ENGL 2378

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University of New Orleans

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Introduction to Women’s Literature  
Fall 2015  11-12:15 TR   LA 156  
Instructor: Dr. Shelby Richardson  
Office: LA 343, ext.6472  
Office Hours: MWF 10-11 and 12:30-1; TR 1-2  
E-mail: elovell@uno.edu

Course Description:  
This course introduces students to some of the most important works of literature written by women. Although our focus is on English and American literature, the course also includes works from all over the globe and a variety of genres, including fiction, non-fiction and poetry. In this course you will become familiar with the contributions of women to the literary tradition as well as the ways in which their lives and concerns, social, cultural and political, are represented in their work. The wide historical range of works you will read, from some of the earliest works written by women to the most current, will give you a sense of how women’s changing social status and perspective is reflected in their writing and why this makes their works so rich for exploration.

Student Learning Objectives:  
By the end of the semester, students will be familiar with a variety of literary genres and historical trends. They will be able to effectively identify these genres and analyze works of literature as well as identify important literary terms and symbols. Additionally, they will demonstrate their ability to use supplementary readings and research materials to support their own carefully crafted analyses as they work to develop their own research projects. Each student will present their final essay projects to the class, demonstrating their ability to construct and articulate complex arguments based on their own close reading of literary texts.

Texts will include selections from:  

*The Longman Anthology of Women’s Literature, DeShazer, Mary K., ed. 2001.  

*These selections and all additional readings will be made available online or posted on Moodle.

Course Requirements:  
Students are responsible for all assigned reading and should be prepared to discuss the readings as indicated on the syllabus. You must complete all assigned work (including in-class and homework assignments) in order to receive credit for this course. Attendance is required. More than four unexcused absences will negatively impact your final grade. At this stage, I will expect you to schedule an appointment with me to discuss your ability to complete the course successfully. After more than six unexcused absences (three full weeks of class) you will receive an F in the course. I do understand, however, that students get sick, so if you must miss a class, please e-mail me about your circumstance as soon as possible and be prepared to provide documentation to explain the absence.
Breakdown of Grades:
Participation, in-class writing and homework assignments: 20%
Paper #1 and #2: 20% each
Midterm and Final: 20% each

Cell phones and personal computers: Cell phones and personal computers disrupt class work and should be turned off during class sessions unless you are accessing our readings. Otherwise they should be put away at the beginning of class. Do not leave phones on vibrate unless there is a genuine emergency you have discussed with me before the start of class.

Plagiarism: Do not consider it. If I have any suspicion that your work is not original I will not hesitate to report you. Academic dishonesty simply will not be tolerated. Refer to the UNO judicial Code for further information (see Syllabus Attachment for further information).

First Assignment:

August
R  20  Course Introduction:  Read  Prose’s “Scent of a Woman’s Ink” at http://harpers.org/archive/1998/06/scent-of-a-womans-ink/  and
Wilson’s “ Gender Bias in Publishing…” available at http://www.bustle.com/articles/102028 and
Hooks’ “Talking Back” (posted on Moodle).
T  25  Discussion: Women’s Literature/ Crafting our Syllabus; HW: TBA