**Transatlantic Women Writers**

English 107.A Fall 2011

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**TEXTS**: Schaw, *Journal of a Lady of Quality* (Nabu); Rowson, *Reuben and Rachel* (Broadview); Winkfield, *The Female American* (Broadview); Lennox, *Euphemia* (Broadview); Anon., *The Woman of Colour* (Broadview); Austen, *Mansfield Park* (Broadview)

**AIMS AND SCOPE**

This course examines the role women in the transatlantic literary cultures of Britain and the Americas in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Taking as its starting point the rise of the rights of women debate, we will focus on the complex ways in which women generated and expanded transatlantic conversations about such monumental issues as slavery and the slave trade, revolution, empire, cosmopolitanism, science, and theology, all of which emerged as integral features of transatlantic political cultures. In addition to British and US American authors, we will consider the writings of writers living in Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean (e.g., Flora Tristan, Maria Graham, and Frances Calderon de la Barca). In doing so, we will develop a better understanding of the international relationships and intercultural contacts between women in Britain and all of the Americas that helped establish a transatlantic literary culture that was able to cross national borders, languages, and ethnic groups.

**EVALUATION**

The course will proceed primarily through lecture, classroom discussion, and an online discussion forum. Students will be assessed on the basis of the following: class participation, quiz scores, and a final research paper.

*Class Participation*:

Class participation will be broken up into two components: 1) online responses; and 2) in-class participation. Online responses consist primarily of answering discussion questions posted by the instructor or other students on the online discussion forum prior to attending class. I ask that you complete and post your response no later than 7 a.m. the day of class. Responses should be thoughtful and relevant to the course theme. Posts following the first response should engage with those arguments that come before it to avoid repeating ideas already posted.

*Quizzes*:

Each class will begin with a 10-question quiz on the assigned reading for the day. Quizzes consist of basic plot questions and are designed to allow me to give credit to students who do all of the reading.

*Final Paper*:

The final research paper will be submitted in 3 stages: a) a one page abstract of an argument of the student’s choosing and related to the course theme in which students will be graded on how well they set up the critical context for the argument to be advanced, chart an original critical intervention, and concisely articulate a clear and persuasive argument; b) a five- to eight-page paper developing the argument articulated in the abstract; and c) the final research paper ten to fifteen pages in length evaluated in terms of how well you incorporate my comments on your writing, clarity of writing, substance of argument, and substantiality of research.

# Grade Assessment:

Participation: 40%

Final Paper: 40 %

Quizzes: 20 %

**ATTENDANCE**

Quizzes will serve as your record of attendance. You may miss two classes without penalty. After the second unexcused absence, your grade is dropped by one degree (i.e., B+ becomes a B). YOU MAY NOT LEAVE CLASS BEFORE I DISMISS YOU. If you do, I will stop you in front of everyone and have you identify yourself so that I can count you absent for the day.

**DEADLINES:**

All deadlines are final unless cleared with me prior to the class meeting on which the assignment is due. If you have special circumstances that prevent you from getting your work in on time, feel free to contact me and we’ll make arrangements.

**READINGS:**

INTRODUCTION:

9/22 Transatlantic Women Writers

WOMEN AND TRANSATLANTIC TRAVEL

9/27 Schaw, *Journal of a Lady of Quality*

9/29 Schaw, *Journal of a Lady of Quality*

WOMEN AND THE TRANSATLANTIC IMAGINATION

10/4 Rowson, *Reuben and Rachel*

10/6 Rowson, *Reuben and Rachel*

10/11 Rowson, *Reuben and Rachel*

10/13 Rowson, *Reuben and Rachel*

TRANSATLANTIC WOMEN AND AMERICA

10/18 Winkfield, *The Female American*

10/20 Winkfield, *The Female American*

**ABSTRACT DUE**

WOMEN AND REVOLUTION

10/25 Lennox, *Euphemia*

10/27 Lennox, *Euphemia*

11/1 Lennox, *Euphemia*

11/3 Lennox, *Euphemia*

WOMEN AND THE BLACK ATLANTIC

11/8 Anon., *Woman of Colour*

11/10 Anon., *Woman of Colour*

11/15 Anon., *Woman of Colour*

**5-8 PAGE PAPER DUE**

TRANSATLANTIC AUSTEN

11/17 Austen, Mansfield Park

11/22 Austen, Mansfield Park

11/24THANKSGIVING BREAK

11/29 Austen, Mansfield Park

12/1 Austen, Mansfield Park

**FINAL PAPER DUE**