

**EN 4/6713: Seventeenth-Century English Literature:
Women's Writing and English Literary History
Dr. Lara Dodds
Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00-12:15**

This course will provide an overview of British women's writing from the seventeenth century. Our primary topic of investigation will be the question of how gender and authorship intersect. Political and religious developments as well as changes in the circumstances of literary authorship led increasing numbers of women to write in many different genres and forms during the seventeenth century. Women and men wrote in many of the same genres and on many of the same topics; however, women's writing was often marked in specifically gendered ways. For instance, when Lady Mary Wroth, an accomplished poet, dramatist, and prose writer published her monumental romance *Urania*, she received an insulting poem that instructed her to

Work, Lady, Work. Let writing books alone.
For Surely wiser woman ne'er wrote one.

In this course we will examine works by women and men in order to examine the question of how gender and authorship intersect. We will learn about several of the major forms of seventeenth-century literature—notably tragedy, romance, and lyric poetry—and we will examine how authors engage with the conventions of these genres.

Requirements for this course include occasional quizzes and writing assignments, two exams, one short essay, an annotated bibliography, and a long research paper.

Texts may include*

Shakespeare, William and Elizabeth Cary. *Othello and the Tragedy of Mariam*. Ed. Clare Carroll. Longman ISBN: 978-0321096999

Chaplin and Rumrich, eds. *Seventeenth-Century British Poetry: 1603-1660*. New York: Norton, 2006. ISBN: 9780393979985

Salzman, Paul, ed. *Early Modern Women's Writing: An Anthology*. Oxford: Oxford UP (Oxford World Classics), 2008 ISBN: 978-0199549672

Wroth, Mary. *The Countess of Montgomery's Urania* (Abridged) ed. Mary Ellen Lamb. Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies (403), 2011. ISBN 978-0866984515

Cavendish, Margaret. *The Blazing World and Other Writings* ed. Kate Lilley, 1994. 978-0140433722

*This list is still under development as I am checking on the availability of editions and other materials.