

Anneliese Pollock
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Translating Women in Late-Medieval France

Course Description: This course is designed to give students an introduction to proto-feminist debates in Early Modern France, and to examine how translators in particular used their role as adapters of texts to respond to previous writings on the female sex. Placing these translators' works in the context of the *querelle des femmes*, we will explore how these adaptations of literary texts serve as interventions in an established debate on the virtues and vices of the female sex. Additionally, we will look at the role of manuscript illuminations and woodcuts as also a form of translation, one that worked in collaboration with or in contradiction to the written narratives discussed. Course is conducted in French.

Aims and Objectives: By the end of the course, students will have a good knowledge and understanding of the *querelle des femmes*, the socio-cultural and historical influences that shaped the construction of female selfhood, the visual representations of women in manuscripts and early printed books, and the positions of the translator and the female writer in late-medieval France.

Requirements/Grading:

Paper in lieu of Final - 40%
Papers - 30%
Oral Presentation(s) - 20%
Class Participation - 10%

Required Texts:

Sherry Simon, *Gender in Translation: Cultural Identity and the Politics of Transmission*
Anne de France, *Les Enseignements d'Anne de France...à sa fille Suzanne: Extrait d'une epistre consolatoire à Katerine de Neufville...sur la mort de son...filz*

Excerpts of Texts in the Course Reader:

Joan Kelly, *Women, History and Theory*
Giovanni Boccaccio, *On Famous Women*
Christine de Pizan, *Le livre de la cité des dames*
Symphorien Champier, *La Nef des dames vertueuses*
Octovien de Saint-Gelais, *Les XXI Epistres d'Ovide*
Anne de Graville, *C'est le beau Romant des deux amans Palamon et Arcita, et de la belle et saige Emilia*
Marguerite de Navarre, *Heptaméron*

Course Schedule:

Sessions 1 and 2: Adam and Eve; Model and Copy; Source Text and Translation
Readings: excerpts from *Genesis*, *On Famous Women*, Sherry Simon

Sessions 3 and 4: Introduction to the *querelle des femmes*

Readings: excerpts from *Le Roman de la rose* and the *débat sur le roman de la rose*

Sessions 5 and 6: Christine de Pizan

Readings: excerpts from *Le livre de la cité des dames* and *On Famous Women*

Session 7: Female Rulers and Female Patronage

Readings: excerpts from *Les XXI Epistres d'Ovide*, and selected articles on Louise of Savoy and Anne of Brittany

Sessions 8: What did it mean to be a “good woman” in 16th century France?

Readings: excerpts from *Enseignements de la duchesse de Bourbon*, *Anne de France, à sa fille Susanne*, and *La Nef des dames vertueuses*

Sessions 9: Images of Women in the *XXI Epistres d'Ovide*

Readings: selected articles on manuscript iconography and a study of images from the *XXI Epistres* and French manuscript versions of *On Famous Women* from the 16th century

Sessions 10 and 11: Women Translators I

Readings: Anne de France, *Extrait d'une epistre consolatoire à Katerine de Neufville...sur la mort de son...filz*

Sessions 12 and 13: Women Translators II

Readings: Anne de Graville, *C'est le beau Romant des deux amans Palamon et Arcita, et de la belle et saige Emilia*, and Giovanni Boccaccio, *Theseid of the Nuptials of Emilia*

Session 14: More Images of Women through an analysis of BnF Arsenal 5116 (available online)

Readings: Elizabeth l'Estrange, 'Re-presenting the Teseida for a Queen: Anne de Graville's *Beau roman* for Claude of France (Arsenal MS 5116)', in *Text-Image Relations in Late Medieval French Culture*, ed. by Rosalind Brown-Grant and Rebecca Dixon (Turnhout: Brepols, forthcoming 2014)

Sessions 15, 16, and 17: Women Translators III

Readings: excerpts from the *Heptaméron* and the *Decameron*

Sessions 18 and 19: Modern Perspectives

Readings: excerpts from Sherry Simon, Louise von Flotow, and selected articles