

**Universidad de Puerto Rico**  
**Río Piedras Campus**  
**Faculty of Humanities**  
**Department of English**

**English 3228:** Literature by Women

**Professor:** Prof. Catilia Romero

**Credit Hours:** 45 hours/3 credits

**Office Hours:** Time and date will be scheduled via email

**Course Description:** This is currently an online course that explores selected writings by women from the Middle Ages to the Present day. The course is an exploration of how women from different periods viewed their condition in society and how they have depicted their roles through various mediums.

The online course will be held both synchronously and asynchronously. It will meet every Tuesday online via video conferences in Google Meets or Big Blue Button at the time of the class. Moreover, on Thursdays, even though the class will not meet, students will still have assigned material and assignments given via Moodle, videos, emails, and online forums which must be completed by their due dates.

**Course Objectives:**

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

1. Analyze the position of women within a historical context to understand their views, roles and situations faced in society, culture, literature, the family, religion, etc.
2. Study the image of women presented by writers.
3. Understand how the women's movement was pivotal in advancing the rights and equality of women.
4. Evaluate the image of women presented by writers and filmmakers.
5. Perceive the differences in style and portrayal of women who come from different societal groups.
6. Read critically and utilize basic research resources relevant to the study of literature by women.

## **Instructional Strategies**

### **A. Logins, readings and videos**

- a. You must log in and post to forums in Moodle at the end of each reading or viewing.
- b. Each student is responsible for budgeting their time so as to complete the readings assigned, watch the videos posted, participate in forums, and post or email assignments on time.

### **B. Discussion in Video Conferences**

- a. Video Conferences will be held at the time of the course in Google Hangouts. If this is not possible, the conference will then be held on Big Blue Button. Students will be notified of any change by the instructor.
- b. Conferences will consist of:
  - i. Readings or films
  - ii. Video lessons that will be reviewed and discussed
  - iii. Any and all questions and doubts can be brought up for clarification (emailed questions will also be answered and discussed).
- c. All students must participate in class discussions as a means to share ideas, opinions and thoughts in addition to using this time to form critical and analytical perspectives. Your participation will form part of your final grade.
- d. Discussions will take place during video conferences. It is your responsibility to participate in the discussion. This can be by adding to the discussion, asking questions, reading from text, etc.
- e. Video conferences will be recorded for those who are unable to attend. Recordings will only be offered to students in the class.

### **C. Attendance and Participation**

Your attendance and participation grade will be based on your interaction in the forum and in online class meetings. If you do not participate in the forums within the allotted time given, it will be counted as an absence in that particular class. After 3 unexcused absences students will have their final grade lowered by one letter grade. After 5 unexcused absences the student will get an F in class. It is your responsibility to catch up after missing classes.

#### **a. Forums:**

Even though it is okay for you to share whether you liked something or not, your grade in the forums will be based on how you critically approach a particular piece of literature and/or film. If there is no critical thinking in your original post or in the replies you write to your classmates, your participation grade will be lowered.

- i. Students will be required to write a short response in the forums for each of the authors. **These will be at least one paragraph (5 sentences) in length.**
- ii. Students must respond to at least one other student's post.
- iii. Replies should add to the discussion and also consist of **at least one paragraph (5 sentences) in length.**
- iv. You will be able to write on whatever subject you choose in regards to the subject being discussed in the forum or a classmate's oral report.

#### D. Short Essays:

- a. During the semester you will be asked to write 3 essays worth thirty (30) points each. These will be assigned after certain literary periods have been discussed.
  - i. They must be typed and will consist of two to three (2-3) pages.
    - 1. Works Cited page is not included in this number but should be included if secondary sources are used.
    - 2. You must use citations from the primary text to support your ideas and cite according to the MLA Style guidelines.
    - 3. ***PDFs will NOT be accepted!***
  - ii. All essays **must be submitted in Moodle** on time to receive full credit. If they are late, or handed in afterwards or via email, they will be deducted 5 pts unless a valid excuse is provided.
  - iii. Do not write cover pages. Just place your name and date at the top left corner on the first page of your paper in single space.
  - iv. Essays will consist of one subject that you choose to be analyzed and discuss. All papers must hold relation to the period being discussed and not consist of just summaries or quotes of the works read, nor should they be rehashes of what was already discussed.
- b. When handing in an essay these must:
  - i. Be typed in Word or Pages (Preferably Word if possible)
  - ii. In Times New Roman
  - iii. Size 12 font
  - iv. Double spaced
  - v. Have one-inch margins
  - vi. Contain your name and date

#### E. Oral Presentations

- a. Each student will give one oral presentation based on either an author, text, or topic assigned in class.
- b. These will be recorded and sent to the instructor for evaluation. Afterward they will be posted in Moodle.

