

EN 4/6713: Seventeenth-Century English Literature

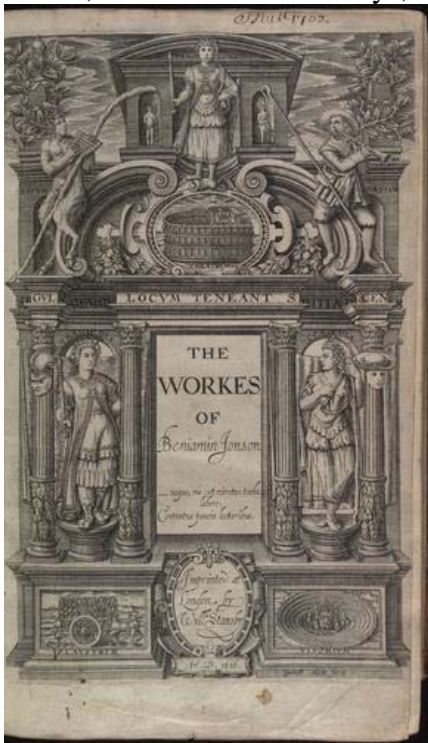
Dr. Lara Dodds

Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30-5:00 PM

This course will examine the major writers and genres of seventeenth-century literature with a particular focus on the historical contexts of literary authorship. How did writers define their relationships to literary tradition, on the one hand, and to the social and material circumstances of literary production and circulation, on the other? What are the circumstances—*aesthetic, political, or institutional*—that led later readers and writers to admire and imitate some authors. . . and ignore others?

We will address these questions through a study of both major and so-called minor writers of the seventeenth-century, with a particular focus on the poets John Donne, George Herbert, Mary Wroth, and Katherine Philips; prose writers Francis Bacon and Dorothy Osborne; and dramatists Elizabeth Cary, Ben Jonson, and Margaret Cavendish.

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



Course Texts include:

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

Paul Salzman, ed. *Early Modern Women's Writing: An Anthology*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2008

Ben Jonson. *The Alchemist and Other Plays* Oxford: Oxford UP, 2009.

Margaret Cavendish. *The Convent of Pleasure and Other Plays*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1999.

Brian Vickers, ed. *The Major Works of Francis Bacon* Oxford: Oxford UP, 2008.