

ENG 8001.001: Seminar in Literary and Cultural Studies
Early Modern Women and Religious Literature

Professor: Dr. Jaime Goodrich

Description: This course will offer a state-of-the-field overview of current scholarship on early modern Englishwomen's religious writings. We will cover the three major phases of women's devotional works between 1526 and 1688: 1) responding to the Reformation; 2) developing literary authority via spirituality; 3) creating a communal, non-conformist identity. Acknowledging that the field of women writers continues to expand and diversify, we will read texts by celebrated female authors (Elizabeth I, Mary Sidney Herbert, Aemilia Lanyer) and lesser-known women (dissenters, nuns). The course will conclude with a case study of manuscript and print texts by a recently discovered writer, Abbess Catherine Magdalen (Elizabeth) Evelyn of the Aire Poor Clares. Students will be introduced to the major debates and historical developments within scholarship on early modern women writers. This class will also prepare students to carry out their own independent research on the period by introducing key methodologies (palaeography, textual criticism) and crucial online resources (Early English Books Online, the Perdita Project, Women Writers Online). Finally, we will discuss some important professional skills, such as how to develop a dissertation topic, how to revise a dissertation into a book, how to conceptualize and publish articles and book chapters, and how to write grants. Requirements include weekly responses, a short paper to be read aloud seminar-style (9-10 pages), a final paper incorporating original research (20 pages), diligent preparation for class, and active participation in our discussions.

Learning Outcomes:

- 1) To introduce you to a broad range of religious writings by early modern women
- 2) To familiarize you with larger scholarly debates within the subfield of women writers
- 3) To cover key methods for advanced literary research on the early modern period
- 4) To acquaint you with larger professional expectations within the field of literature

Required Texts:

Bucholz, Robert and Newton Key. *Early Modern England 1485-1714: A Narrative History*. 2nd ed. Wiley-Blackwell, 2009.

Her Own Life: Autobiographical Writings by Seventeenth-Century Englishwomen. Eds Elspeth Graham, Hilary Hinds, Elaine Hobby, and Helen Wilcox. Routledge, 1989. [Hereafter referred to as HOL]

Sidney, Philip and Mary. *The Sidney Psalter: The Psalms of Sir Philip and Mary Sidney*. Eds Hannibal Hamlin, Michael G. Brennan, Margaret P. Hannay, and Noel J. Kinnamon. Oxford University Press, 2009.

Women Writers in Renaissance England: An Annotated Anthology. Ed. Randall Martin. 2nd ed. Routledge, 2010. [Hereafter referred to as WWRE]

Online Resources:

Blackboard

*All secondary criticism may be found here, as well as any manuscript and print contexts marked with "Bb"

Early English Books Online (EEBO)

*All texts with STC numbers will be found in EEBO

Perdita Project (PP)

*Most manuscript contexts will be found in PP

Women Writers Online (WVO)

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (DNB)

English Short Title Catalogue (STC)

Oxford English Dictionary (OED)

Requirements: Weekly attendance and participation in discussion are integral components of this class. Students who miss more than one session may fail the class, and failure to participate will adversely affect your final grade. In order to prepare for dynamic and thoughtful conversations, please complete all primary and secondary readings and come to class with questions and comments at hand.

All written work should be submitted electronically through Blackboard as specified below, using one of the following formats: doc, docx, rtf, or pdf. Weekly responses and papers should be prepared according to submission requirements for American journals: i.e., double-spacing the text (including block quotes), numbering pages, following standard American English, and using either MLA or Chicago style.

Please note: Late work will not be accepted for any reason after the stipulated due date and time without a prearranged extension. **Students who plagiarize will automatically fail the course**, and the English Department may pursue more serious action, such as expulsion from the program.

Weekly Responses (1000 words maximum; due at 9 AM every Tuesday via Blackboard): Using EEBO, PP, and WVO, examine the print and manuscript contexts for the week. Write a two- to three-page response presenting **a brief argument** about at least one of these texts; you may want to pay special attention to the contextual work's material characteristics and/or its relationship to one of the assigned primary texts for the week. Over the course of the semester, students must submit at least **two** responses using a manuscript context from Perdita and **three** responses using a print context from EEBO.

