Eighteenth-Century Women Writers

SYLLABUS

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

January 8: Introduction: From Aphra Behn to Jane Austen

January 10: 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 & 17: 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 & 24: 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. The Rights of Woman

January 29 & 31 and February 5: The Bechdel Test
Behn, *The Rover; or, The Banished Cavaliers*

February 7 & 12: (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” (DeMaria)
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”
February 14: Midterm

February 19 & 21: Reading Week--no classes

III. Romance and the Rise of Women’s Fiction

February 26: Romance and Disguise
   Haywood, Fantomina

February 28 and March 5: Embodiment and Violence
   Radcliffe, A Sicilian Romance

March 7, 12 & 14: Gothic Emblems
   Austen, Northanger Abbey

IV. Confronting Others

March 19: Subaltern Voices
   Wheatley, “On Being Brought from Africa to America,” “To Maecenas” (H)

March 21: No Class

March 26 & 28: Noble, African, Anti-Christian
   Behn, Oroonoko

April 2 & 4: Colonialism at Home
   Edgeworth, Castle Rackrent