

ENGL 386 British Women Writers

Prof. Weihman

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Fall 2025

Tuesday/Thursday 2:30pm – 3:45pm

“I am made and remade continually. Different people draw different words from me” – Virginia Woolf, *The Waves*, 1931

This course examines fiction, poems, essays, and drama written by British women writers, from the 14th C to the present day. We will explore what it means to be British, a woman, and a writer, categories that are historical, social, political, and complex. Texts will include a selection of novels, poems, plays, and essays from a wide swathe of writers, by authors such as Aphra Behn, Jane Austen, the Brontë sisters, George Eliot, Virginia Woolf, Jean Rhys, Sarah Kane, Zadie Smith, Sarah Waters, Annie Yellowe Palma, Carol Ann Duffy, and many others. You will practice the critical reading of texts, analyzing and interpreting literature within its historical context, and explore how literature reflects and effects social, political, and economic forces. You will learn to read and analyze literary texts and secondary critical essays, organize and compose a research paper, and practice oral communication skills through class discussion and presentations.



The Nine Muses of Great Britain (after similar painting by [en:Richard Samuel](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Richard_Samuel_The_Nine_Muses_of_Great_Britain.jpg)) ref npg inc. Elizabeth Carter, Angelica Kauffman, Anna Letitia Barbauld, Catharine Macaulay, Elizabeth Montagu, Elizabeth Griffith, Hannah More, et al. *By after Richard Samuel* - <http://needled.wordpress.com/2008/04/>, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=9572827>