

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
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### Seminar 3/4: Early Modern Women Write Back : Fourth-Wave Feminism on the Globe Stage (2AN1337)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
<b>Pilier principal B A - langue et littérature anglaises</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

#### Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

#### Equipe enseignante

Ms. Gemma Allred

#### Contenu

As Morgan Lloyd Malcolm's Emilia says, 'We are only as powerful as the stories we tell' (Lloyd Malcolm, 2019). However, who gets to tell their story is another question.

Taking Lloyd Malcolm's 2018 play Emilia as our core text we will consider the early modern writers she portrays on stage: Emilia Bassano (Lanyer/Lanier), Mary Sydney, and Shakespeare's Dark Lady Sonnets. This contemporary British play was first staged at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London in 2018 and offers a historically fictionalised account of the life of Emilia Bassano (1569 -1645).

Emilia Bassano was one of the first women to publish poetry, publishing her volume of proto-feminist poetry *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum* in 1611. However, her place in the literary canon has been somewhat overshadowed by claims she was Shakespeare's muse and the so-called 'Dark Lady' of Shakespeare's Sonnets.

In 2018, Lloyd Malcolm's protagonist became every woman, embodying their collective anger, and social media responded. Emilia was established as essential viewing, working as a manifesto for a feminist revolution. The act of writing back across textual boundaries functioned as historical recuperation, placing the textual memories of the real Emilia Bassano into the bodies of modern women. Lloyd Malcolm's Emilia was written within the maelstrom of the Me Too movement, a reaction to allegations of sexual assault by Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein and others which saw women who had been subjected to sexual harassment or assault telling their stories using the hashtag '#MeToo'. It also appeared in the wake of the 2017 Women's Marches that took place worldwide following Donald Trump's inauguration as President of the United States. It is from within this fourth-wave feminist movement that we will address our texts.

Emilia notes that:

We hear the echoes bounding down the passage of time and into our dreams. We read what was recorded and we see what is missing. We see what they did not want us to write down (Lloyd Malcolm, 2019).

Analysing early modern poetry in conversation with predominately fourth-wave feminist essays of Rebecca Solnit (the originator of the concept of 'mansplaining'), Audre Lorde, bell hooks, and others, this course will ask: what happens when early modern women talk back, and we place early modern female poets back into the narrative?

#### Forme de l'évaluation

A 10-page essay to be submitted during the semester break following the seminar – precise date and topic to be agreed with Ms. Gemma Allred.

#### Documentation

Please purchase material copies of:

Morgan Lloyd Malcolm's Emilia (ISBN-10: 1786824817, ISBN-13: 978-1786824813).

I will place the additional required reading material on moodle.

While key readings will be put on moodle, depending on your particular areas of interest, you may find it useful to have access to:

- A critical edition of Shakespeare's Sonnets – I particularly like Helen Vendler *The Art of Shakespeare's Sonnets* (ISBN-10: 0674637127, ISBN-13: 978-0674637122). The Arden, Oxford and Folger editions are perfectly fine.
- An anthology of early modern women's writing – either *Early Modern Women's Writing An Anthology 1560 – 1700* edited by Paul Salzman

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### **Seminar 3/4: Early Modern Women Write Back : Fourth-Wave Feminism on the Globe Stage (2AN1337)**

(Oxford World's Classics) (ISBN-10: 0199549672, ISBN-13: 978-0199549672); or, Isabella Whitney, Mary Sidney and Aemilia Lanyer: Renaissance Women Poets (Penguin Classics) (ISBN-10: 0140424091, ISBN-13: 978-0140424096)

- A primer on Feminism – I recommend Deborah Cameron's *Feminism: A Brief Introduction to the Ideas, Debates, and Politics of the Movement* (ISBN-10: 022662062X, ISBN-13: 978-0226620626)
- I will provide an expanded additional reading list in the first session.

#### **Pré-requis**

First-year courses  
Requirements  
Regular attendance  
Reading assignments

#### **Forme de l'enseignement**

Seminar

#### **Objectifs d'apprentissage**

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

- Interpret early modern texts using a fourth-wave feminist lens
- Defend arguments about literary texts
- Synthesise main developments in feminist critical theory
- Write critical essays
- Formulate questions for discussion
- Analyse Early Modern Poetry and 21st Century plays
- Apply the methodologies of gender, critical race and feminism to a variety of texts
- Develop critical appreciation of early modern poetry
- Discover ways in
- Develop close reading and essay writing skills

#### **Compétences transférables**

- Manage a project
- Generate new ideas (creativity)
- Discuss complex issues
- Apply knowledge to new situations
- Manage priorities
- Carry out a critical analysis
- Develop intellectual rigor and curiosity