**Dr. Laura Engel**

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**Office hours T/Th 10:30-11:30am or by appointment**

**(Special Graduate Student Office Hours Monday, 4:00-5:00pm)**

**ENG 529/WGS: Queer Eighteenth-Century Literature: Sapphic Subjects**

**Monday, 6:00-8:40: College Hall 551**

In her groundbreaking study, *The Sexuality of History*, Sue Lanser argues: “the story of female same sex affiliation that preoccupied emergent modernity can be read as a story of modernity *tout court*. Figuring as both agent and emblem, the Sapphic became a flash-point for epistemic upheavals that threatened to dismantle the order of things” (3). This course will explore Lanser’s provocative proposal that the “(il)logic of women+women became a testing ground for modernity’s limit points” (3), by looking at representations of female subjectivities and desires in a variety of materials across the long eighteenth century including: plays, poetry, novels, pamphlets, essays, portraits, prints, sculpture, memoirs, and letters. While Lanser’s study focuses on narrative form and fiction, we will broaden our scope to consider archival materials relating to lived lives as well as to representations of Sapphic identities in theater and the arts. Readings will include work by eighteenth-century scholars in the dynamic field of queer eighteenth-century studies including: Terry Castle, Valerie Traub, Fiona Bridoake, George Haggerty, Kristina Straub, Caroline Gonda, John Beynon, and Emma Donohue.

**Required Texts**

**Broadview Press Bundle: 978-1-4881-0769-6 available at the bookstore and also directly through Broadview Press:**

https://broadviewpress.com/product/eng-529-queer-eighteenth-century/?ph=520e08a63daa08ffebfa06f6#tab-description

*Fantomina and Other Works*, Eliza Haywood

*The Wonder: A Woman Keeps a Secret*: Susanna Centlivre

*Paper Bodies: A Margaret Cavendish Reader*: Margaret Cavendish

*Millenium Ha*ll: Sarah Scott

*Mansfield Park*: Jane Austen

**Other Primary Readings:**

Charlotte Charke, *A Narrative of the Life of Mrs. Charlotte Charke* (PDF)

Selections from Lady Mary Wortley Montagu: *The Turkish Embassy Letters* (PDF)

**Class Requirements**

1. Text Presentations (15-minute presentation on a specific aspect of a text we are reading. You will be assigned a text in advance.)

2. Two Article Response Papers (2 page response papers to 2 articles)

3. Annotated Bibliography (8-10 sources)

4. Final Paper/project/Final presentation (15-20 pages)

**Class Schedule**

Monday, August 27: Introduction

Monday, September 3: Labor Day No Class

Monday, September 10: Sue Lanser “How to do The Sexuality of History” from *The Sexuality of History* (PDF), Katherine Binhammer “Accounting for the Unaccountable: Lesbianism and the History of Sexuality in Eighteenth-Century Britain” *Literature Compass*, Vol. 7, Issue 1, January 2010)

Monday, September 17: Margaret Cavendish: *The Convent of Pleasure*. Katherine Kellett, “Performance, Performativity and Identity in Margaret Cavendish’s ‘The Convent of Pleasure’” Studies in English Literature 1500-1900, Vol. 28. No. 2, Spring 2008.

Monday, September 24: Susanna Centlivre: *The Wonder: Or A Woman Keeps a Secret*, John O’Brien’s Introduction to the Broadview Edition.

Monday, October 1: Eliza Haywood: *Fantomina.* Catherine Ingrassia “Queering Eliza Haywood” Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies [Vol. 14, No. 4, Fall 2014](https://www.jstor.org/stable/jearlmodcultstud.14.issue-4)

Monday, October 8: Shawn Watkins Visit

Monday, October 15: Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, *The Turkish Embassy Letters* (selections). Marcia Pointon, “Going Turkish in Eighteenth-Century London: Lady Mary Wortley Montagu and her Portraits” (PDF)

Monday, October 22: Sarah Scott, *Millenium Hall* (selections) Caroline Gonda: “The Odd Women: Charlotte Charke, Sarah Scott and the Metamorphoses of Sex” (PDF)

Monday, October 29: Charlotte Charke, *Narrative of the Life of Mrs. Charlotte Charke*. Jade Higa, “Charlotte Charke’s Gun: Queering Material Culture and Gender Performance” ABO: Interactive Journal for Women and the Arts. Vol.7, 2007. http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1153&context=abo

Monday, November 5: Anne Damer and the Ladies of Llangollen, Fiona Briodoake selections from *The Ladies of Llangollen: Desire, Indeterminacy, and the Legacies of Criticism* (PDF)

Emma Donoghue: “’Random Shafts of Malice?’ The Outings of Anne Damer” (PDF) **(Annotated Bibliographies Due)**

Monday, November 12: Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park*. Devony Looser “Queering the Work of Jane Austen is Nothing New” *The Atlantic*

https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2017/07/queering-the-work-of-jane-austen-is-nothing-new/533418/

**Thanksgiving Break**

Monday, November 26: Austen, *Mansfield Park*. George Haggerty “Fanny Price: Is she solemn? Is she queer? Is she prudish?” *The Eighteenth Century* Vol. 53, No. 2 (SUMMER 2012), pp. 175-188.

Monday, December 3: Presentations

Monday, December 10: Presentations

**FINAL PAPERS DUE: Wednesday, December 12th at noon**

## Assignments

**Text Presentations**

Each of you will be assigned a text on the syllabus. Your presentation should focus on a specific aspect of the text you would like to explore. Feel free to use images, readings, handouts, or other visual aids. You may incorporate outside sources/theory, but make sure you cite these sources appropriately. Please do your very best to keep the presentation to the time limit. I will stop people after 18 minutes.

**Two Article Response Papers (2 pages)**

You will write **two** short response papers on **two** of the critical articles on the syllabus (your choice as to which ones to do but don’t leave this all to the end!). These papers do not have to have a specific thesis. The purpose of this assignment is to explore ideas and questions that will help you in crafting arguments for your final papers/projects.

**Annotated Bibliography For Final Project**

This annotated bibliography should focus on your topic for your final paper/presentation and should include a short paragraph on 8-10 texts.

**Long Essay/Final Presentation**

Final essays should be 15-20 pages and will be on a topic of your choice. I strongly recommend that you have a conference with me to discuss your ideas and research agenda before the end of the semester. You will do a final presentation of about 10-15 minutes on your final project.

**Note: This syllabus is a work in progress. I may add or change readings as we go along. If for some reason you cannot be in class make sure that you contact me to find out if there are any changes to the schedule.**