

Seminar presentation sheet

Academic year	2018/19
Seminar n°	14
Seminar title	NEGOTIATING THE RHETORIC OF BLAME: DEBATE ABOUT WOMEN IN THE ENGLISH RENAISSANCE
Teacher(s) (Name, SURNAME)	Larisa KOCIC-ZÁMBÓ
University	University of Szeged
E-mail	larisa@ieas-szeged.hu
Teacher(s)' presentation	Larisa Kocic-Zámbó is a Senior Assistant Professor at the Department of English, University of Szeged and a member of its Gender Studies Research Group. Her current research interest is a comparative analysis of early modern and postmodern popular culture, particularly focusing on the psychodynamics of orality (Ong) both in works of women writers of the Renaissance and in the practices of contemporary television fandom. Her most recent contribution to this field of study is an article entitled "Resounding Words: Fan Fiction and the Pleasure of Adaptation" (in Gyóri and Moise 2016, 53-69).
Seminar presentation	Drawing on the last two decades of textual scholarship recovering the hidden literary canon of women writers (OVOME), this course is an introduction to the work of Shakespeare's 'literary sisters' roughly between 1500 and 1700. The course will focus on a selection of primary sources (authored both by men and women) addressing the "issues of women" to show how these texts contribute to, and reflect the gender expectations of their authors and audiences. Particular attention will be paid to the mechanics of epideictic rhetoric, especially of claims blaming and scapegoating women for crises of mankind and/or nationhood, and its negotiations by female authors. The course is made up of three major topics: (1) the classical sources of medieval misogyny with the polemical " <i>Querelle des femmes</i> " tradition in the centre; (2) religious topics, with a particular focus on the narrative of Creation and the Fall, as it provided the dominant discourse justifying women's subordination and, as such, the first and for long the only focus for women to engage in (re)interpretations and self-expressions in both life-writing, translations/paraphrases, theological debates, devotional works, poetry and fiction; (3) women's place in the realm of politics, actual or imaginary relations of power.

Prerequisites to follow the seminar	Preparatory readings: familiarity with the primary texts to be discussed and with the seminal theoretical works to be used in the seminar.
Seminar objectives /skills to be developed by the students	At the end of the seminar, the student will be able to critically reflect on the practice of epideictic rhetoric of blame, and its main strategies; on the analogies between the early modern and postmodern debates on women and their constructed roles within society, and how these relate to our (in)abilities to negotiated crises.
Session 1 – Presentation / plan	I. Epideictic Rhetoric: From praising and blaming to community construction (Perelman & Olbrechts-Tyteca; Burke)
Session 2 – Presentation / plan	II. Theology and Physiology A. The Bible, Calvin: Sermons; Thomas Adams: Meditations upon the creed vs William Whately: A bride bush B. Galen: On the usefulness of the parts of the body; Helkiah Crooke: <i>Microcosmographia</i>
Session 3 – Presentation / plan	III. The Status of Women A. The Controversy about Women (Jane Anger, Rachel Speght, Constantia Munda, Ester Sowernam) B. Education and Philosophy (Margaret Cavendish, Isabella Whitney, Bathsua Makin, Mary Astell) C. Works of Women Writers (Lanyer: <i>Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum</i> ; Margaret Cavendish: <i>Female Orations</i> and <i>The Convent of Pleasures</i>)

Bibliography/ Webography:

Presentation of references:

❖ Books:

KATE AUGHTERSON, ed., *Renaissance Women: Construction of Femininity in England* (Routledge, 1999).

GISELA BOCK, “Querelle des Femmes: A European Gender Dispute”, in *Women in European History* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2001), 1-31.

KENNETH BURKE, *A Rhetoric of Motives* (Berkeley, 1969).

JULIE CAMPBELL, “Literary Circles and the Inscription of the Querelle des femmes”, in *Literary Circles and Gender in Early Modern Europe* (Ashgate, 2006), 1-19.



RANDALL MARTIN, ed., *Women Writers in Renaissance England* (Harlow: Pearson, 2010).

HELEN OSTOVICH and ELIZABETH SAUER, eds, *Reading Early Modern Women: An Anthology of Texts in Manuscript and Print, 1550-1700*, Kindle edition (Routledge, 2004), ch. 2.

CHAIM PERELMAN and LUCIE OLBRECHTS-TYTECA, *The New Rhetoric: A Treatise on Argumentation* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1971).

SARAH GWYNETH ROSS, *The Birth of Feminism: Woman as Intellect in Renaissance Italy and England* (Harvard UP, 2009).

PAUL SALZMAN, *Reading Early Modern Women's Writing* (Oxford University Press, 2006).

❖ Journal articles:

SANDRA CLARK, "'Hic Mulier,' 'Haec Vir,' and the Controversy over Masculine Women," *Studies in Philology*, 82.2 (Spring 1985): 157-183.

JOAN KELLY, "Early Feminist Theory and the Querelle des femmes," *Signs* 8.1 (1982): 4-28.

BRIAN VICKERS, "Epideictic and Epic in the Renaissance," *New Literary History*, 14.3 (Spring, 1983): 497-537.

❖ Web references

RISA STEPHANIE BEAR and ANNIINA JOKINEN, eds. *Renascence Editions*. An Online Repository of Works Printed in English Between the Year 1477 and 1799. Available on: <http://www.luminarium.org/renascence-editions/ren.htm#c>

GIDEON O. BURTON. *Silva Rhetoricae*. Available on: <http://rhetoric.byu.edu/> (20.01.2017)

MARY MARK OCKERBLOOM. *A Celebration of Women Writers*. Available on: <http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/writers.html> (20. 01.2017)