

FLLT360-080: The Princess Diaries: Early Modern French Queens in Literature, Memoir and Film

Fall 2013

Dr. Deborah Steinberger

205 Jastak-Burgess Hall

(302) 831-2044; steind@udel.edu; www.udel.edu/steind

This course invites you to explore the experience and the influence of French queens and princesses from the Renaissance to the Revolution, through the study of contemporary writing by and about them. Who was called “The Mother of the French Reformation,” “The Black Queen,” “The Austrian Whore”—and why? We will start with two influential queens, Marguerite de Navarre and Catherine de’ Medici, and examine the role they played in the religious conflict that tore France apart during the sixteenth century. Next, we will turn to the seventeenth-century regencies of Marie de’ Medici (whose difficult relationship with her son, Louis XIII, led to her disgrace and exile) and of Anne of Austria, Marie’s daughter-in-law, mother of the Sun King, Louis XIV. We will read Mme de Lafayette’s account of the untimely death of Anne’s young daughter-in-law, the princess Henriette d’Orléans, who died convinced she had been poisoned by her husband, the King’s brother; we will discover the astonishing rags-to-riches story of Louis XIV’s “secret” wife, Mme de Maintenon, and learn about her role in shaping the final years of Louis’s reign. As we consider the relationship between gender and power, and the all-important question of marriage, we will study the remarkable lives of a would-be warrior queen, Louis’s first cousin, Mlle de Montpensier, and of a woman who was crowned King, the controversial (and androgynous) international figure Christine of Sweden. We will end the semester with an examination of the reputation, life and death of the last *ancien régime* queen, Marie Antoinette. Along with fictional and autobiographical writing by the princesses themselves, we will study literary portraits by Mme de Sévigné and Mme de Lafayette; excerpts from contemporary theater; official portraiture, including Rubens’s Marie de Medici cycle; fairy tales; and films (including *Queen Margot*, *The Rise to Power of Louis XIV*, and *Marie Antoinette*).

Note: Film screenings will take place outside of class time.

Texts: Charles Perrault, *Fairy Tales*, Wordsworth Children’s Classics, 2004, ISBN 978-1840224825.

Anne-Marie-Louise d’Orléans, Duchesse de Montpensier, *Memoirs*, ed. P.J. Yarrow and W. Brooks, MHRA, 2010, ISBN 978-1-907322-01-3.

Course reader (Available at Lieberman’s Bookstore, 45 E. Main St.)

Writing Fellows:

The Writing Fellows’ objective is to help you develop your writing skills. These advanced students have been trained to assist you in all stages of the writing process, from brainstorming and research to drafting and revision. This semester you will have three mandatory conferences with Nicole or Christine, one for each of your major papers. Please come to all meetings on time and prepared with the required materials. For more information, please visit the Writing Fellows Program website (www.udel.edu/honors/writingfellows).

Since FLLT360 is a discussion class, regular attendance, thorough preparation and active participation are essential. Please arrive on time and plan to stay until the end of class (do not schedule medical appointments or job interviews during class time). If the number of unexcused absences exceeds three, the student’s final participation grade will be lowered ten points for each absence. Students who know they must be absent on a given day should be sure to give the instructor advance notice. **Furthermore,**

students who have missed class are responsible for checking SAKAI for the day's homework, and for contacting a classmate to find out what was covered. Please be sure to turn off the sound on your phone, and refrain from checking messages during class time.

All written assignments must be turned in at the start of class on the day they are due, and online assignments must be completed by the specified deadline. **NEVER SKIP CLASS** or come late just because an assignment is not ready!! If you are having exceptional difficulties completing a paper (computer problems, insufficient time to proofread, etc.) you must notify me of this in class to make arrangements for submission of the late work. **Please note that I do not accept papers sent as e-mail attachments, unless I specifically request this delivery method.** Since e-mail will be used for course announcements, all students are required to activate their university e-mail accounts if they have not already done so, and to check their mail regularly. **Written work for the course must be word-processed, double-spaced, in standard 12-pt font, computer spell-checked and thoroughly proofread.**

IMPORTANT: Any work that you submit at any stage of the writing process--draft, thesis and outline, bibliography, etc., through final version--must be your own; in addition, any words, ideas, or data that you borrow from other people and include in your work must be properly documented. In your writing, it is absolutely essential that you make it clear where your ideas end and those of another author begin. Failure to do these things constitutes plagiarism. The University of Delaware protects the rights of all students by insisting that individual students act with integrity. Accordingly, the University severely penalizes plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. I encourage you to review the policy on Academic Integrity in the *Official Student Handbook*. If you have any questions about documenting your sources, including online sources, please consult the MLA guidelines (available at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01>) and contact your Writing Fellow or me with any concerns.

