In many ways Margaret Cavendish (1623-73) and Lucy Hutchinson (1620-81) make strange bedfellows. One was a royalist and one a republican; one largely indifferent to religion and the other a devoted Calvinist; one an aggressive circulator of her work in print and the other largely committed to scribal publication. Yet they also had a surprising amount in common: both were actively involved in the central political conflicts of their time; both wrote widely printed and widely admired vindicatory accounts of their husbands’ political and military lives; both lived on large, redoubtable, and profoundly compromised estates in the north; both were actively interested in natural science; both were astonishingly erudite and prolific. This seminar seeks to examine what they shared as much as what divided them, and takes as its premise that Cavendish and Hutchinson were the complex heirs of what is often called “politically active” humanism. Participants will discuss many aspects of their work, including the books they read as well as the histories and other works they wrote, and the local, as well as national, contexts in which they undertook this work.

Friday afternoons, 1:00 – 4:30 p.m., February 3 through April 21, 2017, excluding March 31 and April 7.

Required Works
The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography entries on both authors.
Cavendish, Margaret. Paper Bodies: A Margaret Cavendish Reader, ed. Sylvia Bowerbank and Sara Mendelson (Broadview, 2000).

Reference Works
Essential/Background/Preparatory Reading

Noel, Nathaniel. *Bibliotheca nobilissimi principis Johannis Ducis de Novo-Castro &c.*
Being a large collection of books ... Which will be sold by Nath. Noel, ... The books may be view’d from the 2d of March 1718-19, till the day of delivery, the 17th instant. London, 1719.

Selections from *Letters and Poems in Honour of ... Margaret, Duchess of Newcastle* (1676) in *Paper Bodies*.
Letter of Mary Evelyn to Ralph Bohun (c.1667) in *Paper Bodies*.


WEEK ONE (February 03)


Secondary Criticism


Additional Materials

*The life of William Cavendish, duke of Newcastle, to which is added the true relation of my birth, breeding and life* / by Margaret, duchess of Newcastle; ed. by C. H. Firth...With four etched portraits (London: J.C. Nimmo, 1886).

*Memoirs of the life of Colonel Hutchinson, governor of Nottingham / by his widow Lucy; edited from the original manuscript by Julius Hutchinson. To which are added the letters of Colonel Hutchinson and other papers / revised with additional notes by C.H. Firth (New York: Scribner & Welford, 1885).*

WEEK TWO (February 10)


*Natures Pictures Drawn by Fancies Pencil to the Life* (London: Printed for J. Martin and J. Allestrye, 1656), prefatory materials and “The Travelling Spirit.”

Secondary Criticism

Sarasohn, Stevenson, Keller and Akkerman and Corporaal (read the letters, esp. 272-3) in *Ashgate Critical Essays.*


**WEEK THREE (February 17)**


**Primary Intertexts**

[Robert Boyle, Walter Charleton, Henry More, Joseph Glanville, John and Mary Evelyn (See full list below)]


Digby, Kenelm, Sir. *Two treatises in the one of which the nature of bodies, in the other, the nature of mans soule is looked into in way of discovery of the immortality of reasonable soules* (Paris, 1644).


Evelyn, John. *Sylva, or, A discourse of forest-trees, and the propagation of timber in His Majesties dominions by J.E. Esq. as it was deliver’d in the Royal Society* (1664).

Evelyn, John, *Publick employment and an active life with all its appanages, such as fame, command, riches, conversation, &c. prefer’d to solitude* (1667).


More, Henry, *Psychodia platonica or A platonickal song of the soul, consisting of foure severall poems* (1642).

**Secondary Criticism**

Barbour and Goldberg in *Ashgate Critical Essays*.


**Also useful**


*Diary and Correspondence of John Evelyn*, vols. III and IV.


**WEEK FOUR (February 24)**

Selections from *Letters and Poems in Honour of ... Margaret, Duchess of Newcastle* (1676) in *Paper Bodies*.

**Primary Intertexts**
Continued engagement with texts from Week Three
Ovid, *Metamorphoses Englished* (1632), especially commentaries to books 1 and 15. *(ODNB Sandys)*

**WEEK FIVE (March 03)**


*Plays* (London: Printed by A. Warren for John Martyn, James Allestry and Tho. Dicas. 1662), prefatory materials and “Loves Adventures” and “Youths Glory” (cf. “Wits Cabal” and “Bell in Campo”). Be sure to read the letter at the end to “Noble Readers,” pay attention to the parts written by “my Lord Marquiss,” and to the many allusions to books and to women’s libraries.

**Primary Intertexts**
Caesar, *The commentaries of C. Julius Caesar of his warres in Gallia, and the civil warres betwixt him and Pompey* (1655).

