



ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo
Department of English
ENGL 208N: Sex in Literature
Fall 2019
Mondays & Wednesdays 2:30-3:50pm, SJ2 2003

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Tristanne Connolly
Office: Sweeney Hall 2203
Office Phone: 519-884-8111 ext. 28244
Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 1:30-2:30 and by appointment
Email: tristanne.connolly@uwaterloo.ca
Website: <http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~tjconnol>

Course Description and Objectives

This course offers an examination of some of the varieties of sexuality expressed in literary works written in English from the middle ages through the twentieth century. Objectives of the course include coming to an understanding of the ways in which sexuality is culturally constructed, and the ways those constructions have changed over time; recognizing the role of literature in informing as well as reflecting those constructions; considering the issues involved (formal as well as moral) in depicting sex in literature; examining the ways social structures such as marriage attempt to control sexuality, and sexuality attempts to transgress social control; and encountering some major literary and cultural theories which articulate these questions. As it could easily be said that nearly all literature is about sex, the readings won't attempt to be comprehensive, even within the arbitrary parameters of concentrating on British literature with the addition of one classic Canadian novel. The readings have been selected for representation of the periods from the middle ages to the twentieth century, and for interest, interrelation, and variety. The readings seek to feature homosexual, bisexual, and other possibilities, and the diversity of "normative" heterosex, and to go beyond object choice in representing variety (for instance, encompassing a spectrum from passionate friendship to prostitution). Additional themes include the projection of human sexuality on other species, and the relationship between sexuality and religion.

Texts

Required Texts

Marie de France. *The Lais of Marie de France: Text and Translation*. Ed. and trans. Claire M. Waters. Peterborough: Broadview, 2018.
John Cleland. *Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure*. Ed. Peter Sabor. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.
Jane Austen. *Sense and Sensibility*. Ed. Kathleen James-Cavan. Peterborough: Broadview, 2001.
D. H. Lawrence. *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. Ed. Michael Squires. London: Penguin, 2000.
Marian Engel. *Bear*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 2014.

Readings Available on Reserve

- All other readings for class can be found on electronic reserve via the UW Library website.
- On reserve in the St. Jerome's library, in book form, there are a number of supplementary readings of interest, and of use to assignments (especially the theoretical / critical essay); please see the list via the UW Library Course Reserves link.

Course Requirements and Assessment

Please submit assignments in class as hard copies. Only in cases where this is not possible, please place assignments in my drop box at St. Jerome's.

Assignment	Date	Weighting
Short interpretation	30 September / week's grace 7 October	20%
Comparison / Contrast essay	28 October / week's grace 4 November	25%
Theoretical / Critical essay	25 November / week's grace 2 December	25%
Participation		5%
Final examination	TBA	25%

Brief descriptions of assignments

Full information on assignment requirements will be provided in handouts available on LEARN.

- The short interpretation (minimum 3 full pages) will take a stand on a question about one text on the reading list.
- The comparison and contrast essay (minimum 4 full pages) will analyze two texts on the reading list in relation to each other.
- The theoretical / critical essay (minimum 5 full pages) will relate a theoretical or critical source to a text on the reading list.
- Participation will be judged according to active attention and constructive contribution in class discussion, including demonstration of interested engagement with the course readings. Attendance, since it is a basic course requirement, does not in itself count towards the participation grade; however, missing more than a few classes may result in a participation mark of zero.
- The final exam will include identification of passages and a short essay.

Late Work

Assignments handed in on time will receive full written comments and corrections; those handed in after the deadline will receive a grade only. Assignments will be accepted without penalty up to a week after the deadline. After that, a flat penalty of 20% will apply, unless there is a valid, documented excuse. Extensions can be granted for good reasons. Regardless of when an assignment is handed in, students can always have additional feedback on their work by dropping by during office hours or making an appointment. All submitted work will be considered finished. In the interest of fairness, there will not be opportunity for rewrites.

Attendance

According to the Undergraduate Calendar, "Students are expected to attend all scheduled sections of the courses in which they have enrolled". Attendance will be taken in each class. If you arrive late, it is your responsibility, at the end of class, to check that your presence has been counted. If you must miss class for a good reason, please let me know, and the good reason will be taken into account. Obviously, attendance is essential to success in the course. Additionally, missing more than a few classes may result in a participation mark of zero.

Electronic Devices

The only reason a laptop or any other electronic device should be on during class is for use in note-taking. To state the obvious: do not "multi-task" in class as it will distract other students, impede your learning, and endanger your participation marks.