- c. All oral reports must contain at least one discussion question aimed towards your classmates to be answered in the forum.
- d. A works cited page will be required.
- e. If you are giving an oral presentation, you will not be required to participate in the forum that week.

**F. Final Paper or exam:**

- a. At the end of the semester, the instructor will decide whether to base your final grade on just the work done throughout the semester, a final paper (Guidelines would be given near the end of the semester) or a final exam.

**Emailing the Professor:**

**\* Make sure to put your course number in the subject of your email \***

Feel free to contact the instructor if you have any doubts or confusions regarding class subjects or assignments. Moreover, if there is a situation which will affect the completion of assignments or class in general, please **inform the instructor immediately** (do not wait till the end or near to the end of the semester to do so).

**Required Texts and Films:**

Almost all of the texts appear for free online and can be found with a simple search. However, **I will be providing the majority in Moodle.** Films will also be provided but some may have to be searched for online. These will be announced with time and if a link is found by either student or instructor, the link will be shared.

**Evaluation Strategies:**

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Attendance                     | 30          |
| Class participation and Forums | 145         |
| Quizzes                        | * ?         |
| Oral presentations             | 30          |
| (3) Essays                     | 90          |
| Final                          | <u>**75</u> |
| Total: 370 pts.                |             |

\*This score may vary depending on whether the class has read the assigned text or not

\*\* Depending on how the semester progresses, either a final exam will be administered, or a final assignment will be given, or no final will be assigned and the final grade will be based on the work completed during the semester.

**Grading System:**

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| A | 100 – 90 |
| B | 89 – 80  |
| C | 79 – 70  |
| D | 69 – 60  |
| F | 59 – 0   |

**Rights of Students with Disabilities:**

The University of Puerto Rico complies with all state and federal laws and regulations related to discrimination including “The American Disabilities Act” (ADA) and Law #51 from the Puerto Rico Commonwealth (Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico). Every student has the right to request and receive reasonable accommodation and Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS). Those students with special needs that require some type of particular assistance or accommodation shall explicitly communicate it directly to the professor. Students who are receiving VRS services shall communicate that to the professor at the beginning of the semester to facilitate appropriate planning and the necessary equipment according to the Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office (Oficina de de servicio a estudiantes con impedimentos [OSEI]), administered by the Dean of Students Office. Any other student requiring assistance or special accommodation shall also communicate directly with the professor. Reasonable accommodations requests or services do not exempt the student from complying and fulfilling academic and course related requirements and responsibilities. Differential evaluation will be provided to students with special needs who have been duly certified by OSEI. (See Circular Núm. 9 de 2002–2003.)

**Academic Integrity Policy (Plagiarism):**

The University of Puerto Rico promotes the highest standards of academic and scientific integrity. Article 6.2 of the UPR Students General Bylaws (Board of Trustees Certification 13, 2009-2010) states that academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: fraudulent actions; obtaining grades or academic degrees by false or fraudulent simulations; copying the whole or part of the academic work of another person; plagiarizing totally or partially the work of another person; copying all or part of another person answers to the questions of an oral or written exam by taking or getting someone else to take the exam on his/her behalf; as well as enabling and facilitating another person to perform the aforementioned Certificación Número 112 2014-2015 6 behavior. Any of these behaviors will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the disciplinary procedure laid down in the UPR Students General Bylaws.

In other words, plagiarism is using someone else’s words or ideas as your own. It can be a problem and will be taken very seriously. Plagiarism can result in a failing grade and even suspension.

If you plan on citing or referencing, please do so properly and according to the MLA (Modern Language Association) guidelines. If you are used to using another format (APA, Chicago or other) please inform the Professor.

**Gender and Sexual Identity Discrimination Policy:**

The University of Puerto Rico prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in any of its forms, including that of sexual harassment. According to the Institutional Policy Against Sexual Harassment at the University of Puerto Rico, Certification Num. 130, 2014-2015 from the Board of Governors, any student subjected to acts constituting sexual harassment, must turn to the Office of the Student Ombudsperson, the Office of the Dean of Students, and/or the Coordinator of the Office of Compliance with Title IX for an orientation and/or a formal complaint.

\* This course syllabus is tentative and is subject to change as determined by the course instructor if necessary.

