POETRY IN MOTION: TURN OF THE 17TH CENTURY ENGLISH EMBLEM BOOKS

Course Description:

Throughout the 16th and 17th centuries, thousands of emblem books were published in Latin and vernacular languages across Europe. Adages and epigrams were combined with images to “quicken” the reading experience. The simplicity of the emblematic device allowed for a complex range of didactic, moral, intellectual, political, religious, esoteric, scientific, and medical topics. Because of the increased reliance on the relationship between image and text in contemporary society, the turn of the seventeenth century is receiving increased attention as the “Age of the Emblem.” By exploring theories of images and language, historical traditions of allegory and representation, Christian and pagan iconography, and newly developing print technologies, students who complete this course will become familiar with current trends in the field of emblem studies and emblematic texts in England and Europe around the turn of the 17th century.

Course Objectives:

As a Proseminar, this course serves as an introduction to doctoral level study for incoming students in the increasingly diverse field of English Literature. Its goal is to consider different ways of approaching the problems of advanced literary study, paying specific attention to methodology and style. In this course, students will learn to develop their own research projects, identify problems and appropriate theoretical strategies for addressing those problems, familiarize themselves with relevant scholarly conversations in their “field,” and learn to contextualize and frame literary texts. Additionally, the course will provide a broad overview of practical aspects of presenting research to diverse audiences, including writing proposals, abstracts, and book and literature reviews in preparation for scholarly publications.

Format, Assignments, and Grades:

We will analyze at least one emblem book or emblematic source per week and one or two members of the Proseminar are responsible for leading the discussion. Seminar members will be expected to attend all sessions and to participate actively in all class discussions. Discussion leaders will post thematic issues or questions to the discussion board by no later than the preceding Wednesday of the weekly session, focusing on several emblems or emblematic forms to be analyzed together in class. Many of our primary and recommended texts have generated lively debates among scholars, creating a “field” of emblem studies with which you will become familiar and contribute. In addition to collaborative discussions of emblematic texts, we will hear weekly short presentations by Proseminar participants on recommended books. In preparing weekly presentations, students should be aware of published reviews, articles, and monographs. Book reviews and discussion roles will be assigned during our first class meeting. Book reviews are due on the day of the presentation. By the sixth week, participants should be able to define a research question that will guide their entrance into the field of emblem studies. The final paper and presentation will provide a clear evaluation of the “state of the field” and should address the methodological, theoretical and comparative contributions of the sources under review as well as your unique contribution to the field. The final paper should follow the format of a review essay in a major literary journal and may build upon the books you have reported on during the semester.

Most of the primary texts will be in digital form. I have hard and soft copies of some of secondary texts and are marked with a (*). Bogazici University will have copies of some of the texts (**) and some texts you will order through ILL (ILL). You should check early to be sure you can obtain the books in time to complete assignments.
Academic Integrity:

I expect all submitted work to be solely your own. In the case that you use someone else’s ideas or information, or if you use wording that is not your own, you MUST provide a citation using a consistent style (MLA, Chicago, etc.). Representing someone else’s work as your own is plagiarism and is a breach of academic integrity. (When in doubt, cite!) Plagiarism will be referred to the department and faculty disciplinary committees.

Assessments & Evaluation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active and engaged participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book review</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final literature review</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grades for oral presentations & written papers:

- **AA**: Outstanding oral and written work; if appropriate may consider submission to conference/publication with revisions.
- **BA**: Excellent; argument well developed; presentation and research very strong; submission to conference/publication with revisions.
- **BB**: Very good: need for major revision in argument, style and/or research.
- **BC**: Paper shows promise but significant weaknesses in argument, style, and/or research still exist.
- **CC**: Weak. Inadequate writing, analytical and/or research skills.

Grades for course:

- **AA**: An outstanding effort. Written and oral assignments successfully and consistently demonstrate independent, critical, and exploratory approach to research. Creative in your search for relevant information that relates to the texts and our class sessions. Class participation is effective, considerate, and demonstrates both a willingness to provoke discussions and to listen to other points of view. Excellent presentation skills and are ready to participate in conferences. Cass assignments completed and excellent attendance.
- **BA**: Most of the above categories are successfully completed, though there is still room for improvement with regard to paper writing skills and/or oral presentation skills.
- **BB**: Work shows promise; still you need to work on writing and analysis skills. Presentation skills need to be honed to prepare for professional meetings.
- **BC (and below)**: Work of inconsistent quality and commitment. Failure to participate in class; weak writing and research skills. If your work and commitment is falling into these categories, you need to talk with instructor and committee to determine if a graduate degree is a realistic goal.
SYLLABUS

WEEK 1, Fri, Oct. 2nd: Introduction: Defining an Emblem

TBA: I will be at a conference. You will be emailed an assignment based on your summer reading:


