Lincoln University  
Department of English and Mass Communications  

ENG 209 Women’s Literature  

Semester: Spring 2009  
Professor:  
Office Location/Room Number:  
E-Mail address:  

Course Description  
This course introduces students to literature written by women representing at least two continents and covering at least two centuries of development. It identifies the emergence of women’s literature in the traditional canon and places literary achievement in the context of the historical development of women’s political and social rights. Important primary documents related to women’s rights are examined.  

Course Pre-requisites: Successful completion of E103  

Required Textbooks  
Hooks, Ain’t I a Woman?  
Hosseini, A Thousand Splendid Suns.  
Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God  
Bronte, Jane Eyre  
Divakaruni, Arranged Marriage  

Required Materials  
Texts, portfolio  

Suggested Readings  
Giddings, Paula. When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America.  
Hull, Gloria T. Some of Us Are Brave: Black Women’s Studies.  

Student Learner Outcomes  
Upon successful completion of the course, student will  

• Demonstrate familiarity with the literature and culture of countries whose authors are represented in the course through discussion, and written work.  
• Engage knowledgeably in oral and written discussion about literary texts through formal assignments and class discussion.  
• Demonstrate knowledge of literary form and content by successfully completing regular quizzes, a midterm and a final exam.
Schedule of Weekly Assignments

Week 1  Introduction to Course: Historic Overview

Week 2  Wollenstonecraft. “Vindication of the Rights of Women” (England 1792)
        Mill. “On the Subjection of Women” (England 1869)

Week 3  Summary #1 Due
        Read Bronte. Jane Eyre (England 1846)

Week 4  Jane Eyre, con’t

Week 5  In-class Interpretive Essay on Jane Eyre

Week 6  Modern Feminism selections:
        Simone de Beauvoir. The Second Sex (France 1949)
        Betty Friedan. The Feminine Mystique (United States 1963)
        Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (Afghanistan 2004)

Week 7  Summary #2 with Annotated Bibliography Due
        Hosseini, A Thousand Splendid Suns (2007)

Week 8  Hosseini, con’t
        Midterm

Week 9  Modern Feminism/Womanism: African American Tradition
        Sojourner Truth. Two Speeches (United States 1851, 1867)
        Walker. “In Search of Our Mothers’ Gardens” (United States 1984)
        Walker. “Becoming the Third Wave” (United States 1992)
        Hooks, “Ain’t I a Woman” (United States 1981)

Week 10  Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God (United States 1937)

Week 11  Their Eyes, con’t

Week 12  Critical Essay/Literary Analysis Due
        Selected alternate text:
        Divakaruni. Arranged Marriage (India 1995)

Week 13  Divakaruni. Arranged Marriage

Week 14  Research Paper Due
        Presentations and Discussion

Week 15  Recitation Due

Week 16  Final Exam
Learner Opportunities/Course Assignments:
1. One in class interpretive essay
2. Two summaries/Responses to selected texts
3. One interpretive essay of a literary text
4. One 5-7 page research paper demonstrating familiarity with MLA format (to fulfill critical essay requirement)
5. Recitation of selected portion of primary text
6. Reading Quizzes, Midterm, Final Exams

Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory. University policy allows for one absence per credit hour. Thus, two absences are permitted for a three credit course which meets for 1/1/2 hour daily. Absences in excess of two may result in a lowered grade. Excused absences must be documented by an appropriate and reliable source.

Assessment Tools/Standards:

Midterm Grade Calculation:
Reading Quizzes 20%
Summary #1 20%
Summary #2 20%
In class Essay 20%
Midterm Exam 20%

Final Grade Calculation:
Midterm Grade 30%
Memorization 10%
Critical Essay 20%
Research Paper 30%
(including Presentation and Discussion)
Final Exam 10%

University Integrity Policy: See guidelines on the Web