This course will examine the works of major women writers of France, Italy, England and America within the specific social, historical and cultural contexts and sites in which these texts were written and produced. We will read chronologically beginning in the Middle Ages and ending in the contemporary period. We will examine how women authors used and transformed literary genres made popular by male authors (love poetry, epistle, treatise, dialogue, autobiography, novel). This is a selection of some of the authors we will read: Julian of Norwich, Margery Kempe, Queen Elizabeth I, Anne Bradstreet, Moderata Fonte, Veronica Franco, Mary Wollstonecraft, Harriet Jacobs, Emily Dickinson, Virginia Woolf, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Sojourner Truth, Zora Neale Hurston, Kate Chopin, and Maxine Hong Kingston.

This course fulfills the Category I Western Cultures and Traditions requirement and the Diversity requirement.

COLT L/M/CT Track: This is a Literature Concentration Course.

Professor Margaret Rosenthal
mrosenth@usc.edu THH 155H

Artemisia Gentileschi, Self Portrait as the Allegory of Painting (1630s).