

Fall 2019 ----New Graduate Offering----
PHI 602.01: Early Modern Women Philosophers
Wed. 2:30 – 5:30
Prof. Andrew Platt, Philosophy Department



Course Description:

In her classic 1998 paper, “Disappearing Ink: Early Modern Women Philosophers and Their Fate in History,” the late Eileen O’Neill identifies nearly 80 women philosophers who lived prior to the nineteenth century — half of whom lived and worked in just the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. O’Neill notes that, by the nineteenth century, these thinkers came to be almost completely excluded from the philosophical canon. Their published works — while not unknown to scholars of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries — were treated as though they were “written in invisible ink.” O’Neill’s work on the history of early modern women philosophers has helped spur a concerted effort by scholars of early modern philosophy to reexamine the once-ignored works of figures such as **Marie de Gournay**, **Margaret Cavendish**, **Anne Conway**, **Mary Astell**, **Damaris Cudworth Masham**, and **Émilie du Châtelet**. This course will examine the writings of these seventeenth century women philosophers, and the ways in which they collaborated with, challenged, and critiqued the work of their better-known male contemporaries, including Descartes, Malebranche, Hobbes and Leibniz.