

ENGL 3370-003: Women in Literature  
 WOMS 3370-003: Women in Literature  
 AAST 4350-003: Special Topics in African American Studies

**The Female Slave Narrative**

Fall 2014  
 MWF 1-1:50 pm  
 Preston Hall 300

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 Office Hours: MW 11am-noon, and by appointment

**Course Description:** This course examines the representation of women's experience within slavery in the United States, including the experiences of enslaved and free women, and addressing both factual and fictional depictions of slavery. We will explore works written within the nineteenth-century slave narrative tradition and novelistic adaptations of that literary form, through the contemporary neo-slave narrative genre. Employing feminist literary criticism, students will examine the ways that gender shapes the literary depiction of slavery.

**Required Books:**

Octavia Butler, *Dawn*. Aspect. ISBN: 978-0446603775  
 Frances W. Harper, *Iola Leroy*. Ed. Henry Louis Gates. Penguin Classics. ISBN: 9780143106043  
 Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*. Penguin Classics. ISBN: 9780140437959  
 Valerie Martin, *Property*. Vintage. ISBN: 978-0375713309  
 Toni Morrison, *Beloved*. Vintage. ISBN: 978-1400033416  
 Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Broadview. ISBN: 9781551118062

**Recommended:** *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (7<sup>th</sup> edition) ISBN: 9781603290241  
 Gerald Graff and Cathy Berkinstein, *They Say/I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Norton, 2014.

**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 the class discussion.

**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

### **Grade Policy/Requirements:**

Hybrid Assignments (5) = 10%

Writing Assignments (4) = 35%

Midterm Exam = 20%

Final Essay = 35%

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates:** Four short writing assignments (2-3 pages). Midterm Exam. Final essay (7-10 pages). Due dates are listed below on the Reading and Assignment Schedule. All requirements and due dates are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

**Attendance Policy:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, my policy is as follows:

Attendance is mandatory and late arrival is not acceptable. I will take attendance in every class.

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
	5	5
Excused Absences	<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	<b>Excessive Absences (6 or more) will result in an automatic F in the course.</b>	

**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 in-class assignments can be made up, unless the student provides evidence of a family or medical emergency. Hybrid Assignments will not be accepted late. Writing Assignments 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 Subject Librarian is Jody Bailey. Her contact information is: jbailey@uta.edu Ph: 817.272.7516 <http://libguides.uta.edu/profile/jodybailey>

**Writing Center:** The Writing Center, 411 Central Library, offers individual 40 minute sessions to review assignments, *Quick Hits* (5-10 minute quick answers to questions), and workshops on grammar and specific writing projects. Visit <https://uta.mywconline.com/> to register and make appointments. For hours, information about the writing workshops we offer, scheduling a classroom visit, and descriptions of the services we offer undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members, please visit our website at [www.uta.edu/owl/](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](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law "Title IX" such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses 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.

**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, [which is located at the end of the hallway](#). 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 individuals with disabilities.

**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](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

## **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

### **I. Introduction to Feminist Literary Criticism: Methods, Terms, Concepts**

8/22 Introduction

8/25 Lorber, "Social Construction of Gender (BB); Butler, "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution" (BB)

8/27 Mulvey, "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema" (BB); hooks, "the oppositional gaze" (BB)

8/29 McIntosh, "White Privilege and Male Privilege" (BB); Lorde, "There is no Hierarchy of Oppression" (BB) — or you may listen to Lorde's essay read aloud at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1pNsLsHsfs>

9/1 Labor Day Holiday

9/3 Sedgwick, selections from *Between Men* and *Epistemology of the Closet* (BB)

9/5 Hybrid Assignment 1 (no class meeting)

9/8 Hill Collins, from *Black Feminist Thought*: Chapters 1 and 4  
(The full text of Collins' book is available online; just Google the title and download as a pdf.)

### **II. Defining The Slave Narrative**

9/10 Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, introduction, preface, chapters I-XI

9/12 Writing Assignment 1 due  
Jacobs, *Incidents*, chapters XII-XXIV

9/15 Jacobs, *Incidents*, chapters XXV-end (skip "A True Tale of Slavery")

9/17 Burnham, "Chapter 6: Loopholes of Resistance" – access the chapter digitally:  
<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~library/digital/publishing/books/burnham1997/>

9/19 Hybrid Assignment 2 (no class meeting)

### **III. Fictionalizing the Narrative of Slavery**

9/22 Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, introduction, chapters I-IX

9/24 Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, chapters X-XVI

9/26 Writing Assignment 2 due  
 Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, chapters XVII-XXVIII

9/29 Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, chapters XXIX-end

10/1 Noble, "Ecstasies of Sentimental Wounding" (BB)

10/3 Hybrid Assignment 3 (no class meeting)

10/6 Harper, *Iola Leroy*, introduction, chapters I-XI

10/8 Harper, *Iola Leroy*, chapters XII-XXI

10/10 Harper, *Iola Leroy*, chapters XXII-end, plus note

10/13 Additional reading TBA

10/15 Midterm Exam

10/17 Hybrid Assignment 4 (no class meeting)

### **III. The Neo-Slave Narrative**

10/20 Morrison, *Beloved*

10/22 Morrison, *Beloved*

10/24 Morrison, *Beloved*

10/27 Morrison, *Beloved*

Oct. 29 Last Day to Drop

10/29 Additional reading TBA



10/31 TBA

11/3 Martin, *Property*

11/5 Martin, *Property*

11/7 Martin, *Property*

11/10 Additional reading TBA

#### **IV. The Sci-Fi Slave Narrative**

11/10 Writing Assignment 4 due  
Butler, *Dawn*

11/12 Butler, *Dawn*

11/14 Hybrid Assignment 5 (no class meeting)

11/17 Butler, *Dawn*

11/19 Butler, *Dawn*

11/21 Additional reading TBA

11/24 Writing Workshop

11/26 Student Conferences

11/28 Thanksgiving Holiday – no class

12/1 Student Conferences

12/3 Student Conferences

Final Paper due Monday Dec. 8 by noon

<p><b>Emergency Phone Numbers:</b> In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911.</p>
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