Fall 2006

RSCP. 72100 - Early Modern Disseminations: Encounters with European Culture East & West GC: M, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Rm. TBA, 3/4 credits, Prof. Elsky, [96614] Cross listed with ART 75000/C L 80900 & ENGL 81000.

This course will explore the impact of contact between European and non-European cultures in the Renaissance and Early Modern period, an age of exploration and expansion. It will concentrate on the transformations that occur when cultural forms originally associated with the Italian city state move across borders via national states and empires to the New World and the eastern Mediterranean, to Tenochtitlan and the Ottoman Empire.

We will begin by considering cartography as the European mapping of its own internally dynamic geographical space and its relation to geographies beyond its borders in the major English and Spanish cartographic projects. We will then consider both the reciprocal effects of encounters between European and non-European cultures on each other and the resulting hybrid forms expressing a range from resistance, absorption, and synthesis.

Themes will include culture as forms in geographic motion, as well as issues of authenticity, imitation, appropriation, and mimicry. Emphasis will be placed on Italian English, French, and Spanish encounters with the New World and the Ottoman Empire. Examples will be drawn from the historical, literary and visual traditions, including case histories and the theory of the state and empire; lyric, epic, travel narrative, and ethnographic description; prints, drawings, architecture, and cartography.

Emphasis will be placed on critical approaches and research problems as illustrated in readings from political and cultural history, literary criticism, and art history as applied so such figures as Petrarch, Shakespeare, Columbus, Las Casas, Oviedo, Cervantes, Garsilaso, Thevet, Léry.

This course satisfies a requirement for the Renaissance Studies Certificate Program, but all students are welcome. Because this is a cross-disciplinary course, students are encouraged to introduce material drawn from their home discipline for discussion and assignments.

RSCP. 83100 - Women & Learning in Early Modern Europe 1350-1750 GC: R, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Rm. TBA, 3/4 credits, Prof. King, [96615] Cross listed with HIST 74300.

From the fourteenth through eighteenth centuries, European women emerged from the silence of the Middle Ages to become eloquent, forceful participants in the mainstream of civilization. At first, primarily those authorized by their holiness – nuns, mystics, tertiaries, anchoresses – spoke of their visions and their mission.

Then, triggered by the first publication in 1361 of On Famous Women by the Italian author Giovanni Boccaccio, there followed a stream of works, by both men and women, defending the targets of a misogynistic tradition embedded in the respected disciplines of law, medicine, philosophy, and theology.

By the early 1500s, the availability of the print medium and the maturation of the European vernaculars permitted women authors to explore verse and prose fiction, even as the querelle des femmes (“the debate about women”) soared to its climax in the first half of the seventeenth century.
By this date, writing by women and about women had moved from periphery to center of European culture, and the major issues pertaining to women’s nature and capacity had been addressed. These were the foundations on which Mary Wollstonecraft erected her manifesto of 1792, challenging her contemporaries to recognize the due rights of woman even as the French Revolution, then still in progress, established the rights of man.

This course examines a few of the key works, originally in Latin and four European vernaculars, that trace this story.

In addition to reading in common the works listed below (weekly readings will average about 100 pages), students will prepare historiographical essays (15-25 pages) based on at least six monographs (or the equivalent), or similar project with the instructor’s approval, due on the date of the scheduled final examination.

Many of the assigned readings are available in inexpensive editions; the library has been asked to place all works on reserve; some smaller selections will be available on E-RES; and one work is available in full online. Online bibliographies of relevant secondary works are available on my website at [http://academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/history/king/BiblioWomen.htm](http://academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/history/king/BiblioWomen.htm).

and


Bibliographies and course website will be updated by August 1, 2006. (Syllabus available in Certificate Programs Office, Room 5109)

**ART. 85010 - Italian Sculpture from Michelangelo-Bernini**

*GC: M, 4:15-6:15 p.m., Rm. TBA, 3 credits, Prof. Richter, [96043] Permission of Ph.D. Program in Art History required.*

This seminar focuses on the transition from Renaissance to Baroque sculpture. The view of sculpture in the fifteenth century was largely defined by Ghiberti in his Commentaries. For the sixteenth- and seventeenth centuries the sources are considerably richer: Vasari and Condovi on Michelangelo, The Autobiography of Benvenuto Cellini, and Baldinucci’s Life of Bernini.