Important Dates:

Draft of first paper due	Friday, 9/13/13
Final draft of first paper due	Friday, 9/27/13
Draft of second paper due	Friday, 10/11/13
Final draft of second paper due	Friday, 10/25/13
Proposal for final research paper due to me	No later than Monday, 10/28/13
Draft of research paper due	Friday, 11/15/13
Final draft of research paper due (slip under my office door by 3:30 pm)	Friday, 12/6/13

Grading

Participation/preparation	15%
Online reaction papers	10%
Oral portrait presentation (15 min.; in pairs)	15%
Two 1000-word papers	30%
Final research paper (2500 words)	30%

The basic homework reading assignment, “the 3-2-1,” has three requirements:

Requirement 1: Read what is assigned, then choose and describe the three most important aspects (concepts, issues, factual information, etc.) of the reading, justifying your choices.

Requirement 2: Identify two aspects of the reading you don't understand, and briefly discuss why these confusing aspects interfered with your general understanding of the reading. Although you may identify more than two confusing elements, please put them in priority order and limit yourself to the two most important ones.

Requirement 3: Pose a question to the text's author, the answer to which should go beyond the reading content and does not reflect the areas of confusion in requirement 2.

Tentative course schedule:

Week of Aug. 28, 30 Introduction; Ideal princesses: Perrault's fairy tales (Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella, Donkey-Skin) (first paper: analysis of L'Héritier's "The Subtle Princess"—what are its lessons, who is its target audience?)

Week of Sept. 4, 6 (no class on Labor Day, 9/2), Marguerite de Navarre, *Heptameron* (Prologue and novels 4, 5, 21, 22 and 72. Available on Sakai site).

Week of Sept. 9 Finish Marguerite de Navarre; Catherine de Médicis viewed by Brantôme (available on Sakai), plus excerpt from *The Princess of Cleves*; guest lecture, "How to read a portrait," Isabelle Lachat (Fri. 9/13)

Week of Sept. 16 guest lecture by Dr. Cristina Guardiola on Isabel of Spain; Mary Queen of Scots viewed by Brantôme; Marguerite de Valois viewed by Brantôme. Film (view before our 9/23 class): *Queen Margot* (Morris Library DVD 2498, 144 mins).

Week of Sept. 23 Memoirs of Marguerite de Valois (on Sakai site). Discussion of film.

Week of Sept. 30 Marie de Médicis: Rubens cycle.

Week Oct. 7 Anne of Austria: letters, film excerpts. Film (view before our 10/9 class): *Rise to Power of Louis XIV* (Morris Library DVD 6035, 100 mins).

Week of Oct. 14 Mlle de Montpensier: Memoirs, literary self-portrait; letters ("Against marriage"); Mme de Sévigné's and Louis XIV's commentaries on Mademoiselle's marriage project

Week of Oct. 21 Finish Montpensier. Henriette d'Angleterre: Mme de Lafayette's account, Bossuet's funeral oration.

Week of Oct. 28; *The Countess of Tende* (available on Sakai); Christina of Sweden (excerpt from film)

Weeks of Nov. 4 and Nov. 11 Mme de Maintenon, Letters; excerpts from Racine's *Esther* (both texts in course reader)

Week of Nov. 18, plus Nov. 25 (=Monday before Thanksgiving) Marie Antoinette: letters, contemporary accounts; film (view before our class on 11/25), *Marie Antoinette* (Morris Library DVD 3267, 123 mins).

Dec. 2 and 4 catch-up, wrap-up and review.

Portrait presentations:

Catherine de' Medici (9/16)

Marie Stuart (Mary Queen of Scots) (9/20)

Marguerite de Valois (9/23)

Marie de' Medici (10/2)

Anne of Austria (10/7)

Mlle de Montpensier (10/14—3 or 4 presenters)

[Henriette d'Angleterre, 10/21]

Christina of Sweden (11/1)

Mme de Maintenon (11/6)

Marie Antoinette (11/22)