WEEK 2, Fri, Oct. 9th: Meta-Discourse I: Poetry in Motion: Renaissance Emblem Theories


Alciato, Andreas. Emblematae liber. Augsburg (1531) (Glasgow Digital Emblem Project)

Further Reading for Renaissance Emblem Theories (Available online):

Speaking Pictures: Philip Sidney, Defense of Poesy (1583)** (U of Oregon)

Body & Soul: Paolo Giovio, Dialogo dell'imprese militari et amorose (1555) (EEBO)

Mnemonics: Francis Bacon, Advancement of Learning (1605)** (II.XV.3)

Ideograms & Enigmas: Pierre Gautruche, Hieroglyphics (1678) (EEBO)

(No Presentations/Reviews)

WEEK 3, Fri, Oct. 16th: The Word: Allegories, Aphorisms, Commonplaces, and Epigrams

Whitney, Geffrey. A Choice of Emblemes, and other devises, For the moste part gathered out of sundrie writers, Englished and Moralized. And divers newly devised. / by Geffrey Whitney ... Imprinted at Leyden, In the house of Christopher Plantyn, by Francis Raphelengius, 1586. (Book I; 1-120) (PSU Emblem Archive)

Book(s) for Review:


Further Reading:


Presenter: _______________________ Reviewer(s):_______________________

WEEK 4, Fri, Oct. 23rd: The Image: Impresa, Illustrations and Natural Representation

Ripa, Caesare. Iconologia, or, Moral Emblems. trans. P. Tempest. ca. 1600/1700. (Internet Archive)

Book(s) for Review:

Further Reading:

Presenter: ______________________ Reviewer(s):_______________________

**WEEK 5, Fri, Oct. 30th: The Emblem as an Epistemic Form**


**Book(s)/Articles for Review:**


Further Reading:


Presenter: ______________________ Reviewer(s):_______________________

**WEEK 6, Fri. Nov. 6th: Meta-Discourse II: Methodological Problems of Situating the Emblem in a Field**


**Book(s) for Review:**


Further Reading:

**Presenter:** Each student will give a short précis  
**Reviewer(s):**

**WEEK 7, Fri, Nov. 13th: Emblems and Religion**

Quarles, Francis. *Emblems, divine and moral, together with Hieroglyphicks of the life of man / written by Francis Quarles*. In the Savoy, Printed by J. Nutt, and sold by E. Nutt. (1635). (Book I & II) (**PSU Emblem Archive**)

**Book(s) for Review:**

**Further Reading:**

**Presenter:** _______________________  
**Reviewer(s):** ____________________  

**Research Proposal due at beginning of class.**

**WEEK 8, Fri, Nov. 20th: Emblems and Politics**

Peacham, Henry. *Minerva Britanna Or A Garden Of Heroical Deuises, furnished, and adorned with Emblemes and Impresa’s of sundry natures*. (1612). (Book I) (**archive.org**)

**Book(s) for Review:**

**Further Reading:**

**Presenter:** _______________________  
**Reviewer(s):** ____________________  

**WEEK 9, Fri, Nov. 27th: Emblematic Bodies**

Wither, George. *A collection of Emblemes, Ancient and Moderne, Quickened with metricall illustrations, both Morall and divine* (1635) (Book I & Lotteries). (**PSU Emblem Archive**)

---

5
Book(s) for Review:

Further Reading:

Presenter: _______________________ Reviewer(s):_______________________

**WEEK 10, Fri. Dec. 4th: Emblematics on the Edge**

(*SPECIFIC TEXT TBD*)

Inglis, Esther. *Octonaries upon the vanitie and inconstancie of the world*. 1601. (Folger Shakespeare Library)

Inglis, Esther. *A New Yeeres Giift*. 1606.* (Newberry Library)

Anonymous. *A warning for married Women* (17th century Broadside Ballad). (English Broadside Ballad Archive)

Book(s) for Review:

Further Reading:

Presenter: _______________________ Reviewer(s):_______________________

**WEEK 11, Fri. Dec. 11th: The End of the Emblem**

Ayers, Philip. *Emblemata Amatoria: Cupid’s Address to the Ladies*. (1683). (PSU Emblem Archive)

Komenský, Jan Amos (Comensius, John Amos). *Orbis Sensualium Pictus* (1658-59/1777). (Selections) (Google Books)

Book(s) for Review:
Further Reading:

Presenter: _______________________ Reviewer(s):_______________________

WEEK 12, Fri Dec. 18th: Emblems in Alternate Media

http://www.humansofnewyork.com/

Book(s) for Review:

Further Reading:

Guest Presentation: Parikka, Jussi Reviewer(s):_______________________

WEEK 13, Fri. Dec. 25th: Meta-Discourse III: Intervention in the Field of Emblem Studies

Presentations of Final Papers