

English 2190: Literature by Women

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Office Hours: MW 8:45-10:45; MW 12:30-1:45, F 8:45-10:00; and by appointment SP 2016

Class meets: MW 3:30-4:50, Pafford 306

Course description: *An exploration of significant literary texts by female authors, with particular attention to the emergence of what might be called a female aesthetic and issues of gender identity.*

Trigger Warnings. It is impossible for me to control or predict what will trigger a student. If you are triggered by something, feel free to step out of class if it happens there, contact me, or visit office hours.

Our mental health and our community: If you are having thoughts of harming yourself or another, please seek help. You are worth so much more than you know. Recovering from adversity is hard work, but worth it, because you are worth it. There are free campus resources to help you. The number for our counseling center (with free counseling) is 678-839-6428. The national suicide prevention lifeline is 1 (800) 273-8255. Call them. And please: if you see something, say something. For example, reach out to your roommate if he/she has seemed unhappy and withdrawn lately. If you want someone to get help who seems unwilling to do so, visit <http://www.westga.edu/uwgcares/> and use the link provided to contact the university anonymously. We are living in a violent time and there are many things we cannot control. We can all do our part to create a college climate of friendliness and compassion.

Course Goals

- Students will develop the ability to recognize, identify, and contextualize significant achievements in literature by women.
- Students will develop an appreciation of the nature and achievements of the arts and humanities.
- Students will develop the ability to apply, understand, and appreciate the application of aesthetic criteria to "real-world" circumstances.
- Students will develop enhanced cultural awareness and analytical skills.
- Students will demonstrate their command of academic English and of the tenets of sound composition by means of thesis-driven analytical prose.

Program Goals (Core Curriculum)

- Oral and written communication will be characterized by clarity, critical analysis, logic, coherence, persuasion, precision, and rhetorical awareness
- Cultural and Social Perspectives: Cultural and social perspective will be characterized by cultural awareness and an understanding of the complexity and dynamic nature of social/political/economic systems; human and institutional behavior, values, and belief systems; historical and spatial relationship; and, flexibility, open-mindedness, and tolerance.
- Aesthetic Perspective: Aesthetic perspective will be characterized by critical appreciation of and ability to make informed aesthetic judgments about the arts of various cultures as media for human expression

This course fulfills the Area C.2 requirement in the core for all students.

Area C (Humanities/Arts) Learning Outcomes:

1. To develop the ability to recognize and identify achievements in literary, fine and performing arts; 2. To have an appreciation of the nature and achievements of the arts and humanities; and 3. To develop the ability to apply, understand, and appreciate the application of aesthetics criteria to "real world circumstances. This course contributes to the program goal of equipping students with a foundation in literary history and the issues surrounding literary study in contemporary culture. This course broadens students' desire and ability to take pleasure in their encounter with literature.

Buy these books!

Author	Title	ISBN	Publisher
Larsen, Nella	<i>Passing</i>	978-0142437278	Penguin Classics
Bornstein, Kate and Bear Bergman	<i>Gender Outlaws: The Next Generation</i>	978-1580053082	Seal Press
Austen, Jane	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	978-0486284736	Dover Thrift

Highsmith, Patricia	<i>The Price of Salt</i>	978-0486800295	Dover
Morrison, Toni	<i>Beloved</i>	978-1400033416	Vintage

You will also need reliable internet access to use CourseDen as well as the **English Broadside Ballad Archive**, which we will be using for some assignments in the early weeks of class.

<http://ebba.english.ucsb.edu>

Grading Percentages

Minipapers: 4, 10% each for 40% total grade.

Participation and Preparation 15%

Midterm, 20%

Final exam, Short answer questions plus two essays, 25%

Here are some possible ways to approach the **mini-paper**:

--provide a close analysis of a small segment of one our texts using theories and terms that we have discussed in class.

--compare and contrast episodes from two texts.

--discuss the relationship between gender/sexuality and race, class, culture, and/or historical moment in one of our primary texts.

--explain why you agree or disagree with an idea or text that we have been discussing in class. Is a particular theory or approach problematic? How? What are its advantages and disadvantages?

Student Responsibilities

Your main responsibilities are to come to class prepared, participate in discussions, turn in your assignments on time, and do as well as you can on the assignments. Assignments will be graded according to the English department's grading guidelines. Often students need to do at least two or three hours of work for each hour of class time. Try to budget your time accordingly, and please come see me in my office hours if you are struggling with the readings or workload.