The best responses will be mini-exercises in the art of literary criticism—providing close readings and interpretations of representative passages, applying literary theory to texts, considering the textual history of a work, exploring the historical or literary contexts of a text, or participating in ongoing critical debates. Students will not write a response for the class session in which they are presenting, and there will be no response due on the first and last days of class (9/2, 12/2). Responses should be uploaded to Blackboard's forum as an attachment, not written directly into a post.

Presentation and short paper (3000 words maximum): Drawing on all of the primary texts, manuscript contexts, and print contexts for the week, students will create **a sample WVO exhibit**, that is, an analytical essay offering an entry point into this corpus (for exhibit instructions, see <http://www.wwp.northeastern.edu/research/publications/exhibits/>). The best exhibits will discuss all of the primary and contextual works assigned for that day as well as incorporate current scholarship on these works. These conference-length papers will be read aloud during the assigned session of our class, and should take *no more than 20 minutes to recite*

(i.e., 9-10 typed, double-spaced pages). Students should then be prepared for five to ten minutes of Q & A. Handouts are not required, but a hard copy of the paper must be submitted before or during this same class. Students may want to submit their exhibits for consideration by WWO.

Long paper (6000 words; due via Blackboard by 11:59 PM on Tuesday, 12/9): Students will compose an article-length final paper (20 pages) that both conducts **original research** on and presents a **well-developed argument** about early modern women's religious writings. Besides incorporating contemporary criticism and/or theory, you should also discuss primary sources from EEBO, PP, and/or WWO. Students may choose to expand their short paper into a longer piece, but the short paper should be substantially revised and expanded in this process. Essays will be turned in electronically via Blackboard's Assignments page.

Grading: Grades for this course will be assigned in a holistic manner. The most significant elements will be participation and the final paper, but grades on weekly responses and the presentation and short paper will function as guideposts to your performance in the class. I will assess the presentation, short paper, final paper, and participation according to the following scheme: A (excellent); B (acceptable); C (failing). The weekly responses will be graded on a check plus/check/check minus system, which has the following letter equivalents: check plus (A); check (B); check minus (C). All grades will be available on Blackboard.

Schedule

T 9/2, Introduction: Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own* (1929), pp. 71-89; Joan Kelly, "Did Women Have a Renaissance?" (1977); Margaret J. M. Ezell, *Writing Women's Literary History* (1993), pp. 39-65; "Workshop #21: Did Women Have a Reformation?" in *Culture and Change: Attending to Early Modern Women* (2003), pp. 286-88

- Introduction to feminist criticism, textual criticism, Early English Books Online, Perdita Project, and Women Writers Online
- Introduction to early modern print and manuscript

1526-1558: Responding to the Reformation

T 9/9, Family Circles: Margaret Roper (trans.), *A Devout Treatise upon the Pater Noster* (1526; WWO); Mary Basset, preface to Eusebius (in Jaime Goodrich, "The Dedicatory Preface to Mary Roper Clarke Basset's Translation of Eusebius' *Ecclesiastical History*," 2010)

- **Criticism:** Rita M. Verbrugge, "Margaret More Roper's Personal Expression in the *Devout Treatise upon the Pater Noster*" (1985); Jaime Goodrich, "Thomas More and Margaret More Roper: A Case for Rethinking Women's Participation in the Early Modern Public Sphere" (2008)
- **Historical Context:** Bucholz and Key, pp. 65-91; DNB entries on Margaret Roper, Mary Basset
- **Manuscript Context:** Mildred Cecil, Lady Burghley, translation of Basil (PP)
- **Print Context:** Margaret Roper (trans.), *Devout Treatise* (1526; STC 10477); Mary Basset (trans.), *Exposition of a Part of the Passion* (1557; STC 18076, images 697-724); Anne Cooke (trans.), *Fourteen Sermons* (1551; STC 18767); Elizabeth Cooke Hoby Russell (trans.), *A Way of Reconciliation* (1605; STC 21456 or WWO)

T 9/16, Royal Women: Elizabeth Tudor (trans.), *A Godly Meditation* (1548; WWO); Katherine Parr, *Lamentation of a Sinner* (WWRE 45-57)

