

**University of Waterloo**  
**Department of English Language and Literature**  
English 108E: Women in Literature  
Winter 2011  
TTh 2:30 – 3:50pm, HH 139

Instructor: Diana Lobb  
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Office Hours: **TTh 11:30am – 12:20 pm or by appointment**

**Course Description:**

**Catalogue:** A study of the nature and role of women in British, Canadian, and American literature. Works by both men and women will be studied in which women are seen in such forms as mothers, saints, sex objects, and witches.

**Section:** In this section we will look at women's literature from the Middle Ages to the present with a particular focus on the relationship between the struggle for gender equality and the struggle for racial equality.

**Learning Objectives:**

- To develop analytical reading skills.
- To develop essay writing skills.
- To develop critical thinking skills.

**Required Texts:** *The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women*, Vol. 1, Gilbert & Gubar  
*The Journals of Susanna Moodie*, Margaret Atwood  
*The Help*, Kathryn Stockett

**Class Schedule**

Date	Readings	Notes
Jan. 3	<b>Introduction</b>	
Jan. 5	Gilbert & Gubar: "Literature of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance"	
Jan. 10	Margery Kempe: from <i>The Book of Margery Kempe</i> , Ch. 3, 4, 11	<b>First journal entry due</b>
Jan. 12	Elizabeth Cary: from <i>The Tragedy of Miriam</i>	
Jan. 17	Gilbert & Gubar: "Literature of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries"	
Jan. 19	Katherine Philips: "Friendship's Mystery," "A Married State" Aphra Behn: "On Her Loving Two Equally," "To the Fair Clarindra"	
Jan. 24	Lady Mary Wortley Montagu: "The Reasons that Induced Dr.	

	Swift," Anne Ingram: "An Epistle to Mr. Pope," Frances Burney: "Letter from Miss F. Burney to Mrs. Phillips,"	
Jan. 26	Phillis Wheatley: "[Letter Sent by the Author's Master to the Publisher," "On Being Brought from Africa to America," "To the Right Honorable William, Earl of Dartmouth"	
Jan. 31	Mary Wollstonecraft: from <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i> – Introduction, from Chapter II	
Feb. 2	Gilbert & Gubar "Literature of the Nineteenth Century"	
Feb. 7	Harriet Jacobs: from <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i>	
Feb. 9		<b>Midterm</b>
Feb. 14	Elizabeth Barrett Browning: "The Cry of the Children," "A Curse for a Nation"	
Feb. 16	George Eliot: "Silly Novels by Lady Novelists"	<b>Essay Topics Distributed</b>
Feb. 20 - 24		<b>Reading Week</b>
Feb. 28	Christina Rossetti: "The Goblin Market"	
Mar. 1	Gilbert & Gubar "Turn-of-the-Century Literature"	
Mar. 6	Charlotte Perkins Gilman: "The Yellow Wallpaper"	
Mar. 8	Gilbert & Gubar "Later-Twentieth-Century and Contemporary Literature"	
Mar. 13	Atwood: <i>The Journals of Susanna Moodie</i>	
Mar. 15	Atwood: <i>The Journals of Susanna Moodie</i>	
Mar. 20	Stockett: <i>The Help</i>	
Mar. 22	Stockett: <i>The Help</i>	
Mar. 27	Stockett: <i>The Help</i>	
Mar. 29	<b>Exam Review</b>	<b>Major Essay Due</b>

### **Marking Scheme:**

Participation:	10%
Assignments:	10%
Essays:	25%
Tests:	25%
Final Exam:	30%

### **Assignments & Evaluation:**

#### **10% Attendance and Participation**

You are expected to be in class and on time. The grade is equally weighted between attendance and participation. You should be prepared for class fully and thoughtfully, and participate in an active and engaged way during class. Active participation in this class requires participation in on-going classroom discussion and group work and being respectful of others' contributions to the ongoing intellectual inquiry taking place during the class. Remember, it is difficult to participate if you do not regularly attend class.

**10% Journal Responses:**

Journal responses are due at the beginning of each week. Respond to the readings from the previous week discussing your impressions of the readings and how they fit (or do not fit) into your ideas about women's writing. Keep the entry short (generally no longer than a page, handwritten). Try to engage the material analytically but also be sensitive to and honest about your impressions. The journal entries provide you with an opportunity to engage with the material of the course within the context of your own experiences. Have fun with them.

Journal entries will be marked on a modified pass/fail basis (ie A/B/fail). Your best ten will be recorded.

**25% Major Essay – due March 29th**

6 – 8 pages

Essay topics will be distributed in class Feb. 16th.

**25% Mid-Term Test – Feb 9th** during regularly scheduled class meeting

**30% Final Exam** – scheduled by Registrar's Office

**Class Policies:**

**Email:** Email is an efficient method to contact me to arrange for appointments or to ask simple questions (i.e. questions that require a yes or no answer). Most questions arising from this class, however, will require face-to-face discussion and should be dealt with in class or during my office hours. If you are unable to attend my scheduled office hours please contact me to arrange an alternate meeting time. Essays and assignments submitted by email, or as email attachments, will not be accepted. Students using email to contact me **must** include their first and last names, student number, and course in which they are enrolled in the email subject line.

**Late Essays:** Essays are due in hard copy at the beginning of the class noted in the schedule. All late assignments will be penalized 3% per day, including weekends (i.e. Saturday and Sunday = 6%). Late papers must be submitted to me during class or during my office hours. Please note that essays will not be accepted via e-mail, under my office door, or if submitted after the term's last day of class.

**Extensions:** Except in extraordinary circumstances, all extensions must be requested by the Friday of the week prior to the essay's due date. I reserve the right to request appropriate documentation to support the request for extension (e.g. doctor's note).

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

**Academic Integrity website (Arts):** [http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic\\_responsibility.html](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html)

**Academic Integrity Office (UW):** <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity [check [www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/) ] to avoid committing academic offences and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration, should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or Renison’s Administrative Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71, Student Discipline. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to this policy [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm) . For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm).

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm)

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if grounds for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm).

**Note for students with disabilities:** The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

### **Final Examination Policy**

For Winter 2012, the established examination period is April 9 -21, 2012. The schedule will be available in February. Students should be aware that student travel plans are not acceptable grounds for granting an alternative final examination time (see <http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/finalexams.html>).

**Turnitin.com:** Plagiarism detection software (Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments are documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin in this course.