

**EN 4/6713: Seventeenth-Century English Literature:
Women's Writing and English Literary History
Dr. Lara Dodds
Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30-4:45**

This course will provide an overview of British women's writing from the seventeenth century. 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; however, cultural prejudices still attempted to limit women's creative achievements. 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.

This class will examine women writers' responses to this context by focusing on how women adapted different genres—particularly lyric poetry, drama, and the prose romance—to their own ends.

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

Cary, Elizabeth. *The Tragedy of Mariam*. Ed. Ramona Wray. Arden, 2012. 9781904271598
ISBN: 978-1904271598

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

Jonson, Ben. *Epicoene or the Silent Woman (New Mermaids)* ed. Roger Victor Holdsworth. 2002. 978-0713666687