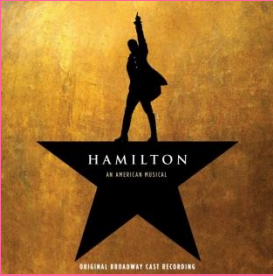


Hamilton and YA

Diane Scrofano, MA & MLIS

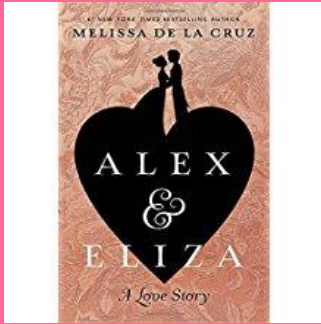
Moorpark College, CA

dscrofano@vcccd.edu



Why *Hamilton*?

- [Moorpark College One Campus, One Book](#)
 - Multidisciplinary
 - Accessible (free music & lyrics online, Genius.com & Youtube)
 - Multicultural
- Popularity with teens
- #EduHam and lottery = accessible to kids
- For some background, see PBS' *Hamilton's America*

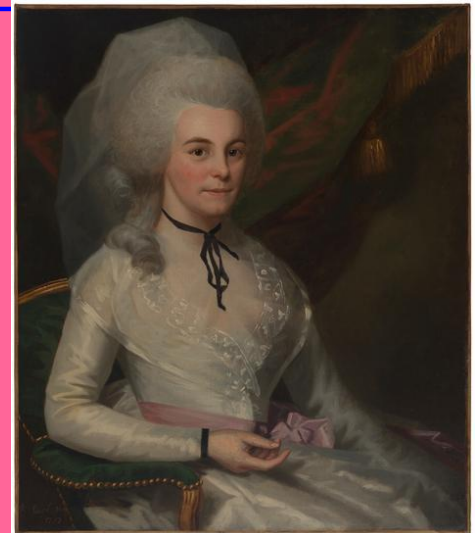


Why Alex and Eliza?

- English 1B = Introduction to Literature and Critical Thinking
 - I've themed it YA for the past 2 springs in collaboration with my local 4-year, Cal State Channel Islands.
 - Literary interpretation and critical theory with lower-division students
- Popular (available at Target) YA novel by well-known YA author (Melissa de la Cruz: *The Descendants*, *Blue Bloods*, etc.)
- Race and gender studies comparisons to *Hamilton*

Background

- Eliza Biography
 - See Susan Kinkella’s portion of [our March 21, 2018 Talk](#) (approx. 30 min.)
- Fanfiction?
- Historical Fiction (on the genre)
 - [Joanne Brown’s 1998 ALAN Article, “Historical Fiction or Fictionalized History?”](#)
 1. Problem of Definition
 2. Problem of Truth
 3. Problem of Balance
 4. Problem of Accuracy
 5. Problem of Provenance

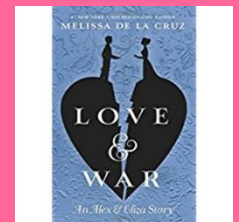
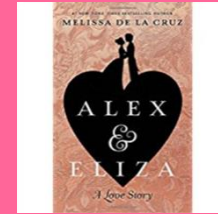


A bit more background

- Slavery
 - [Columbia U. “Hamilton & Slavery”](#)
 - [Schuyler Mansion Historical Site](#)
- Feminist Literary Criticism
 - How can we recover lost or silenced female voices?
 - How are women portrayed in works by men? By women?
 - Must women be shown to be empowered for a work of literature to be considered feminist? If so, what about in historical fiction: can you show empowered women in eras when women had little power?
 - American vs. French feminism
 - [“The Personal Is Political”](#)

What We Discussed in Class re: Gender

- The pink cover with a giant heart!
- Can you take a romance seriously? “Hot trash”?
- “Helpless” (in musical) vs. protagonist (in novel)
- Cannon fire vs. mushy love story: gendered expectations about what makes an interesting story
- Too much fictionalized stuff?
- There’s an author’s note clarifying what’s historical vs. what’s fictional only in the second book, *Love and War* (not in *Alex and Eliza*).



What We Discussed in Class re: Race

- Musical's casting
 - People of color play Founding Fathers, metaphorically represent role of people of color in building America
- Hamilton's elitism
 - Wall St.
 - Didn't want Washington to step down
- Hamilton and slavery
 - No evidence that he had his own, but he benefited from the trade
 - NY Manumission Society
- Eliza's family (Schuylers) and slavery
 - "servants" vs. "slaves"
 - "always, always" (178)
 - "servant girl's thin brown arms" (169)



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