**Secondary Criticism**

**WEEK SIX (March 10)**

“Apocriphal Ladies” (*Plays*, 1662).
“A Piece of a Play” (*Plays*, 1668)

*Observations Upon Experimental Philosophy. to Which is Added, the Description of a New Blazing World* (London: Printed by A. Maxwell, 1666).

**Primary Intertexts**
Codrington, *His Majesties propriety, and dominion on the Brittish seas asserted* (1665).
Heylyn, *Cosmographie: in four books* (1657). *(Jessie)*.
Hooke, *Micrographia: or Some physiological descriptions of minute bodies made by magnifying glasses* (1667).
Lemnius, *The touchstone of complexions* (1633).
Topsell, The Historie of Four-Footed Beasts (1607).
J. W. Sciographia, or the Art of Shadows (1635).

WEEK SEVEN (March 17)
Cavendish, Margaret, The Life of the Thrice Noble, High and Puissant Prince William Cavedishe, Duke, Marquess, and Earl of Newcastle; Earl of Ogle; Viscount Mansfield; and Baron of Bolsover, of Ogle, Bothal and Hepple; Gentleman of his Majesties Bed-chamber; one of his Majesties most honourable Privy-Councel; Knight of the most Noble Order of the Garter; his Majesties Lieutenant of the Country and Town of Nottingham: and Justice in Ayre Trent-North: who had the honour to be Governour to our most Golrious King, and Gracious Soveraign, in his Youth, when he was Prince of Wales; and soon after was made Captain General of all the Provinces beyond the River of Trent, and other parts of the Kingdom of England, with power, by a special commission to make Knights (London: Printed by Anne Maxwell. 1667).

Primary Intertexts

Secondary Criticism
Charleton, Walter, A character of His Most Sacred Majesty, Charles the Second (1661). [See also other histories in Bibliotheca nobilissimi]

WEEK EIGHT (March 24)

Primary Intertext
Machiavelli, Machiavel's Discourses upon the first decade of T. Livius translated out of the Italian: to which is added his Prince: with some marginal animadversions noting and taxing his errors / by E.D (1663).

Secondary Criticism
Bennett, Martyn. ““Every County Had More or Lesse the Civill Warre within It Selfe’: The Realities of War in Lucy Hutchinson’s Midland Shires.” The Seventeenth Century 30.2 (2015): 191–206.

Hirst and Norbrook in Ashgate Critical Essays.

[Norbrook, David. “Lucan, Thomas May, and the Creation of a Republican Literary Culture,” Culture and Politics in Early Stuart England, eds. Kevin Sharpe and Peter...
WEEK NINE (April 14)

Secondary Criticism
Miller in *Ashgate Critical Essays*

WEEK TEN (April 21)

Secondary Criticism
Hammons and Scott-Baumann in *Ashgate Critical Essays*.

Primary Intertexts
Boyle, Robert. *Certain physiological essays written at distant times, and on several occasions* (1661)
Boyle, Robert. *New experiments physico-mechanical touching the spring of the air and its effects (made for the most part in a new pneumatical engine)* (Oxford, 1662).
Boyle, Robert. *Occasional reflections upon several subiects, whereto is premis'd a discourse about such kind of thoughts* (1665).
Boyle, Robert, *The origine of formes and qualities, (according to the corpuscular philosophy) illustrated by considerations and experiments* (Oxford, 1666).
Dee, John. *A true & faithful relation of what passed for many yeers between Dr. John Dee ... and some spirits* (1659).
Digby, Kenelm, Sir. *Two treatises in the one of which the nature of bodies, in the other, the nature of mans soule is looked into in way of discovery of the immortality of reasonable soules* (Paris, 1644). (Lucy)
Evelyn, John. *A panegyric to Charles the Second presented to His Majestie the xxxiii. [sic] of April, being the day of his coronation, MDCLXI* (1661).
Evelyn, John, *Publick employment and an active life with all its appanages, such as fame, command, riches, conversation, &c. prefer'd to solitude* (1667).
Glanvill, Joseph. *The vanity of dogmatizing, or, Confidence in opinions manifested in a discourse of the shortness and uncertainty of our knowledge, and its causes: with some reflexions on peripateticism, and an apology for philosophy* (1661).
Glanvill, Joseph. *A philosophical endeavour towards the defence of the being of vvitches and apparitions* (1666).
Glanvill, Joseph. *Plus ultra, or, The progress and advancement of knowledge since the days of Aristotle in an account of some of the most remarkable late improvements of practical, useful learning, to encourage philosophical endeavours* (1668).
More, Henry, *Psychodia platonica or A platonick song of the soul, consisting of foure several poems* (1642).
More, Henry, *The immortality of the soul, so farre forth as it is demonstrable from the knowledge of nature and the light of reason* (1659).
Wilkins, John, *A discourse concerning a new world & another planet in 2 bookes* (1640).