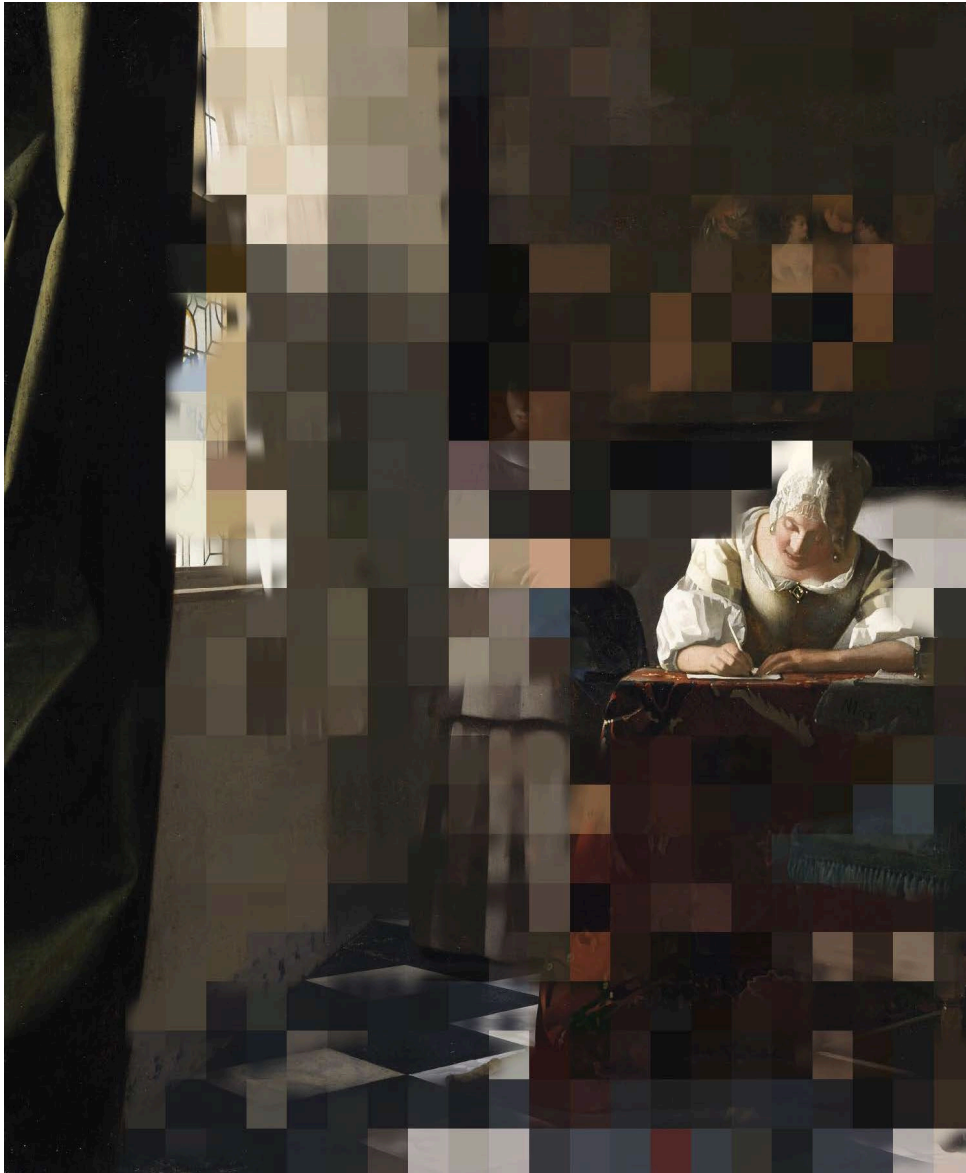


ENGL 362: Digital Approaches to Early Modern Women's Writing

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Pixellated version of *Lady writing a letter with her maid*, by Johannes Vermeer. c.1670-71. Oil on canvas, 72.2 by 59.5 cm. (Source of image: National Gallery of Ireland)

Course description:

Despite repeated exhortations for them to be “chaste, silent, and obedient,” women in early modern England (c. 1500-1700) wrote letters, poems, polemics, treatises, receipt books, herbals, advice manuals, diaries, romances, and more. They wrote about gender, economics, medicine, politics, love, religion, and science. We will examine a wide array of texts by these women—problematically referred to as “Shakespeare’s Sister[s]” by Virginia Woolf—and consider how this writing, both private and public, helped to shape early modern culture.

