This course will trace the historical origins and echoes of the current concept of the “nasty woman” in early English writing. Focusing both on fictional accounts of women and the work of women writers from the medieval to the early modern periods, we will explore the kinds of language and visual strategies used to depict outspoken “shrews,” “scolds,” and “whores.” We will also analyze the struggles women faced in finding venues for their voices and the means to circulate their ideas in writing. Our readings will include, among others, Christine de Pizan’s *The Book of the City of Ladies*, the Wife of Bath’s *Tale* from Geoffrey Chaucer’s *The Canterbury Tales*, William Shakespeare’s *The Taming of the Shrew*, John Fletcher’s *The Tamer Tamed*, the anonymous *Swetnam the Woman-Hater*, and Margaret Cavendish’s *The Convent of Pleasure.*
**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students who successfully complete ENGL 3330 will be able to:

- read and analyze several forms and genres of writing from the medieval and Renaissance periods
- identify and carefully explain concepts related to gender and sexuality in both historical and contemporary terms
- successfully write academic essays that have debatable and complex arguments and use close reading to support it

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

**Midterm Exam (20%):** The midterm exam for this course will provide an opportunity for you to demonstrate your knowledge of key concepts as well as your ability to analyze texts using the reading and writing skills that we have developed in this course. The exam will ask you answer several short-answer questions.

**Short Close Reading Papers (Three essays at 10% each—30% total):** For these 2-3 page papers, I will ask you to do a close textual analysis of passages from the texts we have read and to generate a complex thesis about your poem or passage. I will provide detailed guidelines and instructions in advance.

**Attendance, Preparation, and Participation (15%):** Your active participation in class discussion and group work is essential to your learning as well as that of your peers. You should therefore come to class having done all of the reading, but I do not expect you to have mastered the material. Rather, you should take careful notes on the reading and generate questions for each class session. What do you find confusing? Difficult? Interesting? Exciting? This process will prepare you to become an active learner and participant in class discussions.

**Participation Extra Credit Opportunity: “Nasty News”** I will set aside the first five minutes of class to allow you to share articles, events, and discussions related to “nasty women” in historical and in contemporary culture. Please bring in any articles or examples you come across and be prepared to give a brief summary that explains its relevance to the course. The point of this activity is to generate an ongoing discussion about the ways in which the literature, ideas, and culture of the Renaissance are relevant our present moment. If you participate in this activity, it will enhance your overall participation grade.

**In-Class Writing Activities (15%):** Once a week, I will give you a writing prompt at the beginning of class. The prompt will ask you to think critically and
thoughtfully about the readings for that week and prepare for our larger class discussions. Your responses will be graded on a scale of 1-5. I will not be grading for grammar or mechanics. The best responses, however, will engage directly with the texts and demonstrate that you have completed the reading before coming to class.

**Final Research Project – Nasty Women Hall of Fame (20% TOTAL):**
Your final project for this class will be to create a collaborative and encyclopedic archive of medieval and early modern “Nasty Women.” This project will consist of multiple manageable parts, and I will provide more details and instruction for each part of the assignment in class. During the exam period, we will have a formal induction ceremony.

**Required Texts**

There are three required textbooks that students should purchase for this course:

Christine de Pizan, *The Book of the City of Ladies*, trans. Rosalind Brown-Grant  
ISBN 978-0140446890

*Three Shrew Plays*, ed. Barry Gaines and Margaret Maurer.  
ISBN 978-1603841849

Margaret Cavendish, *The Convent of Pleasure and other Plays*, ed. Anne Shaver.  
ISBN 978-0801861000

Additional readings will be available on the Blackboard site for this course under the “Content” section. These texts are marked as Bb in the Class Schedule section of this syllabus. You are expected to print these readings out and bring them with you to class. You should always have the relevant book or printed readings with you in class in order to fully participate in discussion.

**Course Policies**

**Attendance/Tardiness:** The success of this course depends on your regular attendance. No more than three (3) unexcused absences are permitted in this course. Any absences beyond this allotted number will negatively affect your grade. Contact me by e-mail, preferably before the class, to explain the reason for your absence. It is also important that you arrive to each class on time out of respect for your peers and the instructor. Habitual lateness will also result in the lowering of your grade. In the event of extenuating circumstances, please contact me as soon as possible.
**Deadlines:** Assignments are due on the deadlines listed on the syllabus. In fairness to everyone in this class, I cannot accept late work. If you are experiencing a problem or have an emergency, please notify me in advance of the deadline rather than waiting until the deadline has passed.