An examination of these primary sources will be followed by a study of such major Florentine artists as Michelangelo, Jacopo Sansovino, Ammanati, Bandinelli, and Cellini, along with the Northern sculptor Giovanni Bologna.

Shifting to Rome, students can focus on the early career of Algardi, Duquesnoy, and Bernini. Classes will concentrate on the creation of new genres such as the bronze statuette, the fountain, the colossus, and the emphasis placed on the creation of innovative, decorative objects such as the Saleria of Cellini (stolen from Vienna, but recently recovered).

We will also be exploring the political, religious and social ambiance of Florence and Rome during the reign of the Medici dukes and the pontificates of Sixtus IV, Julius II, and Urban VIII.

Three (3) auditors permitted.
Course Requirements: 30 minute oral presentation followed by a research paper (approx. 15 pages)

Preliminary Readings:


**CL. 71000 - Ariosto's Orlando Furioso**

GC: R, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Rm. TBA, 3 credits, Prof. Fasoli, [96142]

**ENGL. 81400 - Shakespearean Economics**

GC: W, 11:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m., Rm. TBA, 2/4 credits, Prof. Di Gangi, [96242]

This course will examine the representation of economics in the drama of Shakespeare, and a few of his contemporaries, from 1590-1610, when London theater was flourishing as a business and England was beginning to emerge as an international economic power.

Economics will be broadly defined to encompass the financial, social, and sexual dynamics of the household, the city, and the international market. We will explore the dramatic representation of property (including stage properties and the notion of the self as property), money, capitalism, mercantilism, class conflict, nationalism, credit, debt, urban space, and questions of worth, value, and ownership.

We will read the work of Marxist, materialist, and feminist critics such as Douglas Bruster, Walter Cohen, Richard Halpern, Jonathan Gil Harris, David Hawkes, Jean Howard, Natasha Korda, Lorna Hutson, and Theodore Leinwand. Shakespeare plays might include *2 Henry VI* (1591), *The Taming of the Shrew* (1592), *The Comedy of Errors* (1592-94), *The Merchant of Venice* (1596-97), *Troilus and Cressida* (1602), *Measure for Measure* (1603), *King Lear* (1604-5), *Timon of Athens* (1607-8).

Non-Shakespearean plays might include Marlowe's *The Jew of Malta* (1589), Dekker's *The Shoemaker's Holiday* (1599), Heywood's *Edward IV* (1599) and *The Fair Maid of the West* (1600-1604), Jonson's *The Alchemist* (1610), and perhaps some civic pageants by Middleton.

**FREN. 82000 - Femmes ecrivant Renaissance**

GC: W, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Rm. TBA, 3 credits, Prof. Sautman, [96255]

Quoique le canon littéraire, en particulier pour la période ancienne ("early modern") ait beaucoup changé et qu'il soit sous révision continue, la proportion des auteures par rapport à leurs confrères masculins dans le corpus français au Moyen Age et à la Renaissance reste infime, même comparé à des pays voisins, comme l'Italie. Aux quelques écrivaines toujours étudiées, le nouveau canon a tout de même ajouté plusieurs grands noms, et d'autres attirent l'attention au fil des travaux d'érudition et de critique.

Ce cours prend acte de ces changements, et abordera un groupe de six auteures couvrant la "grande" Renaissance, à savoir, des femmes ayant écrit depuis le 15e siècle à l'aube du 17e. Écrivaines professionnelles (Christine de Pisan) ou occasionnelles (la reine Marguerite
de Valois), ou hauts personnages écrivant par vocation (Marguerite de Navarre), les neuf femmes dans le corpus principal incarnent des niveaux, des investissements, et des enjeux différents dans l’acte d’écrire. Et bien que leurs propos éclairent ou polémiquent souvent sur le statut de la femme, notre attention sera plutôt dirigée vers leur capacité d’intériorité, sur les rapports entre intimité et extimité, sur les jeux de miroir entre réel et représentation, sur l’acte d’écriture en tant que processus autant que sur les écrits. D’où le titre “femmes écrivante,” plutôt que “femme écrivains/ écrivaines”.