- **Criticism:** Andrew Hiscock, “A Supernal Liuely Fayth’: Katherine Parr and the Authoring of Devotion” (2002); Jaime Goodrich, *Faithful Translators: Authorship, Gender, and Religion in Early Modern England* (2014), pp. 67-72, 88-106
- **Historical Context:** Bucholz and Key, pp. 92-115; DNB entries on Elizabeth I, Katherine Parr
- **Manuscript Context:** Elizabeth Tudor, translation of Navarre (in *Elizabeth’s Glass*, WSU print or E-book)
- **Print Context:** Katherine Parr (ed.), *Prayers Stirring the Mind* (1545; STC 4818 or WWO); Katherine Parr, *Lamentation of a Sinner* (1547; STC 4827 or WWO); Mary Tudor (trans.), “John” in Erasmus’ *Paraphrases* (1548; STC 2854.4, images 445-575); Elizabeth Tudor (trans.), *Godly Meditation* (STC 17320)

T 9/23, Protestant Martyrs: Anne Askew, *The Examinations of Anne Askew* (WWRE 61-79); Lady Jane (Grey) Dudley, selections in *Monument of Matrons* (1582 ed.; WWO)

- **Criticism:** Theresa D. Kemp, “Translating (Anne) Askew: The Textual Remains of a Sixteenth-Century Heretic and Saint” (1999); Patricia Pender, “Reading Bale Reading Anne Askew: Contested Collaboration in *The Examinations*” (2010)
- **Historical Context:** DNB entries on Anne Askew, Jane Grey
- **Manuscript Context:** Lady Jane Grey, prayer book (PP)
- **Print Context:** Anne Askew, *First Examination* (1546; STC 848 or WWO), *Second Examination* (1547; STC 850 or WWO); Alice Benden’s story in *Acts and Monuments* (1570; STC 11223, reel 1816:08, images 1115-16); Lady Jane Grey, *An Epistle of the Lady Jane* (STC 7279)

1558-1640: Developing Female Literary Authority

T 9/30, Poetry I: Mary Sidney Herbert, “Even Now that Care,” “To the Angel Spirit,” Psalms 44-45, 51, 57, 68, 84-85, 95-96, 106, 113, 119, 130, 139, 150 (Hamlin ed.; pp. 5-10, 85-89, 97-98, 106-07, 123-26, 163-66, 183-86, 204-08, 219-20, 228-247, 255-56, 267-70, 286); Anne Dowriche, *The French History* (WWRE 27-28, 339-59)

- **Criticism:** Margaret P. Hannay, “Re-revealing the Psalms: The Countess of Pembroke and Her Early Modern Readers” (2005); Debra Rienstra, “The Countess of Pembroke and the Problem of Skill in Devotional Writing” (2005)
- **Historical Context:** Bucholz and Key, pp. 116-37; DNB entries on Mary Herbert, Anne Dowriche
- **Manuscript Context:** Mary Sidney Herbert, Psalms (PP)
- **Print Context:** Anne Locke, *A Meditation of a Penitent Sinner* (1560; STC 4450, images 56-63 or WWO), “The Necessity ... of Affliction” (1590; STC 23652, images 133-35); Elizabeth Tyrwhit, poetry in *Monument of Matrons* (1582; STC 1892, images 91-108 or WWO); Anne Dowriche, *The French History* (1589; STC 7159 or WWO)

T 10/7, Mothers' Legacies: Elizabeth Grymeston, *Miscellanea, Meditations, Memoratives* (WWRE 100-16); Dorothy Leigh, *The Mother's Blessing* (WWRE 120-25); Elizabeth Clinton, *The Countess of Lincoln's Nursery* (WWRE 150-59)

- **Criticism:** Catharine Gray, "Feeding on the Seed of the Woman: Dorothy Leigh and the Figure of Maternal Dissent" (2001); Megan Matchinske, "Gendering Catholic Conformity: The Politics of Equivocation in Elizabeth Grymeston's 'Miscelanea'" (2002)
- **Historical Context:** Bucholz and Key, pp. 138-57; DNB entries on Elizabeth Grymeston, Dorothy Leigh, and Elizabeth Clinton
- **Manuscript Context:** Elizabeth Jocelin, *A Mother's Legacy* (PP); Elizabeth Richardson, Baroness Cramond, *Instructions for My Children* (PP)
- **Print Context:** Elizabeth Grymeston, *Miscellanea* (1604, 1606; STC 12407, 12407.5 or WWO); Dorothy Leigh, *Mother's Blessing* (1616; STC 15402 or WWO); Elizabeth Jocelin, *The Mothers Legacy* (1624; STC 14264 or WWO)

