

EN 3180: Women's Literary Tradition

3 (3-0-0) UT, 45 Hours

Fall 2008

A2 - T, R 2:30-3:50p (E306A)

TC - T, R 2:30-3:50p (YREC)

Instructor: Victoria Abboud

Office Hours: M 10:20-11:20a / T, R 11:30a-12:30p / and by appointment
Room C308, Main Campus

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Course Description: An examination of women's writing in English from the mid-nineteenth century to the present.

Further Explanation: We will engage with literary texts in a way that helps us to appreciate the importance of literature to the development of women's roles in society at various points in history. An introduction to feminist theory and women's studies in a broader sense will also be part of this course. Students are expected to have strong essay writing skills as little class time will be spent on writing instruction. Those who feel they lack appropriate skills are strongly encouraged to seek help from the Learning Support Centre or other tutors.

Prerequisites: Six credits of Junior English not including EN 1201.

Transfer: UA, UC*, UL, AU (*consult Alberta Transfer Guide for more details).

Required Texts (available at the GPRC Bookstore):

- ✓ Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (Oxford, 2008)
- ✓ Woolf, *The Waves* (Harvest-Harcourt, 1959)
- ✓ Erdrich, *Love Medicine* (Harper Perennial, 1993)
- ✓ Atwood, *Wilderness Tips* (Bantam, 1991)
- ✓ Nafisi, *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books* (Random House)

- ✓ *MLA Handbook* is strongly recommended but not required.

Course Format: Some lectures will be delivered but this course will focus mostly on class discussion and activities. You will be required to retrieve readings from the Library's course reserves and from Blackboard (specific titles indicated in "Course Schedule"). Attendance will be taken at every meeting. You are expected to attend every class on time and be prepared to ask questions, to raise issues you find interesting/puzzling, and to be willing to engage with other students in a respectful, mature, and academic way. Participation plays a major role in final grades—being physically present will not constitute "good" participation.

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|--------------------------|--|------------|
| Term Assignments: | ✓ Response Essay #1 (2-3 pp.) | 20% |
| | ✓ Response Essay #2 (2-3 pp.) | 20% |
| | ✓ Group Presentation + Handout | 20% |
| | ✓ Final Research Essay (8-10 pp.) | 30% |
| | ✓ Participation + In-Class Writing/Assignments | <u>10%</u> |
| | | 100% |

- General Asst. Guidelines:**
- ✓ Clean, white paper (double-sided, if desired)
 - ✓ Staple or paper-clip all pages (no folders/binders)
 - ✓ MLA Format only (1" margins, 12-point TNR font, etc)
 - ✓ Due at START of class

Late Policy and Classroom Rules (based on group agreement determined in class):

Group Presentations: Groups will be assigned within the first two weeks of class. For this assignment you will have to prepare a 15-20 minute presentation for the class based on the text that we will cover that day. You are responsible for outlining important characters, themes, concepts, etc. from the text and providing a summary of at least one scholarly article written about the text (confirm your choice with instructor). You must provide the class with a 1-2 page handout that outlines your presentation, explains your findings, and offers useful resource information about the text. As well, the group presenting on a given text will be responsible for helping to facilitate class discussion during subsequent discussion days. One grade will be assigned for all members of the group but effort put into facilitating later discussions will be counted towards each member's participation grade.

Revisions: You can revise either/both of the Response Essays. Revisions will be due one week after you receive the marked essay. If you choose to revise an essay, be sure that you actually **revise** it—don't just edit it. Revision requires re-thinking, re-organizing, and re-working your ideas, *not* changing your topic. When submitting a revision, you must attach the original, marked essay with it. The grade for the essay will be the higher of the two grades.

Plagiarism: "Plagiarism" is the use of any material, words, sentences, phrases, ideas, etc. of an author without giving due credit. I take plagiarism very seriously. Violators of academic honesty will be dealt with by following the guidelines listed in the "Academic Dishonesty" section of the GPRC 2008-09 Calendar. Do your OWN work!

Grading Scale: This scale is largely based on GPRC Grading Policy Guidelines. For four-point scale equivalents, see GPRC 2008-09 Calendar. Refer also to "Essay Grading Rubric" for essay grading guidelines (supplied by instructor).

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| A+ | 95-100 | B+ | 77-79 | C+ | 67-69 | D+ | 55-59 |
| A | 87-94 | B | 74-76 | C | 64-66 | D | 50-54 |
| A- | 80-86 | B- | 70-73 | C- | 60-63 | F | 0-49 |

Course Schedule (subject to change as needed):

| | <u>Day One</u> | <u>Day Two</u> |
|-----------|--|--|
| Sept. 4-5 | Syllabus (Dr. Kazem Mashkournia) | N/A |
| 8-12 | Syllabus discussion Diagnostic Essay (in-class) Last day to add (Sept. 10) | Overview of women's literature Plath, "Metaphors" (Blackboard) (Sample Presentation) |
| 15-19 | Introduction to Feminist Theory | Angelou, "Still I Rise" (Blackboard) |
| 22-26 | Nineteenth-Century Woman | Gilman, "Yellow Wallpaper" (Bbd) |
| 29-Oct. 3 | Presentation Group #1 Atwood, "True Trash" Atwood, "Death by Landscape" | Presentation Group #2 Atwood, "Isis in Darkness" Atwood, "Wilderness Tips" |
| 6-10 | Presentation Group #3 Austen, <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> (Vol. I) | Response #1 DUE Austen, continued (Vol. II) |

13-17

Thanksgiving (No classes Oct. 13)
Austen, continued (Vol. III)
(Instructor in Hinton--tentative)



20-24

Presentation Group #4
Woolf, *The Waves* (pp. 7-107)

27-31

Woolf, continued (pp. 207-97)

Nov. 3-7

Response #2 DUE
Erdrich, continued (pp. 106-211)

10-14

Fall Break (No class Nov. 10-11)

17-21

Group Presentation #6
Nafisi, *Reading Lolita in Tehran* (Lolita)

24-28

Nafisi, continued (James)

Dec. 1-5

Watch *Persepolis*

The Woman Question + Ruskin
Early-Twentieth-Century Woman
Final Essay Discussion

Woolf, continued (pp. 108-206)

Presentation Group #5
Erdrich, *Love Medicine* (pp. 1-105)
Happy Hallowe'en (Oct. 31)



Erdrich, continued (pp. 212-324)
Last Day to Drop (Nov. 6)

Erdrich, continued (pp. 325-67 + PS)

Nafisi, continued (Gatsby)

Nafisi, continued (Austen + Epilogue)

Finish *Persepolis*
Course Wrap-Up
Final Essay Workshop
Last Day (Dec. 4)

Happy Holidays!



