

LIT420 Women in Literature

3rd and 4th quarters, Senior

Instructor	Laura Kobata
Style of Class	Lecture
Number of Credits	2
Day and Period	To be advised

Course Description

This course is a survey of women in literature, focusing on women writers' struggles as well as triumphs with culture and society as expressed in the literature they produce. We will look at the historical, philosophical, religious and cultural forces that come to bear upon gendered identities and how women writers have responded to these forces in their works.

Course Objectives

- Obtain a general knowledge of how historical, philosophical, religious and cultural movements have impacted the role of women both as subject and author in literature.
- Obtain a working knowledge of the origins and development of Feminist Criticism in Literature.
- Explore the relationship between gender and language.
- Develop and sharpen skills of literary analysis and interpretation, particularly in regards to the elements of texts, such as symbols, themes, and points of view.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the authors and literary and social movements that produced the texts read in the course.

Prerequisites

TOEFL500, ENG100a&ENG100b and at least one of the following LIT200,LIT300 or LIT310

Class Materials

Readings to be purchased
Journal (B5)

Evaluation/Assessment

- Reading Responses/Journal 35%
- Exams 40%
(Midterm (Formal Reading Response Paper) 15%; Final (Take-home Exam 25%)
- Active Speaking and Discussion 25%

Course Schedule

Week:	Focus
Week 1	Introduction and Orientation to the Course
Week 2	Introduction to Women in Literature
Week 3	Gender as a Topic of Study: Necessary Terminology
Week 4	Women in Mythology
Week 5	Gender and Literature as Topics of Study
Week 6	Introduction to Feminist Criticism
Week 7.5	Review and Mid-term (End of Quarter 1)
Week 8	Women from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment
Week 9	Women from the Romantic Movement
Week 10	Women from the Victorian Period (continued)
Week 11	19 th Century Women in Literature

Week 12	20 th Century Women in Literature
Week 13	Inclusion of the “Other” in 21 st Century Women in Literature and in Feminist Criticism
Week 14	Contemporary Women Writers
Week 15	Contemporary Developments in Women in Literature
Week 16	Review and Final Examination (End of Quarter 2)

Preparation and Follow-up

- Preparation: Read the relevant portions of the reference materials (about one hour)
- Follow-up: Review the content of the lecture and note any points you are not sure of (about one hour)