

Women & Literature Before 1700

ENGL 387

Prof. Farina, T R 10:00-11:15

The course will survey women's participation in early British literature, considering their practices not only as authors, but also as patrons, readers, and interpreters. Even in restricting circumstances, female patronage and curatorship could be as powerful as authorship in early periods. Topics will include: literature as public relations (a woman's job), women and translation, mercantile literacies, women's devotional cultures, critiques of courtly love and marriage, rhetoric and sexuality, transgender subjects, and re-writing medieval women.

Possible texts include: Beroul's *Romance of Tristan*, Marie de France's *Lais*, *The Romance of Silence*, *Lives* of female mystics, Christine de Pizan's *Book of the City of Ladies*, the poems of Gwerful Mechain, Margery Kempe's *Book*, the *Paston Letters*, Amelia Lanyer's poetry, Margaret Cavendish's *The Blazing World*, and Robyn Cadwallader's recent novel, *The Anchoress*.

Cross-listed with Women's Studies.