Readings for the semester:

1. Kempe, Margery, From *The Book of Margery Kempe*, Chapter 3 (On Female Celibacy), Chapter 4 (Her Temptation to Adultery), Chapter 11 (A Settlement with her Husband)
2. Elizabeth I, "Speech to the Troops at Tilbury"
3. *Orlando* film
4. Mary Wollstonecraft – "Introduction" to *The Vindication of the Rights of Women*
5. Elizabeth Barrett Browning – Selected Works
6. Virginia Woolf – "A Room of One's Own"
7. Esquivel, Laura, *Like Water for Chocolate*
8. Jackson, Shirley, "The Lottery"
9. Perkins Gilman, Charlotte, "The Yellow Wallpaper" and "Why I Wrote 'The Yellow Wallpaper'"
10. Rossetti, Christina, "Goblin Market"
11. Carter Angela "The Bloody Chamber"
12. Carol Oates, Joyce, "Where are you Going, where have you been?"

**\*The professor might add and/or eliminate articles and readings as the semester develops. Students will be informed with time if any changes are made**

## **Bibliography:**

Atwood, Margaret. *The Handmaid's Tale*. Anchor, 1998.

Busby, Margaret. *New Daughters of Africa: An International Anthology of Writing by Women of African Descent*. Myriad Editions, 2019.

Butler, Octavia E. "Speech sounds." *Bloodchild and Other Stories* (2005): 89-108.

Cahill, Susan Neunzig. *Women Write: A Mosaic of Women's Voices in Fiction, Poetry, Memoir and Essay*. New American Library, 2008

Carter, Angela. *The Bloody Chamber and Other Stories*. Vol. 8. Random House, 2012.

Chopin, Kate. *The Awakening and Other Writings*. Broadview Press, 2011.

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Deshazer, Mary K. *The Longman Anthology of Women's Literature*. Longman, 2001.

Dickinson, Emily, et al. *Collected Poems of Emily Dickinson*. Digireads.com Publishing, 2016.

Dolan, Elizabeth A. *Seeing Suffering in Women's Literature in the Romantic Era*. Routledge, 2016.

Enslar, Eve. *The Vagina Monologues*. HBO, 2002.

Elizabeth, I. "Speech to the Troops at Tilbury." *The English Renaissance: An Anthology of Sources and Documents*, 1998.

Esquivel, Laura. *Like Water for Chocolate*. Random House, 1993.

Fisher, Jerilyn and Ellen Silber. *Women in Literature: Reading Through the Lens of Gender*. Greenwood, 2003.

Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. "Why I wrote The Yellow Wallpaper." *Advances in Psychiatric Treatment* 17.4 (2011): 265-265.

---. *The Yellow Wallpaper*. Project Gutenberg, 1999.



- Hall, Dewey W., and Jillmarie Murphy. *Gendered Ecologies: New Materialist Interpretations of Women Writers in the Long Nineteenth Century*. Clemson University Press, 2020.
- Hopkinson, Nalo. *The Salt Roads*. Grand Central Pub, 2004.
- Jackson, Shirley. *The Lottery and Other Stories*. MacMillan, 2005.
- Jenkins, Patty, director. *Wonder Woman*. Warner Bros. Entertainment, 2017.
- Kempe, Margery, From The Book of Margery Kempe, Capter 3 (On Female Celibacy), Chapter 4 (Her Temptation to Adultery), Chapter 11 (A Settlement with her Husband)
- Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*. Random House, 2007.
- Oates, Joyce Carol. *Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?* Rutgers University Press, 1994.
- Phillippy, Patricia Berrahou. *A History of Early Modern Women's Writing*. Cambridge University Press, 2018.
- Potter, Sally, director. *Orlando*. Sony Pictures Classic, 1992.
- Rodríguez Ileana, and Szurmuk Mónica. *The Cambridge History of Latin American Women's Literature*. Cambridge University Press, 2016.
- Rossetti, Christina Georgina. *Goblin Market and Other Poems*. Macmillan, 1862.
- Scott, Ridley, director. *Thelma & Louise*. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, 1991.
- Wollstonecraft, Mary. *A Vindication of the Rights of Women & A Vindication of the Rights of Men*. Cosimo, Inc., 2008.
- Wang, Wayne, director. *The Joy Luck Club*. Hollywood Pictures, 1993.
- Woolf, Virginia. "A Room of One's Own (1929)." *The People, Place, and Space Reader*. Routledge, 2014. 338-342.