Many works by these women exist only in manuscript or in rare printed texts. Thus, we will make extensive use of recent digital resources that afford us access to digitized versions of this writing. In so doing, we will constantly interrogate the intersections of content, form, and medium of our objects of inquiry, particularly thinking about how digital remediation affects our engagement with historical women and their writing.

Proposed assignments:

Participation and Journal 30%
Timeline entries 15%
Midterm Project 25%
Final Project 30%

Proposed reading list:

The course readings will be drawn from the below sources.

Textbook: Knoppers, Laura Lunger, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Early Modern Women's Writing*. Cambridge University Press, 2009. (Online edition available free through UVic Library.)

Some Early Modern Authors: Anne Askew, Mary Astell, Elizabeth Blackwell, Elizabeth Bulkeley, Elizabeth Cary, Margaret Cavendish, Anne Clifford, Ann Fanshawe, Aemilia Lanyer, Katherine Philips, Queen Elizabeth I, Elizabeth Richardson, Elizabeth Stuart of Bohemia, Jane Sharp, Joan Sharp, Anne Southwell, Rachel Speght, Elizabeth Talbot (Bess of Hardwick), Isabella Whitney, Mary Wroth

Some Digital Projects:

Bess of Hardwick's Letters (<https://www.bessofhardwick.org>)

Digital Cavendish Project: (www.digitalcavendish.org)

EEBO: Early English Books Online (<http://eebo.chadwyck.com/search>)

EMROC: Early Modern Recipes Online Collective (<https://emroc.hypotheses.org/>)

Elizabeth Blackwell's *A Curious Herbal* (<http://www.bl.uk/turning-the-pages/>)

English Broadside Ballad Archive (<https://ebba.english.ucsb.edu/>)

English Handwriting 1500-1770: *an online course* (<https://www.english.cam.ac.uk/ceres/ehoc/>)

LUNA: Folger Digital Image Collection (<https://luna.folger.edu/>)

MoEML: Map of Early Modern England <https://mapoflondon.uvic.ca/>

Perdita Project (<https://web.warwick.ac.uk/english/perdita/html/>)

The Recipes Project (<http://recipes.hypotheses.org/>)

Six Degrees of Francis Bacon (<http://www.sixdegreesoffrancisbacon.com/>)

Witches in Early Modern England (www.witching.org)

WEMLO: Women's Early Modern Letters Online (www.WEMLO.net)

Women Writers Project / Women Writers Online (<http://www.wwp.northeastern.edu/>)

Some Critical Articles:

Several articles in *The Cambridge Companion to Early Modern Women's Writing*

Katherine Binhammer, "Feminist Literary History: How Do We Know We've Won?"

Burdick, *et al.*, "Humanities to Digital Humanities"

Sarah Connell, "Intertextual Networks: Theorizing and Encoding Textual Connections in Early Women's Writing"

Joan Kelly-Gadol, "Did Women Have a Renaissance?"

David Golumbia, "Characteristics of Digital Media"

Margaret Ezell, "The Myth of Judith Shakespeare"

Elizabeth Losh, *et al.*, "Putting the Human Back into the Digital Humanities"

Bethany Nowvskie, "[speculative collections](#)"

Rosenthal, Laura J., "Recovering from Recovery"

Jacqueline Wernimont, "[Whence Feminism?](#) Assessing Feminist Interventions in Digital Literary Archives"