Course Schedule

The following schedule is flexible. Any changes will be announced in class. Each selection will be discussed on the day listed; try to have the reading done in full for that day. Please bring the text under discussion to class.

Date	Readings / Topics
Wed 4 Sept	Introduction. Medieval lyrics: "I Have a Gentil Cok", "The Wily Clerk"
Mon 9 Sept	Medieval lyrics: "When Y se blosmes springe", "Mosti ryden by Rybbesdale"; Marie de France, "Laustic"
Wed 11 Sept	Marie de France, "Bisclavret", "Eliduc"
Mon 16 Sept	William Shakespeare, <i>Sonnets</i> : 9: "Is it for fear to wet a widow's eye" 20: "A woman's face with nature's own hand painted" 42: "That thou hast her it is not all my grief" 116: "Let me not to the marriage of true minds" 129: "Th'expense of spirit in a waste of shame" 135: "Whoever hath her wish, thou hast thy Will" 136: "If thy soul check thee that I come too near" 138: "When my love swears that she is made of truth" 144: "Two loves I have, of comfort and despair"
Wed 18 Sept	Shakespeare, <i>Sonnets</i>
Mon 23 Sept	John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, "Fair Chloris in a pigsty lay", "Signior Dildo", "Song (Love a woman? You're an ass!)"
Wed 25 Sept	Rochester, "On Mrs. Willis", "Song (By all love's softe, yet mighty powers)", "The Disabled Debauchee", "The Imperfect Enjoyment"
Mon 30 Sept	Short interpretation due. Aphra Behn, "The Disappointment"
Wed 2 Oct	Behn, "On a Juniper-Tree, cut down to make Busks", "To the fair Clarinda, who made Love to me, imagin'd more than Woman"
Mon 7 Oct	Short interpretation: week's grace deadline. John Cleland, <i>Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure</i>
Wed 9 Oct	Cleland, <i>Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure</i>
14-18 Oct	Thanksgiving Holiday and Reading Week
Mon 21 Oct	William Blake, <i>Visions of the Daughters of Albion</i> (Please look at the Blake Archive reproductions as well as the <i>Complete Poetry and Prose</i> text)
Wed 23 Oct	Thomas Gray, "Ode on the Death of a Favourite Cat, Drowned in a Tub of Gold Fishes"; Oliver Goldsmith, "When Lovely Woman Stoops to Folly"
Mon 28 Oct	Comparison / Contrast essay due. Jane Austen, <i>Sense and Sensibility</i>
Wed 30 Oct	Austen, <i>Sense and Sensibility</i>
Mon 4 Nov	Comparison / Contrast essay: week's grace deadline. Christina Rossetti, "Goblin Market"
Wed 6 Nov	Rossetti, "A Pause", "A Triad", "A Birthday", "No, Thank You, John", "Promises Like Pie-Crust"
Mon 11 Nov	Oscar Wilde, <i>De Profundis</i> , <i>The Trials of Oscar Wilde</i> ; Lord Alfred Douglas, "Two Loves"
Wed 13 Nov	Michael Field (pseudonym of Katharine Bradley and Edith Cooper), "Ah, Eros does not always smite", "A girl", "It was deep April", Editors' headnote, "From <i>Whym Chow: Flame of Love</i> ", "Trinity", "My loved One is away from me"
Mon 18 Nov	D. H. Lawrence, <i>Lady Chatterley's Lover</i>
Wed 20 Nov	Lawrence, <i>Lady Chatterley's Lover</i>

Mon 25 Nov	Theoretical / Critical essay due. Marian Engel, <i>Bear</i>
Wed 27 Nov	Engel, <i>Bear</i>
Mon 2 Dec	Theoretical / Critical essay: week's grace deadline. Conclusion; Discussion of final exam

Other information

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. [Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information.]

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances, www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/upload_file/PLCY_AOM_Student-Petitions-and-Grievances_20151211-SJUSCApproved.pdf. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the St. Jerome's academic advisor who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. [Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information.] A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Discipline, www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/PLCY_AOM_Student-Discipline_20131122-SJUSCApproved.pdf. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to University of Waterloo Policy 71, Student Discipline, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm. For typical penalties, check the Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Appeals, www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/PLCY_AOM_Student-Appeals_20131122-SJUSCApproved.pdf.

Note for students with disabilities: AccessAbility Services, located in Needles Hall (Room 1401) at the University of Waterloo, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term, www.uwaterloo.ca/accessability-services/.