

ENGL 3370: Women in Literature

Writing Female Heroism

Spring 2014

MWF 10-10:50 am

Preston Hall 103

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Office Hours: Mondays 1-2pm and by appointment

Course Description: What makes a hero? Can women be heroes and, if so, what does their heroism look like? Do women have to take on traditionally masculine traits and behaviors in order to be judged heroic, or is there a form of heroism that can be reconciled with femininity and/or feminism? How might gender studies and queer theory enable us to develop a new vocabulary for defining heroism? This course tackles these questions through a survey of heroines across American literary history. We will explore three key themes: captivity and survival, domesticity and escape, and superheroines in popular culture (comic books, film). We will also devote a special section of the course to the works of Geraldine Brooks, who will be a guest speaker on campus in March.

Required Books:

Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women*, Ed. Alton, Broadview Press, ISBN: 9781551111919

Geraldine Brooks, *Caleb's Crossing*, Penguin ISBN-10: 9780143121077

Geraldine Brooks, *March*, Penguin ISBN-10: 0143036661

Gerald Graff and Cathy Berkinstein, *They Say/I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*, Norton ISBN-10: 039393361X

Toni Morrison, *Bluest Eye*, Vintage International, ISBN-10: 0307278441

Catherine Maria Sedgwick, *Hope Leslie*, Ed. Karcher, Penguin Classics, ISBN-10: 0140436766

Harriet Wilson, *Our Nig*, Eds. Foreman and Pitts, Penguin, ISBN-10: 0143105760

Women's Indian Captivity Narratives, Ed. Derounian-Stodola, Penguin Books, ISBN-10: 0140436715

Additional reading will be required through Comixology.com.

Recommended: *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (7th edition) ISBN: 9781603290241

Note about Required Reading: Students will be required to read only one of Brooks' novels, so you should wait to purchase that book until your assigned text is designated. All other books are required for all students.

E-Book Policy: Students may use e-book readers or tablets in class – but not laptops or cellphones. If you access the required reading in electronic format, you are expected to have the same edition of the books as listed above. Other editions will not have the same supplementary material or page numbers, greatly hindering your ability to complete assignments and participate in in-class teamwork.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- Identify dominant themes, narrative structures, and literary devices in works of literature or other texts.
- Explain and apply historical, theoretical, literary, and/or socio-political context(s) to textual analysis.
- Explain and apply feminist theory and/or gender studies criticism to textual analysis.
- Develop and present an original analytical argument about the representation of gender in literature or other texts.

COURSE POLICIES

Team Based Learning: This course implements a team-based learning pedagogy. The specific nature of this course design will be explained in class but students should be prepared for the fact that they will be working in teams throughout the semester, and that part of their grade will be based on their contributions to their teams.

Grade Policy/Requirements:

iRATs = 5%

Comic book assignment = 5%

tRATs = 10%

Peer Evaluations = 10%

Test 1 = 10%

Test 2 = 10%

Essay 1 = 20%

Essay 2 = 30%

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates: Three components of the course grade are related to Team Based Learning: Individual Readiness Assurance Tests (iRATs), Team Readiness Assurance Tests (tRATs), and Peer Evaluation of team members, taken at mid-semester and end-of-semester. Tests 1 and 2 are in-class essay exams over assigned readings. Essay 1 is an analytical paper on assigned readings (5 pages minimum). Essay 2 is a research paper on assigned primary and secondary sources (8 pages minimum). Due dates are listed below on the assignment schedule. The comic book assignment details are TBA. All requirements and due dates are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory and late arrival is not acceptable.

Perfect Attendance	Students who attend every class (have 0 absences and no late arrivals) will have 2 additional points <i>added</i> to their final course grade. Any absences, including excused absences, will exclude the student from these bonus points.	
Allowed Absences	Students are granted 3 unexcused absences during the semester without penalty.	
Unexcused Absences	Any additional absences will result in a loss of points as detailed below. <i>Points will be deducted from the student's final course grade.</i>	
	# of Unexcused Absences	Points Deducted
	1-3	0
	4	3
Excused Absences	5	5
	<i>DO NOT claim excused absences until you have exceeded your 3 allowed absences.</i> In order to claim an excused absence, you must submit written confirmation (copy of doctor's note, written excuse, etc.) that clearly states your name and the date(s) you were absent. Do not submit absence paperwork over email. Only a limited number of excused absences will be granted.	
Excessive Absences	Excessive Absences (6 or more) will result in an automatic F in the course.	

