

Department of English & Writing Studies

Feminist Literary Theory**English 3200G (001)**

Winter 2019

Instructor: Dr. Anne Schuurman
University College 3428anne.schuurman@uwo.ca**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 1:30-3:30 or by
appointment**Course Location:** University Community
Centre, Room 58**Course Date/Time:** Mondays 2:30-3:30 pm
and Wednesdays 1:30-3:30 pm**Teaching Assistant:** Avery Simmonsavery.simmons@uwo.ca**Prerequisites:** At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020E or 1022E or 1024E or 1035E or 1036E 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, postcolonialism, Marxism, anti-racist criticism, queer theory, and post-structuralism.

Objectives:

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify and discuss key debates and developments in feminist literary criticism;
- Use feminist theories to understand and elucidate literary texts;
- Examine feminist theories with a critical eye, both individually and in relation to each other;
- Develop and demonstrate critical thinking and writing skills through close reading and discussion;
- Write lucid, effective, and argumentative essays.

Course Materials**Required Texts:**

Feminist Literary Theory and Criticism: A Norton Reader. Ed. Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan G.ubar (Norton, 2007).

Selected readings distributed on OWL.

Methods of Evaluation

Participation & Attendance	10%
Critical Reading Essay	15%
Mid-term Test	15%
Final Exam	25%
Research Essay	35%

Participation & Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory and will be recorded on a sign-in sheet in every class. To earn full participation marks, you must attend class regularly, come prepared with your textbook to discuss the assigned readings, listen actively to all lectures, and participate meaningfully in discussions.

Critical Reading Essay: 1000-1250 words. **Due February 13, 2018.**

You will be asked to write on one text studied in class and one literary text of your choosing, preferably one you have studied in another English class at Western, and to use your close reading skills to develop an argument. Your choice of literary text must be approved by me no later than **February 6**. See the Critical Reading Essay assignment sheet for more details.

Mid-term Test: 1 hour, in class. **February 27, 2018.**

This is a mandatory test, which will consist of identification and short answer questions. This must be written at the scheduled time unless accommodation has been granted.

Research Essay: 2000-2500 words. **Due April 8, 2018.**

Topics and instructions will be provided after Reading Week.

Final Exam:

There will be a three-hour written exam during the April examination period. This must be written at the scheduled time unless accommodation has been granted for alternative arrangements. The exam will cover the entire term's work, will consist of identification and essay questions, and will include a sight passage for analysis. This is a closed book exam.

NB: Final exams are scheduled by the University. Do not make travel plans before the final exam schedule is finalized by the Registrar's Office. Accommodations are NOT granted for vacations, flights home, etc.

Timetable (subject to change)

Jan 7

Introductions

Jan 9

Christine de Pizan, from *The Book of the City of Ladies*, pp. 13-19.

Jan 14

Jane Anger, *Her Protection for Women*, pp. 19-21; Mary Astell, from *A Serious Proposal and Some Reflections upon Marriage*, pp. 27-33.

Jan 16

Mary Wollstonecraft, excerpts from various works, pp. 41-48; George Eliot, from "Silly Novels by Lady Novelists," pp. 85-92.

Jan 21

Virginia Woolf, from *A Room of One's Own*, pp. 128-137.

Jan 23

Simone de Beauvoir, from *The Second Sex*, pp. 300-322.

Jan 28

Adrienne Rich, "When We Dead Awaken," pp. 188-200.

Jan 30

Joanna Russ, "What Can a Heroine Do? or Why Women Can't Write," pp. 200-11.

Feb 4

Gayle Rubin, "The Traffic in Women: Note on the 'Political Economy' of Sex," 392-414.

Feb 6

Helene Cixous, from *The Laugh of the Medusa*, pp. 414-429.

Feb 11

Margaret Homans, from *Woman Writers and Poetic Identity*, pp. 492-503.

Feb 13

Monica Wittig, "One is Not Born a Woman," pp. 544-551.

Critical Reading Essay Due IN CLASS

Feb 18 Family Day – no classes

Feb 20 Reading Week – no classes

Feb 25 Donna Haraway, from *A Manifesto for Cyborgs: Science, Technology, and Socialist Feminism in the 1980s*, pp. 585-601.

Feb 27

Mid-term Test IN CLASS

Mar 4

Ursula K. Le Guin, "Is Gender Necessary? Redux," pp. 258-266.

Mar 6

Gloria Anzaldúa, from *Borderlands/La Frontera*, pp. 247-58.

Mar 11: 1990s

Toni Morrison, from *Unspeakable Things Unspoken*, pp. 266-278.

Mar 13

bell hooks, "Postmodern Blackness," pp. 701-708.

Mar 18

Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, from *Epistemology of the Closet*, pp. 683-701.

Mar 20

Terry Castle, from "The Apparitional Lesbian: Female Homosexuality and Modern Culture," pp. 757-772.

Mar 25: 2000s

Susan Bordo, from *Unbearable Weight: Feminism, Western Culture, and the Body*, pp. 745-756.

Mar 27

Chandra Talpade Mohanty, from *Feminism without Borders*, pp. 824-833.

Apr 1

Donna Zuckerburg, from *Not All Dead White Men*, pp. 11-44. On OWL)

Apr 3

Sara Ahmed, from *Living a Feminist Life*, pp. 235-268. (On OWL)

Apr 8

Course Conclusion

Research Essay Due IN CLASS

Apr 11-30

Final Examination Period

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

The Academic Counselling Office for Arts and Humanities is located in University College 2230.

I will not grant any requests for extensions unless I have approval from Academic Counselling.

Class Conduct:

All students are expected to conduct themselves according to high standards of respect and civility in the classroom. To that end, students are asked to respect the following guidelines:

- Frame questions and differences of opinion in a constructive and professional manner.
- Respect the rights of each student and of the instructor to speak without having to talk over other voices.
- **Laptops, cell phones, and other electronic devices are not permitted in class.**

Email Conduct:

Please address and sign all email correspondence appropriately. Typically, emails will be answered within 48 hours, although I do not always answer emails in the evening or on weekends. If you have not heard from me after 48 hours, please re-send your message: do not assume that I have received your email if you do not receive a reply.

Submission of Assignments:

All assignments are due in class. You may submit late assignments to the essay box **outside** the Department of English main office (UC), where they will be date- and time-stamped. Essays submitted before 8:30 a.m. in the essay box are stamped with the previous day's date. This also applies to essays submitted before 8:30 a.m. Monday, which will be stamped with Friday's date.

Please do not put any assignments under office doors.

Be sure to keep a copy of all assignments submitted.

Please remember that the Department will not accept assignments by fax or email. If necessary, and by prior arrangement only, assignments may be sent to me at the Department by post or courier.

If you submit a paper after the due date, but within two weeks of this date, the paper will be counted as late, and the following procedures will apply:

1. The paper will not be read until all previous assignments have been read and marked, and depending on the extent of the lateness, may be returned at a later date.
2. A grade will be given, but no (or minimal) comments or corrections will be provided.
3. The grade will be reduced by a penalty of two marks (2%) for each calendar day (including weekends) that it is late. The arrangement for date-stamping essays (identified above) still applies.
4. Papers will not be accepted if submitted more than two weeks after the due date unless accommodation has been granted.

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.

When in doubt, cite your sources and/or check with me.