

A. H. Harrison / English 491 / Fall 2005

***GENDER AND TEXTUALITY IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY ENGLISH***

***LITERATURE***

This course will examine the operations of gender ideology in a variety of nineteenth-century texts, prose non-fiction, fiction, and poetry, beginning with the first major challenge to established gender ideologies, Mary Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Women*, written at the time of the French Revolution. The course will be introduced by a careful reading of Toril Moi's brief history and analysis of the development of feminist literary and social criticism: *Sexual / Textual Politics*. Discussion of this work will provide theoretical foundations for analysis of both literary and non-literary texts in the course. Examination of formal issues and historical contexts, as well as matters of substance, will help students understand how gender politics inflects textual production and reception at all levels.

Syllabus

Week 1: Toril Moi. *Sexual / Textual Politics*

Week 2: Mary Wollstonecraft. *Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (selections)

Week 3: Mary Robinson. *A Letter to the Daughters of England* (entire)

Week 4: John Keats. *The Eve of St. Agnes, Lamia, La Belle Dame Sans Merci*

Week 5: Lord Byron. *Don Juan*. (Cantos 1-4 and selections)

Week 6: Sarah Stickney Ellis. *The Women of England* and John Ruskin. *Sesame and Lilies*. (entire)

Week 7: Alfred Tennyson. *Idylls of the King* (selections)

Week 8 and 9: J.S. Mill: *The Subjection of Women* (selections)  
Selected poems by Christina Rossetti

Week 9 and 10: Selected poems by Dante Rossetti

Week 11: Elizabeth Barrett Browning. *Aurora Leigh* (entire)

Weeks 12 and 13: Thomas Hardy. *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*

Week 14: George Gissing. *The Odd Women*

Week 15: Joseph Conrad. *Heart of Darkness*