

Course Number and Section: ENGL 349C 001

Course Title and/or Topic: “Race and Gender in Seventeenth-Century Literature”

Credits: 3

Term: 2023-2024 Term 1 (Fall: September to December)

Schedule: Wednesdays and Fridays 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Instructor: Margaret Reeves

Course Description:

This course examines how literary works reflect and respond to social, political, and religious change in the context of revolution. In this section of “Seventeenth-Century Literature” we will historicize concepts of “race” and “gender” within early modern literary and cultural contexts in England and the early American colonies.

Our readings and discussions will address the following:

- historical and theoretical approaches to concepts of gender and race
- the social politics of gendered and racialized bodies
- homoeroticism in early modern English literary cultures
- constructions of female subjectivity and sexuality in early modern England and the colonies
- patriarchal cultures in early modern England and its colonies
- representations of Jewish, African, and Indigenous peoples and whiteness in early modern English literature
- postcolonial perspectives on early modern “voyages of discovery”
- connections between slavery, commerce, and colonization
- the politics of literary and theoretical canons in relation to gender and race

Required Readings (subject to revision prior to the beginning of term)

1. Cary, Elizabeth, *The Tragedy of Mariam, the Fair Queen of Jewry*. Broadview 2000; ISBN 9781551110431
2. Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*. Broadview 2015; ISBN 9781554812127
3. Shakespeare, William. *Othello*. Broadview 2017; ISBN 9781554813261
4. Broadview Custom Textbook. Broadview, 2022. ISBN 978-1-55459-484-9
5. Reeves, Margaret. UBCO Bookstore *Course Reader* (custom course materials)

Note: Items 1 to 5 of the above texts are all sold by the UBCO Bookstore. Please note in particular that items 4 and 5 are both custom course readers. Item 4, the Broadview Custom Textbook, was designed specifically for this course (by me with the help of Broadview Press) and is published by Broadview Press. Item 5, the UBCO course reader for ENGL 349C is printed by the UBCO Bookstore, and like Item 4, contains readings designed specifically for this course. Both readers (items 4 and 5) must be purchased because both contain required readings for this course (such as, for example, Aphra Behn's story of the African prince, Oroonoko, and Mary Rowlandson's captivity narrative, one of the earliest in this genre to be published). Links to any additional required electronic and digital materials will be made available online in *Canvas* and/or placed on reserve in the UBCO library.

Additional Recommended Resources

1. A writing handbook with information on grammar (see suggestions on *Canvas*).
2. The MLA Citation Style Guide, 9th edition, produced by UBCO's Library:

<https://guides.library.ubc.ca/c.php?g=725315&p=5195216>

3. An English dictionary (Canadian or British spelling), available through UBCO Library:
E.g.: *Oxford English Dictionary*:
<https://resources.library.ubc.ca/page.php?details=oxford-english-dictionary&id=137>
Canadian Oxford Dictionary ed. by Katherine Barber:
DOI: 10.1093/acref/9780195418163.001.0001
4. A literary glossary or dictionary of literary terms, such as J.A. Cuddon, *A Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory* (2013), available in Library Online Course Reserves (LOCR). For other suggestions, see examples and links on Canvas in the Module entitled “Writing Resources.”