

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
EN 3180: Women's Literary Tradition

3 (3-0-0) UT, 45 Hours
Winter Term (Jan.-Apr.) 2010

A3 - T, R 2:30-3:50p (B302)
TC - T, R 2:30-3:50p (YREC)

Instructor: Victoria Abboud

Office Hours: M 10:20-11:20a / T, R 10:20-11:20a / and by appointment
Room C420, Main Campus

Tel: 780-539-2992

Email: vabboud@gprc.ab.ca

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

University 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, *To The Lighthouse* (Oxford, 2008)
 - ✓ Erdrich, *Love Medicine* (Harper Perennial, 1993/2001)
 - ✓ Atwood, *Wilderness Tips* (Bantam, 1991)
 - ✓ Nafisi, *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books* (Random House, 2003)
- ✓ *MLA Handbook* is 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"). 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 will help you engage with and understand the material. Being physically present without actively taking part does not constitute "good" participation.

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

- Guidelines:**
- ✓ All assignments will be discussed in class
 - ✓ Assignment details will also be available on Blackboard
 - ✓ 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 in the first 30 minutes of class (NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED)**

Conduct and Classroom Rules:

- You are adults and I expect you to behave as such. No rude behavior will be tolerated.
- Students who are late or miss classes will find it difficult to keep up and grades will suffer.
- No make-up assignments or quizzes will be permitted for lateness or absence.
- Students are responsible for their performance in this class, NOT the instructor.
- Students who are unwilling or unable to follow these rules should seek another class.

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.

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.

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 2009-10 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).

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>Dates</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
Jan. 5-8	Syllabus	Overview of women's literature Plath, "Metaphors" (Sample presentation)
11-15	Intro. to Feminist Theory	Angelou, "Still I Rise" (Blackboard)
18-22	Nineteenth-Century Woman	Gilman, "Yellow Wallpaper" (Blackboard)
25-29	Presentation Group #1 Atwood, "True Trash" Atwood, "Death by Landscape"	Presentation Group #2 Atwood, "Wilderness Tips" Atwood, "Isis in Darkness"
Feb. 1-5	Presentation Group #3 Austen, <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	Response #1 DUE Austen, continued
8-12	Austen, continued	The Woman Question + Ruskin Early Twentieth Century Woman Final Essay Discussion
15-19	Presentation Group #4 Woolf, <i>To the Lighthouse</i>	Woolf, continued
22-26	Woolf, continued	Watch <i>The Hours</i>
Mar. 1-4	Finish <i>The Hours</i>	Film Theory Discussion
5-14	-----SPRING BREAK-----	
15-19	Presentation Group #5 Erdrich, <i>Love Medicine</i>	Response Essay #2 DUE Erdrich, continued
22-26	Group Presentation #6 Nafisi, <i>Reading Lolita in Tehran</i>	Nafisi, continued
29-Apr. 2	Nafisi, continued	Watch <i>Persepolis</i>
5-9	Finish <i>Persepolis</i>	Research Day
12-16	Final Essay Workshop	Final Discussion/Wrap-Up

FINAL ESSAYS DUE Monday, April 19 (before 1pm, C420)

