

~ PROVISIONAL ~

May be subject to change prior to the start of classes

**WS 3311F: Special Topics in Women's Writing  
Feminism Writing Madness**

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<b>Office hrs:</b>	Mondays 4:30-5:30 pm	& Thurs 2:00-3:00 pm	or by appointment
<b>Class Meets:</b>	Mondays 1:30-4:30 pm	<b>Class Location:</b>	TBA

Please note that format (in person or online) may be impacted by covid conditions.

In WS 3311F, we will explore feminist approaches to “madness” from across various critical perspectives, disciplines, time periods, and genres – but with a primary focus on representation in **literature by women**. Why have women, as *women* (even if differentially), been historically linked with mental deficiency/madness? What social, political, economic, and literary ends have been served by this connection? How do other axes of identity, such as race, class, sexuality, age, (dis)ability (“etc.”) intersect with the social construction of madness? Ultimately, these queries lead us in the course to explore: **how do women respond? How do they write (right) the relations/conflations between madness and reason, illness and cure, imprisonment and liberation?** By reading works (short stories, novels, memoirs) by women from both within and outside the asylum experience and various approaches to madness by feminist theorists, we focus on how women writers explore, question, and defy their discursive and material imprisonments.

**Assignments:**

Participation	(you must be present to participate)	20%
Sparker with Write-Up	(indiv or pairs; presentation with questions and handout)	15%
Reflection Paper/Short Essay	(3-4 pages: due at start of class – must be submitted prior to discussion of texts; last date to submit is Oct. 17; you can't write on any texts we have <i>already</i> discussed in class)	20%
Annotated Bibliography	(with thesis proposal & 3 sources: due Oct. 31)	15%
Essay	(with research; 7-8 pages; due November 21)	30%

**Texts:**

You will need to purchase Susanna Kaysen's *Girl, Interrupted* and Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*. All online articles will be available through links posted in Owl.

**Land Acknowledgment:**

“Western University is situated on the traditional land of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lenape and Attawandaron peoples who have longstanding relationships to the region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. In close proximity to Western, there are 3 local First Nations communities: the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In the region of southwestern Ontario, there are 9 First Nations and a growing Indigenous urban population. Western recognizes the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America) to the development of Canada” (GSWS

*Handbook for Instructors; please see also Western's Indigenous Strategic Plan and recommendations from Indigenous Services)*

## ENJOY THE TERM!



## COURSE POLICIES

### Support Services:

We often deal with difficult topics, and material in this course may be especially triggering. For any reason, “Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.” <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/courseoutlines.pdf>.

Please also consider the Post-Secondary Student Helpline as a resource: 1-866-925-5454, or, if in immediate crisis, 911 or Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000.

There will also be a health supports tab with further resources on our Owl home page. It is really, really important for you to reach out if you're struggling. Remember that there is a lot of help/support here at Western, and I can help direct you to the resources if you're not sure from the above.

**Submitting Assignments:** Please submit all written assignments to Turnitin.com through the course OWL links. (You may also be required to hand in hard copies of written assignments in GSWS 3311F; if so, I will make this clear in the assignment instructions.) Here's the statement on use of Turnitin from the University:

"All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under licence to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted 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 licencing agreement currently between the University and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)."  
(<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/courseoutlines.pdf>)

**Deadlines** are registered as the date/time these assignments are due to Turnitin, and late penalties are assessed based on the submission time to the Turnitin site – so please don't forget to load your paper to Turnitin on time!

Essays not submitted to Turnitin will receive grades converted to 0.

**You cannot submit assignments in GSWS 3311F prepared for other courses.**

### Late & Missed Assignments:

**Late Paper Policy:** Please make arrangements, wherever possible, prior to the deadline if you require accommodation. If an assignment is late due to illness or for compassionate reasons, you should see the Academic Counsellor (AC) in your faculty of registration as soon as possible and provide supporting documentation via the AC to the **Office of the Dean** of the appropriate faculty.

UWO Senate requires that “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. For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness see: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2011/pg117.html> and (<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>).”

(See also [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf) and the Student Medical Certificate (SMC) at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf>).

**PLEASE DO NOT GIVE ME ANY MEDICAL NOTES. I am not allowed, for your privacy, to receive them.**

### **Attendance in classes:**

Please note the attendance policy of the Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies and The University of Western Ontario: "In classes without final examinations, persistent absenteeism (defined by the Department as three [3] weeks in half courses, and six [6] weeks in full courses) may be rendered grounds for failure in the course (after due warning is given)."

### **Self-Reported Absences:**

Western has a fairly new policy: students are no longer required to seek a medical note for "short-term and unexpected" absences. Where applicable, students can use the Illness Reporting Tool in the Self-Reported Absence System. Please see details at [https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic\\_considerations/self\\_reported\\_absences\\_faqs.html](https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/self_reported_absences_faqs.html), including for circumstances where absence impacts assignment completion. Please contact me as soon as possible to let me know.

### **Participation:**

You will be required to read for each class. Plan to read critically rather than just for content. You are expected to have read the ll assigned materials prior to each class period and to be prepared to participate in discussions. Participation includes demonstrating familiarity with the course readings, asking insightful questions, contributing to discussion in a positive way (this always allows for respectful dissent), and being a respectful listener. The Department reserves the right for instructors to give reading quizzes as part of the participation grade if it seems necessary (i.e., if class members do not keep up with the reading). No single portion (attendance, discussion, questions, etc.) determines your overall participation grade.

### **Scholastic 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 the following website: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>"; <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/courseoutlines.pdf>

### **And re: Plagiarism, especially:**

"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 offense (see the 'Scholastic Offense Policy' in the Western Academic Calendar). Plagiarism checking: The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form for plagiarism checking." -- U.W.O. Senate statement on plagiarism

### **Electronic devices:**

Laptops are permitted in class, but must be used to support your learning. Any activity, including laptop use (and especially cell phone use), which distracts from your engagement and attention in class can affect your participation mark. **Please be respectful of your peers.** Should you, for any reason, need to receive a phone call during class time, please keep your phone on vibrate and step out of the classroom to receive the call.

**Owl:** Use of Owl Sakai is necessary for successful completion of this course. This includes accessing readings as required in the course outline, downloading instructions and guidelines for assignments, and submitting assignments to Turnitin.com via the assignments link. All course information, including for assignments, will be posted on the course website. Go to <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>.

**Note for students with disabilities:** Please contact [gswsugchair@uwo.ca](mailto:gswsugchair@uwo.ca) if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you. You may also contact [aew@uwo.ca](mailto:aew@uwo.ca) to find out the full range of services available to you. Please know that the GSWS Department is "committed to accessible education as a matter of policy and as a social justice issue" in the words of our Chair – and it's important to me that you feel both individually and structurally supported.

**Prerequisites:** "You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no fee adjustment. These decisions cannot be appealed. (See also Western's Academic Calendar)" --- U.W.O. Senate statement on prerequisites.

**Prerequisites for WS 3311F:**

GSWS 2220E or 2273E, or permission of the Department.

**Contact Info:** My office hours are posted on page 1 of this syllabus.. Please do not wait until the week before assignments are due to ask for help, as my time may be limited/booked. Written messages can be left for me at the GSWS Department main office, LWH 3260 as covid conditions permit. You are welcome to email, but should always **put the course number into the subject line: WS3311F, and use your UWO email addresses;** emails not so identified may automatically be screened out by Western's system as spam. It may take up to 48 hours or more for me to respond. If you are unable to email, you can leave a message for me at 519-661-2111 ext. 84684.

**LET'S HAVE A FABULOUS TERM!**