Late work will be penalized 5 points for each day that it is late. Late includes everything following the last minute of class. So, a paper due on a Tuesday and turned in on a Thursday loses ten points. A paper due on a Tuesday and turned in an hour after class ends will lose 5 points.

Attendance

- You are required to attend and participate in each session of this class.
- You will have **three free absence days** for life events, illness, and emergencies. You can miss these two sessions for any reason at all. If you miss a class, you are still responsible for the work during that class, including online participation. If you miss only one class, but it is on an exam or presentation day, you will receive a zero for that assignment.
- **If you miss more than three classes**, your overall grade for the class will be reduced by one letter grade for each two additional class sessions missed. For example, if you earn a B in the class and you have missed four classes, your B will be reduced to a C. If you are having problems with attendance, please see or contact me.
- **If you are late or absent, get notes from another classmate.** Most of the important announcements happen during the first ten minutes of class. Excessive lateness will also result in a deduction from the overall course grade. Look at your schedule and make sure you have enough time to get to class.

Class atmosphere and guidelines

- You must do all of the required reading before coming to class so that you will understand our discussions. I will institute reading quizzes if not enough students are doing the reading.
- Be respectful of your classmates in class discussions.
- Take notes in class, even if you think you'll remember what is said.
- Silence all phones and laptops before class. **No texting or social media in class.** If there is an emergency and you must take a call or send a text, sit by the door and leave quickly and quietly to do so. If it's not worth getting up and leaving the classroom, then it can wait until class ends.

What this class will be like:

A typical class session might include two or more of the following...

- a mini-lecture on the topic of the day (with or without PowerPoint)
- your questions on the readings (this will *always* be a part of class)
- brainstorming/guided writing
- close reading of relevant passages from our texts
- discussion of literary criticism about our texts
- viewing of a relevant video clip, image, or other cultural artifact, followed by discussion
- tips for better writing
- we will emphasize both learning and the enjoyment of the learning process!

University policies that apply to all courses may be found at the following link:

[http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common Language for Course Syllabi.pdf](http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common%20Language%20for%20Course%20Syllabi.pdf)

You must familiarize yourself with these policies. They concern plagiarism/the honor code, the Americans with Disabilities Act, our credit hour policy, and some information regarding workload expectations for college-level classes.

Our schedule

Anything mentioned on a day is DUE ON THAT DAY IN CLASS.

Note: if you see a work that we are talking about on multiple days, try to spread your reading out over those days. For example, it says *Passing* 1, 2, and 3 on different classes. Read the first third of the book for the first class and pace yourself accordingly. Or read the whole thing. But you'll have to finish the book by the last day we cover it in class.

(take a picture with your phone!)

Week	Monday	Wednesday
1 <i>Intro</i>	1/11 Intro, overview, what the class will be like	1/13 Broadside Ballads: 20053, 20054, 20229
2	1/18 MLK Holiday, no classes	1/20 Broadside Ballads 21782, 22015, 20261
3	1/25 Lecture: Women and literature in the eighteenth century, mini-paper due	1/27 Dr. Miller is at a symposium in NY. Work on reading Austen.
4	2/1 <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> 1	2/3 <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> 2
5	2/8 <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> 3	2/10 <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> 4
6	2/15 <i>Passing</i> 1 mini-paper due	2/17 <i>Passing</i> 2
7	2/22 <i>Passing</i> 3	2/24 No class meeting; online midterm
8	2/29 Lecture: LGBTQ literature and culture, mini-paper due	3/2 <i>The Price of Salt</i> 1 (3/3 is withdrawal deadline!)
9	3/7 <i>The Price of Salt</i> 2	3/9 <i>The Price of Salt</i> 3 mini-paper due
3/14-3/19 Spring Break, no classes		
10	3/21 Lecture: postmodernism, feminism, and race	3/23 <i>Beloved</i> 1
11	3/28 <i>Beloved</i> 2	3/30 No class: Dr Miller is at ASECS.
12	4/4 <i>Beloved</i> 3	4/6 <i>Beloved</i> 4 mini-paper due
13	4/11 <i>Gender Outlaws</i> 1	4/13 <i>Gender Outlaws</i> 2
14	4/18 TBD	4/20 review for finals
15	Finals Week Exam Wednesday, Apr 27, 2:00-4:30 pm	