T 10/14, Life Writing: Margaret Hoby, *Diary* (WWRE 194-207); Grace Mildmay, *Autobiography* (WWRE 211-27); Mary Ward, *Autobiographical Papers* (WWRE 232-44)

- **Criticism:** Sharon Cadman Seelig, *Autobiography and Gender in Early Modern Literature: Reading Women's Lives, 1600-1680* (2006), pp. 15-33; David Wallace, "Periodizing Women: Mary Ward (1585-1645) and the Premodern Canon" (2006)
- **Historical Context:** Bucholz and Key, pp. 212-49; DNB entries on Margaret Hoby, Grace Mildmay, and Mary Ward
- **Manuscript Context:** Margaret Hoby, diary (PP); Rose Throckmorton, memoirs (PP); Anne of the Ascension Worsley, histories of the Antwerp Carmelites in *English Convents in Exile* (2013), vol. 4, pp. 4-46 (Bb); Elizabeth Shirley, *Life of Margaret Clement in English Convents in Exile* (2012), vol. 3, pp. 1-35 (Bb); Anne Clifford, *Diary* (WWRE 249-75)

T 10/21, Poetry II: Aemilia Lanyer, *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum* (WWRE 366-97); Alice Sutcliffe, "Of Our Loss by Adam" (in *Meditation of Man's Mortality*, WWO)

- **Criticism:** Micheline White, "A Woman with Saint Peter's Keys?: Aemilia Lanyer's *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum* (1611) and the Priestly Gifts of Women" (2003); Femke Molekamp, "Reading Christ the Book in Aemilia Lanyer's *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum* (1611): Iconography and the Cultures of Reading" (2012)
- **Historical Context:** DNB entries on Emilia Lanier, Alice Sutcliffe
- **Manuscript Context:** Anne Southwell, verse (PP)
- **Print Context:** Aemilia Lanyer, *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum* (1611; STC 15227 or WWO); Rachel Speght, *Mortality's Memorandum* (1621; STC 23057 or WWO); Diana Primrose, *A Chain of Pearl* (1630; STC 20388 or WWO); Alice Sutcliffe, *Meditation of Man's Mortality* (1634; STC 23447 or WWO)

1640-1688: Creating Communal Identities

T 10/28, Dissenters: Anna Trapnel, *Anna Trapnel's Report and Plea* (HOL 75-86); Susanna Parr, *Susanna's Apology Against the Elders* (HOL 103-15); Sarah Davy, *Heaven Realized* (HOL 168-79); Anne Wentworth, *A Vindication of Anne Wentworth* (HOL 183-96)

- **Criticism:** Maria Magro, “Spiritual Autobiography and Radical Sectarian Women’s Discourse: Anna Trapnel and the Bad Girls of the English Revolution” (2004); William E. Smith III, “Communities of the Miraculous: Healing in Anne Wentworth and the Particular Baptist Tradition” (2011)
- **Historical Context:** Bucholz and Key, pp. 250-76; DNB entries on Anna Trapnel, Susanna Parr, Anne Wentworth
- **Manuscript Context:** Grace Cary, *England’s Forewarning* (PP)
- **Print Context:** Katherine Chidley, *The Justification of the Independent Churches* (1641; Wing C3832 or WWO); Mary Cary, *The Little Horns Doom* (1651; Wing C737 or WWO); Anna Trapnel, *The Cry of a Stone* (1654; Wing T2031 or WWO); Sarah Davy, *Heaven Realized* (1670; Wing D444)

T 11/4, Quakers: Margaret Fell, *Women’s Speaking Justified* (1667; WWO); Katharine Evans and Sarah Cheevers, *Short Relation* (HOL 120-29)

- **Criticism:** Rachel Warburton, “‘The Lord Hath Joined Us Together and Wo Be to Them That Should Part Us’: Katharine Evans and Sarah Cheevers and Traveling Friends” (2005); Jane Donawerth, “Women’s Reading Practices in Seventeenth-Century England: Margaret Fell’s *Women’s Speaking Justified*” (2006)
- **Historical Context:** Bucholz and Key, pp. 277-314; DNB entries on Margaret Fell, Katharine Evans, Sarah Cheevers
- **Manuscript Context:** Selections from Margaret Fell and Mary Penington in *Quaker Writing: An Anthology* (2011), pp. 44-49, 146-48, 153-54 (Bb)
- **Print Context:** Priscilla Cotton and Mary Cole, *To the Priests and People of London* (Wing C6474); Hester Biddle, *The Trumpet of the Lord Sounded Forth* (1662; Wing B2865 or WWO); Katharine Evans and Sarah Cheevers, *Short Relation* (1662; Wing T935 or WWO); “Epistle from the Women’s Yearly Meeting at York” (1688; WWO)

