**Dr. Laura Engel**

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**Office hours T 9:30-10:30; R 3:30-4:30 or by appointment**

**ENG 529/WGS : Queens**

**Thursday, 6:00-8:40: College Hall 220**

This course looks in depth at the literary, artistic, and theatrical materials produced around the reigns of four British Queens of the long eighteenth century: Queen Anne, Queen Charlotte, Queen Caroline, and the early reign of Queen Victoria. Each of these female monarchs had enormous influence on the politics, culture, and aesthetic trends of her specific era. We will look closely at the ways in which Queens patronized the arts and professional female artists as well as how their public accessibility made them celebrities exposed to praise and ridicule. The course will highlight texts from a variety of genres across the period, focusing in particular on women writers and their representations of women in the public sphere. Texts will  include plays by Susanna Centlivre, Mary Pix, and Hannah Cowley, the diaries and letters of Frances Burney  as well as novels by Jane Austen and Mary Robinson. In addition to these materials we will also be looking at periodicals, prints, caricatures, portraits, accessories, architecture, costume and other material artifacts related to these Queens, at times in relation to the visual and material culture of the courts of Marie Antoinette and Catherine the Great. Our investigations will be informed by current scholarship in literature, history, theater, and art history on eighteenth-century Queens as well as by feminist historical practices, feminist literary theory, material culture theory, performance theory, celebrity studies, and Queer theory.

**Required Texts**

1. *Popular Plays by Women in the Restoration and Eighteenth Century* edited by Tanya Caldwell

2. *Emma* by Jane Austen

3. *A Letter to the Women of England and the Natural Daughter* by Mary Robinson

4. *The Adventures of Rivella*, by Delarivier Manley\*\*\* for reference

(1-4) Broadview Press bundle: ISBN: 978-1-4881-0387-2

5. *The Journals and Letters of Frances Burney* edited by Peter Sabor

* **Publisher:** Penguin Classics (November 1, 2001)
* **Language:** English
* **ISBN-10:** 0140436243
* **ISBN-13:** 978-0140436242

6. *Eighteenth-Century Women Dramatists* edited by Melinda Finberg

* **Publisher:** Oxford University Press; 1 edition (January 15, 2009)
* **Language:** English
* **ISBN-10:** 0199554811
* **ISBN-13:** 978-0199554812

7. *The Unruly Queen* by Flora Fraser

* **Publisher:** Anchor; Reprint edition (March 10, 2009)
* **Language:** English
* **ISBN-10:** 0307456366
* **ISBN-13:** 978-0307456366

8. *A Royal Experiment: Love and Duty Madness and Betrayal: The Private Lives of King George and Queen Charlotte* by Janice Hadlow

* **Publisher:** Picador; Reissue edition (November 10, 2015)
* **Language:** English
* **ISBN-10:** 1250075149
* **ISBN-13:** 978-1250075147

9. *Queen Anne the Politics of Passion* by Anne Somerset

* **Publisher:** Vintage; Reprint edition (October 7, 2014)
* **Language:** English
* **ISBN-10:** 0804171602
* **ISBN-13:** 978-0804171601

**Class Requirements**

**Short essay (4-6 pages and presentation)**

**Leading Article Discussion (group presentation)**

**Annotated Bibliography (8-10 sources)**

**Final Paper/project/Final presentation (15-20 pages)**

**Queens Class Schedule**

Thursday, January 12: Introduction, Queens and Queen Theory

Thursday, January 19: Queen Anne: Susanna Centlivre “The Busybody” (EWD) and “The Gamester” (PPW), Clarissa Orr “Court Studies, Gender and Women’s History,, 1660-1837,” James A. Winn “Praise the Patroness of the Arts” (PDF)

Thursday, January 26: Queen Anne: Mary Pix “The Innocent Mistress” (EWD) selections from Sue Lanser, “The Sexuality of History” (PDF)

Thursday, February 2: Queen Charlotte: Kitty Clive “The Rehearsal” (PPW), Hannah Cowley “The Belle Stratagem,” (EWD) and “The Runaway (PPW)

Thursday, February 9: Queen Charlotte: France Burney “Journals and Letters” (86-333), Shearer West, “Siddons, Celebrity, and Regality” in Theatre and Celebrity in Britain 1660-2000. Mary Luckhurst and Jane Moody eds. (PDF)

Thursday, February 16: Queen Charlotte: The Natural Daughter, Morgan Rooney “Belonging to No/Body: Mary Robinson, The Natural Daughter, and Re-writing Feminine Identity” ECF Volume 18, no. 3, Spring 2006. (Project Muse)

Thursday, February 23: Queen Charlotte and Queen Caroline: The Natural Daughter, Elizabeth Fay <https://www.rc.umd.edu/praxis/sexuality/fay/fay.html>

Thursday, March 2: Queen Caroline: Emma, “Jane Austen as Fashion Plate: Musings on Muffs” in Laura Engel, *Austen, Actresses and Accessories* (PDF) **(annotated bibliographies due)**

**Spring Break**

Thursday, March 16: Queen Caroline: Emma, Excerpts from “A Queen on Trial” E. A Smith (PDF)

Thursday, March 23: Queen Victoria, selections from Margaret Homans, Wayne Kostenbaum, Kathy J. Cohen (PDFs)

Thursday, March 30: No class

Thursday, April 6: Marie Antoinette and Fashion

**Easter Break**

Thursday, April 20: Presentations

Thursday, April 27: Presentations

## Assignments

**Leading Article Discussion**

Small groups will lead class discussion on critical articles throughout the term. The group will **briefly** summarize the argument(s) of the article(s) and then direct and facilitate discussion. You should all plan to meet before class to gather ideas and draft questions that will provoke lively debate and stimulating conversation.

**Short Essay/Presentation**

This is a 4-6 page mini conference paper that should focus on a specific aspect of the text we are reading. You will present the paper to the class and the class will be able to ask you questions afterwards. (Note: you do not have to distribute your paper.) You can either give me the paper that day or you can keep it for another week to edit and/or incorporate some of the comments from the discussion. Please do your very best to keep the paper to the page limit – I will stop people after 15 minutes.

**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.**