn, *The Rover; or, The Banished Cavaliers*

March 4 & 9: (Re)Placing Men
  Behn, “Epistle to the Reader” from *The Dutch Lover* (H); “To the Fair Clarinda, Who Made Love to Me, Imagined More than Woman”
  Finch, “The Unequal Fetters,” “The Answer,” “The Spleen”
  Montagu, “The Reasons that Induced Dr. S[wift] to Write a Poem Called the Lady’s Dressing Room”

IV. Romance and the Rise of Women’s Fiction

March 11: Romance and Disguise
  Haywood, *Fantomina*

March 16: Embodiment and Violence
  Radcliffe, *A Sicilian Romance*

March 18: **Study Day (Catch-Up Day)**—no class (unless needed as a catch-up day for a class cancelled due to a University snow closure)

March 23: Embodiment and Violence
  Radcliffe, *A Sicilian Romance* (cont.)

March 25 & 30 and April 1: Gothic Emblems
  Austen, *Northanger Abbey*