**Communication and Office Hours:** I encourage you to come to my office hours or schedule an appointment with me if you have questions or would like to discuss your writing and your progress in the course. The best way to contact me outside of class and office hours is by e-mail. I will do my best to respond to your e-mail within 24 hours of receiving it, but I may check my e-mail less frequently in the evenings and on the weekends. Any communication I send out to the entire class will be to your Islander e-mail address, so please check your university e-mail on a regular basis.

**Technology Policy:** The success of this course depends on your full attention to the materials and the conversations that develop around them, so you are not permitted to use laptops, tablets, and cell phones during this class. Please see me if you believe you have a reason for which you should be exempt from this policy.

**Paper Guidelines:** Papers should be double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font. Please do not use Cambria or Calibri font. You should have a consistent documentation style and should always cite your sources; I will upload a guide to citing works and ideas using the MLA citation style on our class’s Blackboard site. If you have any questions about citations, or how to acknowledge ideas or language other than your own, please come visit me in office hours. We will also review citation practices before the first paper. I also strongly encourage you to come to discuss your papers before they are due. I do not read full drafts, but I would be delighted to set up a meeting to discuss your paper with you before it is due.

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism**

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work. Please remember that any words or ideas that come from an outside source must be cited. We will discuss conventions for using and citing sources in academic papers. If you have further questions about proper citation, please see me. In this class, any academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in failure of the course.
DROPPING A CLASS

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Wednesday, November 15, 2017, is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

CLASSROOM/PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

SAFETY AND INCLUSIVITY

I want all of my students to know that this classroom and my office are safe spaces for everyone. I have successfully completed TAMUCC’s Green Zone and Safe Zone trainings and will serve as a resource for student veterans, LGBTQ+ students, and other students in need of help in any way I can.

GRADE APPEALS

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures (available at http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C2.01_student_grade_appeal_procedure.pdf). For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.
**DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC CONTINUITY**

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane, that prevents classes from being held on the campus of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**ACADEMIC ADVISING**

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**REMINDER TO ENGLISH MAJORS**

As part of the English undergraduate capstone course (ENGL 4351), all English majors are required to submit a portfolio of writings in different discourse genres that they have completed for their college classes. To help you prepare for this assignment, you should keep a copy of all essays, research papers, literary analyses, creative and report writing, etc., so that you will have an ample selection from which to choose when the portfolio comes due.

**COURSE CALENDAR**

You should have completed the reading listed for each day before coming to class on that day. This schedule is subject to revision, with advance notice.
M 8/28 Introduction to the course

W 8/30 Christine de Pizan, *The Book of the City of Ladies*

M 9/4 No Class – Labor Day Holiday

W 9/6 Christine de Pizan, *The Book of the City of Ladies*

M 9/11 Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Wife of Bath’s Prologue*

W 9/13 Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Wife of Bath’s Tale*

***Friday September 15th – Short Paper #1 Due at 11:59 PM***

M 9/18 William Shakespeare, *The Taming of the Shrew*, Act 1


M 10/2 John Fletcher, *The Tamer Tamed*, Act 1

W 10/4 John Fletcher, *The Tamer Tamed*, Act 2

M 10/9 John Fletcher, *The Tamer Tamed*, Acts 3 and 4

W 10/11 John Fletcher, *The Tamer Tamed*, Act 5

***Friday, October 13th – Short Paper #2 Due at 11:59PM***

M 10/16 In-Class Midterm Exam

W 10/18 Joseph Swetnam, *The Arraignment of Lewd, Idle, Froward, and Unconstant Women*

M 10/23 Rachel Speght, *A Muzzle for Melastomus*

Aemelia Lanyer, *An Apology for Eve*

W 10/25 “Esther Sowernam,” *Esther Hath Hang’d Haman*

M 10/30 “Constantia Munda,” *The Worming of a Mad Dog*
W 11/1 Anonymous, Swetnam the Woman Hater Arraigned by Women
M 11/6 Anonymous, Swetnam the Woman Hater Arraigned by Women
W 11/8 Margaret Cavendish, The Convent of Pleasure, Act 1

***Friday, November 9th – Short Paper #3 Due at 11:59PM***

M 11/13 Margaret Cavendish, The Convent of Pleasure, Act 2
W 11/15 Margaret Cavendish, The Convent of Pleasure, Act 3
M 11/20 Margaret Cavendish, The Convent of Pleasure, Acts 4 and 5
W 11/22 Final Project Planning Blog Post
M 11/27 Final Project Collaborative Research Session
W 11/29 Final Project Collaborative Research and Drafting Session
M 12/4 Final Project Collaborative Writing Session
W 12/6 Last Day of Classes – Wrap Up and Final Project Workshop

Final Exam Session: Monday, December 11 4:30-7:00PM
Nasty Women Hall of Fame Presentations and Induction Ceremony