Le travail du cours comprendra des lectures substantielles; un travail de mi-trimestre; un travail final basé sur recherches et critique/théorie, et une brève présentation en classe du travail écrit de chacun/e.

Une bibliographie plus étendue avec textes premiers et ouvrages critiques/théoriques sera distribuée à la fin du mois de mai. Le syllabus complet est distribué au début du cours.

Les discussions sont en français, le travail à rendre par les étudiants du programme de français aussi.

Students in programs outside of French may do all their work, written and oral, in English.

Le cours est concentré sur les auteures suivantes:

Christine de Pizan 1364? - 1431 (Advision Christine- Livre de la cité des dames.) Marguerite de Navarre 1492-1549 (Heptaméron; Comédies bibliques; Chansons spirituelles)

Helisenne de Crenne (Angoisses douloureuses; Epistres familiaires et invectives)

Louise Labé 1526?-1566 (Débat de Folie et d’amour; élégies et sonnets)

Jeanne d’Albret 1528-1572 (mémoires et poésies: extraits)

Marguerite de Valois, de Navarre, de France 1553-1615 (correspondance, mémoires: extraits)

Madeleine Neveu, dame des Roches, 1520-1587 et Catherine des Roches 1542-1587 (poésie et correspondance).

Marie de Gournay 1565-1645 (Proumenoir de Monsieur de Montaigne, e 1594 )

**FREN. 87500 - Villon GC: T, 4:15-6:15 p.m., Rm. TBA, 2 credits, Prof. Sautman, [96555] Course meets October 10 - December 8.**

The course is run as an independent study, and will thus only register a small group of students to a maximum of seven. Students from other Programs are welcome, but priority will be given to students in the French Program, and permission must be given by the French Program. Meetings are in French. Students outside of French may do their oral and written work in English.

This is a workshop/seminar format and all participants, regardless of status, must do at least the oral part of the work. Level 1 and 2 students must register for credit.
Ce mini-séminaire se focalise sur le Testament de Villon (le Lais ayant déjà fait l’objet d’un autre mini-séminaire) et aborde aussi les poésies diverses. Son but est de développer chez les participants un sens critique aigu par rapport à l’oeuvre de Villon, d’apprendre à interpréter son oeuvre à de multiples niveaux, parfois divergents, parfois simultanés, et de comprendre à la fois sa modernité et comment l’insérer dans son temps. Une bibliographie extensive sur l’état present des recherches sur Villon et une liste d’ouvrages critiques essentiels pour le semestre seront distribuées avant la fin du mois de mai aux étudiants déjà inscrits.

Travail à faire: un court exposé oral sur un passage de l’oeuvre; un travail écrit incorporant approches théoriques et interprétation.


PHIL. 76300 - Descartes/Spinoza/Leibniz GC: T, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Rm. TBA, 4 credits, Prof. Wilson, [96333]

This course is a survey of the main writings of Descartes, Spinoza and Leibniz. We will begin with a close reading of Descartes’s Meditations, and follow up with a study of Gassendi’s vigorous Objections to them and Descartes’s physical theory before turning to Descartes’s two successors.

Emphasis will be placed on topics such as the following: 1) the 17th century theory of substance and its relation to scientific developments of the period; 2) debates concerning the possibility of thinking matter and "mechanical" life; 3) the god of the philosophers vs. the God of the theologians; 4) determinism, motivation, and the status of the will; 6) perception and emotion; 7) the problem of immortality; 8) concepts of proof, certainty, and demonstration.

We will be concerned with both the systematic unity of these three metaphysical systems and with their various fissures, as well as with the overall question, what if anything is characteristic of rationalist philosophers, their assumptions, commitments, and mode of argumentation, by contrast with empiricists?

Main Readings:

Descartes: Meditations, Treatise of the World/Treatise of Man, Objections and Replies

Spinoza: Ethics