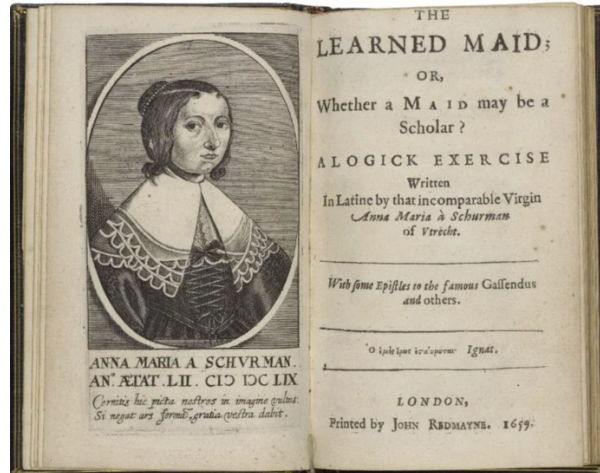


ARTH 490
Studies in Word and Image

Winter 2023 Topic:
Learned Ladies in
Early Modern Northern Europe

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The study of how words and images interact in visual and material culture. Topics may vary to address a selected theme, historical period, artist, movement, or art form, such as: illustrated books or manuscripts; art as inspiration for literary works or vice versa; scientific and technical illustration; words as images; film and digital media.

PREREQUISITE: Level 4 and registration in an ARTH Major or Medial Plan and a GPA of 1.9 and 24.0 units in Art History.

This semester's special topic explores the lives and accomplishments of women artists, writers, and art patrons in early modern Europe, with a focus on the Netherlands and England. Even as traditional misogynist literature denied the capacity of women for intellect and agency, a lively community of female artists and writers defied cultural stereotypes to express creativity, exchange ideas, and produce knowledge in the arts and sciences. Class readings and discussions will consider both stereotypical perceptions of women as expressed in visual art and literature and the many ways in which female makers and thinkers dismantled them. Attention will be given to artists such as Judith Leyster, Gesina TerBorch, and Maria Sybilla Merian, writers such as Anna Maria van Schurman and Aphra Behn, and collectors of art and naturalia such as Agnes Block, Henrietta Fermor, and Margaret Cavendish.

Class activities will consist primarily of readings, discussion, and individual research projects. We will visit the Agnes Etherington Art Centre and Special Collections in Jordan Library for first-hand study of prints, books and other sources related to our topic. If logistics permit, we will design a small exhibition on our theme, to be displayed at Special Collections.