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional nine hours per weeks of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

Late Policy: No iRATs, tRATS, other in-class team activities, or Tests can be made up, unless the student provides evidence of a family or medical emergency. Essays are deducted 5 points for each class day they are late, with 10 points per weekend. Assignments are not accepted over email unless specified by the professor. Assignments submitted over email are not considered turned in until a hard copy has been submitted.

Electronics Policy: Students are expected to behave responsibly and respectfully during class, which means that everyone turns cell phones off before class and refrains from texting or other disruptive behavior during class. E-book readers and tablets are allowed in class only for the purpose of displaying the assigned readings. Laptops and cellphones are not allowed during class, unless specifically announced. Violation of this policy can affect your course grade and may result in an Academic Dishonesty investigation.

Library Resources: Our Library contact for this course is Rafia Mirza, who will be co-teaching the final weeks of the semester on female superheroes. Her contact information is: <http://libguides.uta.edu/profile/rafia>. Another great resource is the Writing Center for assistance with the writing and revision of essays: <http://www.uta.edu/owl/>

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no

instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, TBD. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

ENGL 3370 Reading and Assignment Schedule

All requirements and due dates are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

- Students must complete assigned reading before class and come prepared to discuss.
- Students must bring either a hardcopy or electronic copy of assigned reading to class on the day it is being discussed. E-book readers or tablets are allowed in class for this purpose; laptops and cellphones are not.

BB = Available as pdf through Blackboard

Unit 1: Captivity and Survival

Week One

1/13 Introduction

1/15 Defining Heroism

1/22 *Students will be placed in permanent teams at start of class.*

iRAT and tRAT #1

Rowlandson, captivity narrative in *Women's Indian Captivity Narratives* (p. 3-27)

Week Two

1/20 MLK Holiday – no class

1/22 Rowlandson, captivity narrative (p.27-51)

1/24 Bradstreet poems (BB)

Week Three

Reading Circle 1: Women's Captivity Narratives

Each team will be assigned a different captivity narrative from the *Women's Indian Captivity Narratives* anthology.

1/27 Reading Circle

1/29 Reading Circle

1/31 Reading Circle

Week Four

2/3 Writing workshop: Bring *They Say, I Say* to class

2/5 iRAT and tRAT #2

Sedgwick, *Hope Leslie* – follow provided Reading Guide

2/7 *Hope Leslie*

Week Five

2/10 Essay #1 due.

Hope Leslie

2/12 *Hope Leslie*; each team's assigned critical essay

2/14 Test #1

Unit Two: Domesticity and Escape

Week Six

2/17 iRAT and tRAT #3

Alcott, *Little Women*

2/19 Alcott, *Little Women*

2/21 Alcott, *Little Women*

Week Seven

2/24 Alcott, stories (BB)

2/26 iRAT and tRAT #4

Wilson, *Our Nig*

2/28 Wilson, *Our Nig*

Week Eight

3/3 Wilson, *Our Nig*

3/5 Test #2

Mid-semester Peer Reviews due

3/7 TBA

Spring Break March 10-14

Week Nine

Reading Circle 2: Geraldine Brooks

Teams will be assigned to read either Brooks' *Caleb's Crossing* or *March*, to be announced in class

3/17 Reading Circle

3/19 Reading Circle

March 19 “Comic Book Superheroines” discussion noon

March 20 *Wonder Women!* documentary screening + discussion 7pm

3/21 Reading Circle

Week Ten

3/24 TBA

** March 24 Geraldine Brooks Keynote Address 7pm **

3/26 Reading Circle

3/28 iRAT and tRAT #5

Morrison, *Bluest Eye*

March 28 Last Day to Drop

Week Eleven

3/31 *Bluest Eye*

4/2 *Bluest Eye*

4/4 *Bluest Eye*

Unit 3: Female Superheroes

Week Twelve

4/7 Writing Workshop: Bring *They Say, I Say* to class

4/9 TBA

4/11 TBA

Week Thirteen

4/14 Writing Workshop: Essay #2 rough draft due.

4/16 TBA

4/18 TBA

Week Fourteen

4/21 TBA

4/23 TBA

4/25 Essay #2 final draft due.

Week Fifteen

4/28 TBA

4/30 Comic Book Assignment due.

5/2 Last Day of Class

End-of-semester Peer Reviews due.