T 11/11, Cambrai Benedictines: Gertrude More, *Confessiones Amantis*, pp. 1-17 (2007 ed.; Bb); Margaret Gascoigne, *Devotions* (2007 ed.; Bb)

- **Criticism:** Kitty Scouler Datta, “Women, Authority, and Mysticism: The Case of Dame Gertrude More (1606-33)” (2002); Jaime Goodrich, “‘Attend to Me’: Margaret Gascoigne, Julian of Norwich, and Literary Circulation among the Cambrai Benedictines” (forthcoming)
- **Historical Context:** DNB entry on Helen More
- **Manuscript Context:** Christina Brent, “Discourse Concerning Augustine Baker” (2011 ed.; Bb); Magdalena Cary, *Life of Lady Falkland*, pp. 182-232 (1994 ed; Bb); Cambrai obituaries (1917 ed.; Bb)
- **Print Context:** Potentiana Deacon (trans.), *Delicious Entertainments* (1632; STC 11316 or WWO); Gertrude More, *The Spiritual Exercises of ... Gertrude More* (1658; Wing M2632)

T 11/18, Ghent Benedictines: Lucy Knatchbull/Toby Matthew, *Life of Lady Knatchbull*, pp. 18-56, 83-107, 123-39, 168-74 (1931 ed.; Bb); Alexia Gray (ed.), preface to *Rule of Benedict* (1632; WWO)

- **Criticism:** Frances Dolan, “Reading, Work, and Catholic Women’s Biographies” (2003); Jaime Goodrich, “Nuns and Community-Centered Writing: The Benedictine Rule and Brussels Statutes” (2014)
- **Historical Context:** DNB entry on Elizabeth Knatchbull
- **Manuscript Context:** Mary Minshall, “The True Relation of the Miraculous Cure of an English Nun” in *English Convents in Exile* (2012), vol. 3, pp. 367-72 (Bb); Mary Knatchbull, *The Foundation of Boulogne in English Convents in Exile* (2013), vol. 5, pp. 241-55 (Bb); selected Ghent obituaries (1917 ed.; Bb)
- **Print Context:** Toby Matthew (trans.), *A Treatise of Mental Prayer* (1627; STC 21148); Alexia Gray (ed.), *The Rule of ... Benedict* (1632; STC 1860)

Conclusions: Finding a “New” Woman Writer

T 11/25, Elizabeth Evelinge’s Publications: Elizabeth Evelinge (trans.), *The History of the Angelical Virgin Glorious Saint Clare* (1635; STC 24924), images 1-9, 15-43, 59-62, 75-80, 105-06, 118-19

- **Criticism:** Frans Korsten, “Introductory Note,” *Elizabeth Evelinge I* (2002), pp. ix-xv; Jos Blom and Frans Blom, “Introductory Note,” *Elizabeth Evelinge II* (2002), pp. ix-xvii; Claire Walker, “Introductory Note,” *Elizabeth Evelinge III* (2006), pp. ix-xvii; Jaime Goodrich, ““Ensign-Bearers of Saint Clare: Elizabeth Evelinge’s Translations and the Restoration of English Franciscanism” (2011)
- **Historical Context:** DNB entries on Elizabeth Evelinge, Catharine Bentley
- **Print Context:** Elizabeth Evelinge (trans.), *The Admirable Life of the Holy Virgin S. Catharine of Bologna* (Bb) and *The Declarations and Ordinances upon the Rule of Our Holy Mother S. Clare* (Bb)

T 12/2, Catherine Magdalen Evelyn’s Manuscripts: Catherine Magdalen Evelyn, *The Life of Blessed Saint Euphrosina*, selected obituaries (Bb)

- **Criticism:** Jaime Goodrich, “A Poor Clare’s Legacy: Catherine Magdalen Evelyn and New Directions in Early Modern Women’s Literary History” (under review)
- **Manuscript Context:** “To the Most Glorious ... Saint Euphrosina,” “An Aspiration after Heaven,” “Upon Those Words of the 121 Psalm” (Bb)

T 12/9: Final paper due by 11:59 PM via Blackboard