

Department of English & Writing Studies

Feminist Literary Theory
English 3200F (001)
Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. Anne Young
Office hours: TBA

Course Location: UCC 60

Teaching Assistant: Lori Maddigan
Office Hours: TBA

Course Date/Time: M 9:30-11:30 am,
W 10:30-11:30 am

Antirequisite(s): The former English 2240F/G

Prerequisite(s): At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020E or 1022E or 1024E or 1035E or 1036E or 1042E or both English 1027F/G and 1028F/G, or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

An introduction to critical debates in twentieth-century feminist literary theory. Students will study (1) the diversity of feminist approaches to literature, literary production, the politics of language, questions of genre and subjectivity; and (2) the intersections among feminist literary theories, post-colonialism, Marxism, anti-racist criticism, queer theory, and post-structuralism.

In this course, 'literature' includes all texts and storytelling mediums. Non-fiction writing and elements of popular culture will be considered. Students will also have the opportunity to pursue a topic of their own choosing for their final research projects.

Objectives:

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Demonstrate familiarity with influential twentieth-century feminist literary theory and its history
- Understand how feminist theories and feminist perspectives have informed contemporary literary studies
- Use feminist theories to achieve a broader understanding of literature and culture
- Make clear, logical arguments that engage with feminist literary theory
- Demonstrate improved writing, research, and communication skills

Course Materials

Readings will be made available through OWL and the UWO library reserve system.

Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

Creative critical review and summary (700-1000 words)	15% (due Oct. 30, in class)
Participation	15%
Mid-term test/reflection	5% (Nov. 13, in class)
Research project (essay [1500-2000 words] and reflection [500-1000 words])	30% (20% for essay +10% for reflection) (due Dec. 4, in class)
Exam	35%

A student must receive a passing grade for both term work and the final examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies to all courses in all programs offered by the department. Students whose term and final exam grades average 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. **Please note:** The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

Late papers will be accepted up to 5 days after the deadline. Students will lose 2% of their grade on that assignment for each day (including weekend days) that it is late. (For examples, a paper due on Wednesday, submitted the following Monday will be accepted at a reduction of 10%). Comments on late papers may be less detailed. Alternatively, students who are concerned about meeting the deadlines listed above should speak to me. I may grant extensions within reason for extenuating circumstances.

Timetable:

Date	topic	please read	assignments due
Sept. 11	Introduction		bell hooks, excerpt from "Feminism is for Everyone" (2000)
Sept. 13	Before 20 th -century feminist literary theory		Rosa Luxemburg, "Women's Suffrage and Class Struggle" (1912) Margaret Sanger, "Morality and Birth Control" (1918)
Sept. 18	Women writers, literary production, and genre		Virginia Woolf, <i>A Room of One's Own</i> , chapters 1 and 2 (1929)
Sept. 20			Dale Spender, "Women and Literary History" (1986)
Sept. 25	Sex and gender poststructuralism		Monique Wittig, "The Category of Sex" (1976-82)

Sept. 27	How to approach the critical review Materialist feminism and Marxist feminism	Cora Kaplan, excerpt from "Pandora's Box: Subjectivity, Class, and Sexuality in Socialist Feminist Criticism" (1985)	
Oct. 2	Woman as commodity	Luce Irigaray, "Women on the Market" (1977) (critical reading workshop)	
Oct. 4		Marshall McLuhan, "Love-Goddess Assembly Line" (1951)	
READING WEEK			
Oct. 16	The male gaze	Laura Mulvey, "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema" (1975)	
Oct. 18		bell hooks, "The Oppositional Gaze" (1992)	
Oct. 23	The colonial gaze Structuralism and post-structuralism	Anne McClintock, "Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Context" (1995)	Bring a draft of the critical review
Oct. 25		Chandra Talpade Mohanty, "Decolonization, Anticapitalist Critique, and Feminist Commitments" (2003)	
Oct. 30	The reader Making arguments and developing a thesis for your research essay	Judith Fetterley, "The Resisting Reader" (1978)	Critical review
Nov. 1	Language	Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, "Feminist Philosophy of Language" (1-end of 1.8)	
Nov. 6	Labour	Silvia Federici, excerpt from <i>Caliban and the Witch</i> 1984/2004)	
Nov. 8	Authorship	Gilbert and Gubar, excerpt from "The Queen's Looking Glass" (1979)	

Nov. 13	Queer theory	John D'Emilio, "Capitalism and Gay Identity" (1983)	Mid-term test/reflection
Nov. 15		Terry Castle, "The Apparitional Lesbian" (1993)	
Nov. 20	Narrative and rhetoric	Emily Martin, "The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles" (1991)	
Nov. 22		TBA	
Nov. 27	Cultural studies	Susan Bordo, "'Material Girl': The Effacements of Postmodern Culture" (1993)	
Nov. 29		Karl Maton, "Habitus"	
Dec. 4	Affect	Sara Ahmed, "Multiculturalism and the Promise of Happiness" (2007)	Essay and reflection
Dec. 6	Review		

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.