

French 455/858: Women Writers in Renaissance France

In this course, we will explore the complex question of female authorship in the Renaissance. To contextualize our readings, we will examine the difficult situation women faced in sixteenth-century France and options available for women during this time, from the convent to marriage. We will also look at some of France's most powerful women from this time period, such as Catherine de' Medici and Queen Margot. We will do some readings on male representations of females, touching on the so-called "Querelle des Femmes." We will study the controversy provoked by the publication of Mireille Huchon's *Une Créature de papier* (2007) in which she argues that Louise Labé's *Œuvres* were not written by a woman but were rather an elaborate hoax perpetrated by a group of male poets. This will help us to investigate the question of female authorship as we read several female-authored works. We will focus extensively on Marguerite de Navarre's opus, reading some of her plays and religious poetry, along with her better-known *Heptaméron*. We will read Hélienne de Crenne's *Les Angloisses douloureuses*, Louise Labé's *Œuvres*, and Pernette du Guillet's *Rymes*, among other female-authored writings.



Professor Bruce Hayes
bhayes@ku.edu

MW 12:30 - 1:45
Wescoe 1005

*Graduate students will have
an additional meeting
on Fridays at 3:30 pm*