MAJOR BRITISH WRITER: APHRA BEHN (1640?—1689) (Eng479/579)
Dr. Dianne Dugaw, dugaw@uoregon.edu TTh 2:00-3:20, Condon 360

This course looks at Aphra Behn, one of Britain’s most influential writers at a watershed moment in British literary history. Through works of this literary artist and thinker, we will consider key themes: questions of politics and rule; Catholic-Protestant divisions of Britain with their ideological and cultural implications; new empirical science against the backdrop of exploration and colonization; emergence of mercantile capitalism; and changing conceptions of sexuality, gender, and race. We will examine Behn’s remarkable poetry, drama, and prose in the context of a rich baroque sensibility that was giving way to and creating our ‘modern’ world.

BOOKS: Aphra Behn, Oroonoko, Rover & Other Works (Penguin, 2003); Maureen Duffy, Passionate Shepherdess (Methuen, 1989; Amazon E-book); Liz Duffy Adams, Or, (DPS, 2010); M.H.Abrams, Glossary of Literary Terms (Thomson/Wadsworth, 2015). Rec: Cambridge Companion to Aphra Behn (UOOnline)

WORK: UGrads: Midterm (25%); Reading Journal (25%); Presented Scene & Essay (25%); Project (25%).
Grads: Take-home Midterm (20%); Reading Journal (20%); Scene & Essay (20%); Project (40%).

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WK 1 (3/29): ‘Early Modern’: Looking Forward, Looking Back; Royalist & Puritan; Gender & Heroism

T: Introduction: Books; the Course; 17th-Century Britain—Civil War, Restoration, & a transforming World of Baroque Art: “Love Armed” (Oroonoko, the Rover, &c., 329; also read intro. 1-22)

Th: The Rover (Acts I-II); Duffy, Passionate Shepherdess, 11-37.**Please read ALL notes for ALL works***

Terms: Periods of Eng.Lit.—Commonwealth, Restoration, Augustan Age, lyric, baroque, biography (Abrams)

WK 2 (4/5): Heroism, Love, & Gender in Comic/Tragi-Comic Drama

T: The Rover (Acts II-IV); Duffy, 38-65. Grads: Derek Hughes, “AB & the Restoration theatre” (Cambridge Companion to Aphra Behn [CCAB], 29-45).

Th: The Rover (Acts III-V); Duffy, 66-79.

Terms: comedy, intrigue comedy (Canvas), tragicomedy, setting, character, plot, intrigue, wit—repartee

WK 3 (4/12): Classical & Mythic Patterns, Gendered Spheres, & the Personal Voice

T: The Rover (Acts IV-V); “Paraphrase on Ovid” (Canvas); Duffy, 80-120. Grads: Jessica Munns, “Pastoral and Lyric: Astrea in Arcadia” (CCAB, 204-220).

Th: “Paraphrase on Ovid”; “On Desire (A Pindaric) (Oroonoko, &c., p.344); Duffy, 121-47.

Terms: prose, meter, blank verse, Neoclassical Period, pastoral, verse epistle, heroic couplet, allusion, figurative language, rhetorical figures, apostrophe, rhetorical question, lyric, ode/Pindaric ode

WK 4 (4/19): Behn—Classical & Mythic Patterns, Gendered Spheres, the Personal & the Ironic Satirical


Th: “To Fair Clarinda,” (Oroonoko &c., 262); “To My Lady Morland…&c.” (Canvas); Duffy, 174-96.

Terms: pastoral, narrative, satire, irony, lyric, burlesque wit, burlesque, conceit, mock epic/epic, epic simile,
WK 5 (4/26): Melodramatic Tragedy with Revenge, Race, & Romance

**T:** <<<MIDTERM EXAM***>

**Th:** Abdelazer (Acts I-II); Duffy, 197-226.

**Terms:** tragedy, heroic drama, melodrama, tragic hero, character, setting, plot

WK 6 (5/3): Tragedy & Melodramatic Heroism/Villainy with Revenge, Race, & Romance

**T:** Abdelazer (Acts II- IV); **Grads:** Janet Todd & Derek Hughes, “Tragedy & Tragicomedy”(CCAB, 83-97).

**Th:** Abdelazer (Acts III- V); Duffy, 227-53.

**Terms:** protagonist/antagonist, soliloquy, blank verse, stock characters, stock situations

WK 7 (5/10): Tragedy & Melodramatic Heroism/Villainy—Drama & Prose Fiction

**T:** Abdelazer (Acts IV-V); *Fair Jilt (Oroonoko, &c., 29-71).* Jaqueline Pearson, “The Short Fiction” (CCAB,188-203).

**Th:** The Fair Jilt (Oroonoko, &c., 29-71); Duffy, 227-53.

**Terms:** prose, novel, narrative/narratology, narrative point of view, character, plot, protagonist/antagonist

WK 8 (5/17): Tragedy & Melodramatic Heroism/Villainy as Critique—Prose Fiction / Non-Fiction

**T:** Oroonoko (Oroonoko &c.,75-103); Duffy, 254-83.J. Lipking,“Others, Slaves & Colonists”(CCAB, 166-87).

**Th:** Oroonoko (Oroonoko &c., 104-41).

**Terms:** paradox/oxymoron, pastoral, heroic drama, prose romance, irony, travel narrative *(Canvas)*

WK 9 (5/24): Fictional & Non-fictional Prose—Narratives & Analysis & the Private Vantage

**T:** Oroonoko (Oroonoko &c., 104-41); *A Discovery of New Worlds,* B. de Fontanelle, trans. Aphra Behn, “Translator’s Preface” and “The First Night” *(Canvas).*

**Th:** Duffy, 284-99; John Dryden, “Epilogue” (Oroonoko &c., 324); Liz Duffy Adams, Or, (Act I).

**Terms:** primitivism/progress, grotesque, point of view, plot, suspense

WK 10 (5/31): AND Aphra Behn for Our Time

**T:** Or, (Acts I-III).

**Th:** Or, (Acts I-III). ***Final Essay Due***

**Terms:** comedy, character, plot, setting, wit—humor--& the comic