

**English 360:  
Women in Literature**  
Spring 2015

**Instructor** Kate Lechler  
Classroom: TBD  
Classtime: T/Th 4:30-5:45pm  
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**Texts** *Frankenstein*  
*Jane Eyre*  
*A Room of One's Own*  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God*  
*The Left Hand of Darkness*  
*The Handmaid's Tale*  
*Americanah*

**Description and Goals, or My Hopes for Your Education**

This course examines images of women in English-language literature, focusing on works from the 18th century to today. Authors to be covered may include Jane Austen, Mary Wollstonecraft, Christina Rossetti, Virginia Woolf, Kate Chopin, Alice Walker, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Through the lens of these authors, we cover the history and development of feminist theories. This writing-intensive course will feature weekly response assignments as well as one longer writing assignment to foster research skills and emphasizes literary terminology. A final exam will test students' understanding of course texts.

**Objectives, or Your Hopes for An A**

After successfully completing this course, the student should be able to:

- a. read and understand literature by/about women and the larger theme of gender with sensitivity and nuance;
- b. comment effectively on the major themes and authorial techniques of the works covered in class;
- c. locate and evaluate source materials in relation to relevant critical frameworks
- d. Respond to literary texts with writing that analyzes, synthesizes, interprets, and assesses meaning and significance.
- e. Produce finished papers which conform to the guidelines of a documentation style manual (MLA) and which conform to standard written American English.

Feedback designed to foster students' writing proficiency will be provided.

**Grading**

Quizzes/Discussion Board (at least one every week): 40%

Final Essay: 30%

Final Exam: 30%

### **Quizzes/Discussion Board: 40%**

Each week of the semester, you will have one quiz and one discussion board post.

On Tuesdays, quizzes will consist of two questions in the form of a short writing prompt. One will be about the previous lecture, and the other about the day's reading. If you skip class, you cannot make up a quiz. If you skip the previous class, you are still responsible for getting notes on the lecture from a classmate so that you can take the next day's quiz. Please note: Several questions on the final exam are guaranteed to be taken from the quizzes.

On Thursdays, you will be asked to respond to a discussion board post on Blackboard. These are designed to get you thinking more deeply about the texts, and to give you a space to utilize the new literary vocabulary we will discuss in class. They should also be springboards for in-class discussion.

### **Essay: 30%**

You will write one 1800-2000 word essay for this class. These will consist of literary analysis and interpretation of a segment of a pre-approved text by a female author. Your paper will rely heavily on close reading and two appropriate secondary sources.

Final versions of all essays due must be typed (double spaced), with one-inch margins, using Times New Roman 12 point font. Resist the urge to include a cover page; simply follow MLA essay format.

### **Final Exam: 30% each**

The final exam will consist of matching section testing you for titles and authors; a quote identification section asking for authors, stories, and significance of important quotes; a short-answer section asking factual short answer questions about characters and plots of stories we read; and a short essay section asking for sustained analysis, interpretations, and application of major themes and literary critical viewpoints we cover during the semester.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments:

T 1/26 Intro, Syllabus; Strong Female Characters

Th 1/28 Frankenstein 51-148 (through Ch. 7)

T 2/2 Frankenstein 149-221 (through end)

Th 2/4 Frankenstein Appendix A, Ellen Moers "Female Gothic" (Online OCE)

T 2/9 Jane Eyre (Vol. 1)

Th 2/11 Jane Eyre (Vol. 2)

T 2/16 Jane Eyre (Vol. 3)

Th 2/18 Finish Jane Eyre; Sandra Gilbert's "Plain Jane's Progress" (Bb)

\*T 2/23 "The Yellow Wallpaper" (Bb)

\*Th 2/25 no class: read/prepare for your final paper

T 3/1 A Room of One's Own

Th 3/3 A Room of One's Own

T 3/8 Their Eyes Were Watching God (Ch. 1-5)

Th 3/10 Their Eyes Were Watching God (Ch. 6-12)

*Spring Break*

T 3/2 Their Eyes Were Watching God (Ch. 13-18), "What White Publishers Won't Print" (Bb)

Th 3/24 Their Eyes Were Watching God (Ch. 19-afterword), Walker essay (Bb)

T 3/29 Left Hand of Darkness (Ch. 1-5)

Th 3/31 Left Hand of Darkness (Ch. 6-12)

T 4/5 Left Hand of Darkness (Ch. 13-16),

Th 4/7 Left Hand of Darkness (Ch. 17-end), Leckie article (Bb)

T 4/12 Handmaid's Tale (Ch. 1-15)

Th 4/14 Handmaid's Tale (Ch. 16-30)

Paper Due Monday April 18

T 4/19 Handmaid's Tale (Ch. 31-end)

Th 4/21 Handmaid's Tale (Historical Notes), Bergmann article (Bb)

T 4/26 Americanah (ch. 1-22)

Th 4/28 Americanah (ch. 23-30)

T 5/3 Americanah (ch. 31-end)

Th 5/5 Americanah reviews, wrap up class

*Final:* TBA