English 108E (SECTION 02): Fall 1996
WOMEN IN LITERATURE
Instructor: Jana Karger

Class: Wednesday: 6:30-9:30 p.m., E1 Room 1502
Office: Room 2215, PAS Building
Telephone: X 3841. You may leave also leave a message at the following number: 664-1622. State that the message is for me, and give name, phone number, time and date of call, and time I can reach you.
Office Hrs: Thursday: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., and also by appointment.

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Description

Language shapes our cultural values, our attitudes, and our beliefs. Cultural, historical, political, religious, and economic factors influence writers as they seek to represent and/or create the nature and role of women in both fictional and non-fictional literature. Since so much of our learning and knowledge takes place through shared narratives--stories that we hear and tell both about ourselves and others--these representations have profound effects on our relationships and our lives.

In our readings over the course of the term we will encounter representations of women by both male and female writers in specific historical periods, from earliest mythological and Biblical narratives, through the centuries to contemporary writings. How do such representations reinforce or challenge traditional perceptions of women, and how have they shaped our own expectations with respect to women's roles in art and life?

Aims

Through the questions we raise, through our discussions, and through our journal writing, we will attempt to connect our readings to our own lives and to the world around us. We can develop or improve existing skills that help us to interpret, analyze, and evaluate fictional and non-fictional representations of women in society. Integrating knowledge and personal experience within the community of the classroom enhances our understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of literature, and also increases our awareness of how literature interacts with and influences our lives daily.

Learning in this course is student-centred, and the success of our course depends upon active and committed student attendance and participation throughout the term. I hope that within the community of our classroom, the process of shared discovery offers us all an exciting and challenging learning experience.
Course Requirements

35% WEEKLY JOURNAL and JOURNAL EVALUATION (see handout)
25% SMALL GROUP PRESENTATION (see handout)**
30% ESSAY (approximately 5-7 pages). Includes brief proposal/outline October 9; draft exchange October 23; draft discussions October 30; final essay due November 13. Students must fulfill each stage of the essay-writing process to gain a grade. (see handout)
10% PARTICIPATION AND CONTRIBUTION (see Small Group Presentation handout, under "Audience")

** Number of presentations may change, depending on class size.

Course requirements and assignments will be discussed during the first class. Detailed information and instructions will follow. Students should note carefully all due dates to ensure that they do not jeopardize their grades.

Course Texts

Reserve Reading XA 3806: Week 2 ) Reserve Desk, Dana Porter Arts Library
Reserve Reading XA 3807: Week 3 )
Pride and Prejudice (Jane Austen) (Dover)
The Turn of the Screw (Henry James) (Dover)
*Great Short Stories by American Women: (Dover)
The Magnificent Voyage of Emily Carr (Jovette Marchessault) (Talonbooks)
Other Solitudes (Eds. Hutcheon and Richmond) (Oxford) ) Selections
Wilderness Tips (Margaret Atwood) (Bantam)

I will notify you throughout the term of articles, etc., placed on Reserve.

Recommended Texts

A good handbook can assist you in preparing and writing your essay. For example:

University Policies

Please ensure that you are familiar with and do not contravene university policy as set out in the UW Calendar section "Student Academic Discipline Policy and Procedures." With respect to plagiarism, if in doubt please talk to me, as the university considers plagiarism a serious offence with serious consequences. UW Policy # 71 currently defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism . . . is the act of presenting the ideas, words or other intellectual property of another as one's own. The use of other people's work must be properly acknowledged and referenced in all written material such as take-home examinations, essays, laboratory reports, work-term reports, design projects, statistical data, computer programs and research results. The properly acknowledged use of sources is an accepted and important part of scholarship. Use of such material without complete and unambiguous acknowledgement, however, is an offence under this policy.
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Sept. 11

Introduction to Teaching Philosophy, Course, Course Texts, Course Requirements, Assignments

Class discussion: Excerpts of writings from the Greco-Roman and Judeo-Christian traditions (Handouts for discussion distributed in class)

Week 2: Sept. 18  ( Reserve Reading XA 3806 at Dana Porter Arts Library)

JOURNAL ONE DUE
SIGN UP FOR PRESENTATIONS

* Julian of Norwich (1342-?)
* Margery Kempe (1373-?)
* Chaucer's (1340?-1400) "The Wife of Bath's Tale" from The Canterbury Tales  (late 1380s early 1390s)

Week 3: Sept. 25  ( Reserve Reading XA 3807 at Dana Porter Arts Library)

JOURNAL TWO DUE

The Burning Times (Film: approx. 1 hour)

* Margaret Cavendish (1623-1674): From Female Orations (1662)
* Lady Mary Chudleigh (1656-1710): To The Ladies (1703)
* Anne Killigrew (1669-1685): Upon the Saying That My Verses Were Made by Another (1686)
* Anne Finch, Countess of Winchilsea (1661-1720): The Introduction (1689?; 1903)
* Mary Astell (1666-1731): From A Serious Proposal to the Ladies (1694)
* Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797): From A Vindication of the Rights of Women (1742)

Week 4: Oct. 02

JOURNAL THREE DUE
SOME COMMENTS ON WRITING ESSAYS

* Pride and Prejudice (Jane Austen)

TWO PRESENTATIONS
Week 5: Oct. 09

JOURNAL FOUR DUE
BRIEF ESSAY PROPOSAL/OUTLINE DUE

The Yellow Wallpaper (Film: approximately 15 minutes)

* The Turn of the Screw (Henry James)
* "The Yellow Wallpaper" (Charlotte Perkins Gilman) in Great Short Stories by American Women

TWO PRESENTATIONS

Week 6: Oct. 16

JOURNAL FIVE DUE

* Great Short Stories by American Women: selection

THREE PRESENTATIONS

Week 7: Oct. 23

JOURNAL SIX DUE
DRAFT ESSAY EXCHANGE

* Great Short Stories by American Women: selection

THREE PRESENTATIONS

Week 8: Oct. 30

JOURNAL SEVEN DUE
DRAFT ESSAY DISCUSSION GROUPS: 45 minutes

* The Magnificent Voyage of Emily Carr (Jovette Marchessault)

TWO PRESENTATIONS

Week 9: Nov. 6

JOURNAL EIGHT DUE

* Other Solitudes: selection

TWO PRESENTATIONS
Week 10: Nov. 13

JOURNAL NINE DUE
ESSAY DUE

* Other Solitudes: selection

THREE PRESENTATIONS

Week 11: Nov. 20

JOURNAL TEN DUE

* Wilderness Tips (Margaret Atwood): selection

THREE PRESENTATIONS

Week 12: Nov. 27

JOURNAL ELEVEN DUE

* Journal Evaluation
* Conclusion to Course