

Course ID:	Course Title:	Winter 2021
EN 480	Literature by Women	Prerequisite: 6 EN credits
		Credits: 3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Delivery:	Online	Instructor:	Rita Dirks, BA, MA, PhD	First day of classes:	Mon, Jan 11
Days:	W/F	Email:	Rita.dirks@ambrose.edu	Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:	Sun, Jan 24
Time:	1:30 – 2:45 PM	Phone:	(403) 410-2000, ext. 5900	Last day to request revised final exam:	Mon, Mar 8
Room:	Online	Office:	2L067	Last day to withdraw from course:	Fri, Mar 19
Lab/ Tutorial:	n/a	Office Hours:	T/Th 12:00 -1:30 PM	Last day to apply for coursework extension:	Mon, Mar 29
Final Exam:	No Final Exam			Last day of classes:	Fri, Apr 16

Course Description

This course endeavours to survey women’s writing in the English language from the Middle Ages to the end of the twentieth century. The material will be read through the eyes of feminist literary theories, focusing especially on the recent decades of scholarly activity.

Expected Learning Outcomes

1. This course will introduce students to the major and hitherto-overlooked female authors and the feminist theoretical arguments which have shaped the interpretation of literature.
2. This course will give students an understanding of the various genres of women’s writing and the many voices within feminist theory.

Textbooks

Gilbert, Sandra M. and Susan Gubar. *The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women*. Third Edition. Volumes 1 and 2. New York: Norton, 2007.

Feminist Theory Suggested Reading List

Abel, Elizabeth. *Female Subjects in Black and White*

Ahmed, Sarah. *Living a Feminist Life*

Baym, Nina. *Woman’s Fiction*

Bordo, Susan. *Unbearable Weight: Feminism, Western Culture, and the Body*

Butler, Judith. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*

---. *Bodies that Matter: On the Discursive Limits of "Sex"*

Christian, Barbara. *Black Feminist Criticism*

Cavallaro, Dani. *French Feminist Theory: An Introduction*

Coakley, Sarah. *God, Sexuality, and the Self*

---, ed. *Religion and the Body*

Daly, Mary. *The Church and the Second Sex*

De Beauvoir, Simone. *The Second Sex*

Dish, Lisa, and Mary Hawkesworth, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Feminist Theory*

Donovan, Josephine. *Feminist Theory: The Intellectual Traditions of American Feminism*

Eagleton, Mary. *Feminist Literary Criticism*

Eagleton, Mary, ed. *Feminist Literary Theory: A Reader*

Fetterley, Judith. *The Resisting Reader: A Feminist Approach to American Fiction*

Finke, Laurie A. *Feminist Theory, Women's Writing*

Fiorenza, Elisabeth Schüssler. *In Memory of Her: A Feminist Theological Reconstruction of Christian Origins*

Fuchs, Esther. *Feminist Theory and the Bible*

Gilbert, Sandra M. and Susan Gubar. *The Madwoman in the Attic*

Gilbert, Sandra M. and Susan Gubar. *Feminist Literary Theory and Criticism: A Norton Reader (2007)*

Gilmore, Leigh. *Autobiographics: A Feminist Theory of Women's Self-Representation*

Greer, Germaine. *The Female Eunuch*

---. *Slip-Shod Sibyls: Recognition, Rejection and the Woman Poet*

Humm, Maggie. *Feminist Criticism*

Humm, Maggie. *The Dictionary of Feminist Theory*

Irigaray, Luce. *Key Writings*

Jacobus, Mary. *Reading Woman: Essays in Feminist Criticism*

Johnson, Barbara. *The Feminist Difference*

Kaufmann, Linda, ed. *Gender and Theory: Dialogues on Feminist Criticism*

Madsen, Deborah. *Feminist Theory and Literary Practice*

Meese, Elizabeth A. *Crossing the Double-Cross*

Millett, Kate. *Sexual Politics*

Moi, Toril. *Sexual/Textual Politics*

Morris, Pam. *Literature and Feminism*

Nochlin, Linda. "Why Are There No Great Women Artists?"

Poovey, Mary. *The Proper Lady and the Woman Writer*

Rich, Jennifer. *An Introduction to Modern Feminist Theory*

Robbins, Ruth. *Literary Feminisms*

Ruthven, K.K. *Feminist Literary Studies*

Sellers, Susan. *Feminist Criticism: Theory and Practice*

Showalter, Elaine. *A Literature of Their Own*

Showalter, Elaine, ed. *The New Feminist Criticism: Essays on Women, Literature and Theory*

Todd, Janet. *Feminist Literary History*

Walton, Heather. *Literature, Theology and Feminism*

Woehrle, Lynne M. *Intersectionality and Social Change*

Wolf, Naomi. *The Beauty Myth*.

Woolf, Virginia. *A Room of One's Own*

Course Schedule

January	13	Introduction to Literature by Women
	15	Introduction to Feminist Theories
	20	Women and Spirituality: Julian of Norwich, from <i>A Book of Showings to the anchoress Julian of Norwich</i> ; Kempe, from <i>The Book of Margery Kempe</i> ; Lead, <i>A Fountain of Gardens</i> ; Rossetti, "The Convent Threshold"; Loy, "Portrait of a Nun"
	22	Response to Norwich, Kempe, Lead, Rossetti, and Loy
	27	Women and Work: Davis, "Life in the Iron-Mills"; Schreiner, "Woman and Labour"; Woolf, "Professions for Women"; Kincaid, "Girl"; Lorde, "Kitchen Linoleum"; Churchill, "Top Girls"

- 29 Response to Davis, Schreiner, Woolf, Kincaid, Lorde, and Churchill
- February 3 **Aging and Death:** Pitter; “Old Nelly’s Birthday”; Lavin, “In a Café”; Kumin, “The Envelope”; Stone, “The Song of Absinthe Granny”; Olds, “The Mortal One”
- 5 Response to Pitter, Lavin, Kumin, Stone, and Olds
- 10 **Women and Politics:** Queen Elizabeth, “Speech to the Troops at Tilbury”; Barrett Browning, “The Runaway Slave at Pilgrim’s Point,” “A Curse for a Nation”; St. Vincent Millay, “Apostrophe to Man”; Ozick “The Shawl”
- 12 Response to Queen Elizabeth, Barrett Browning, St. Vincent Millay, and Ozick
- 24 **Women and Creativity:** Woolson, “Miss Grief”; Moore, “Poetry”; Laing, “Sonnet to a Sister in Error”; Bishop, “Gender and Art”; Sarton, “My Sisters, O My Sisters”; Marshall, “Poets in the Kitchen”; Walker, “In Search of Our Mothers’ Gardens”
- 26 Response to Woolson, Moore, Laing, Bishop, Sarton, Marshall, and Walker
- March 3 **Marriage:** Landon, “The Marriage Vow”; Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper”; Coleridge, “Marriage”; Mew, “The Farmer’s Bride”; Wickham, “Divorce”; West, “Indissoluble Matrimony”; Levertov, “Abel’s Bride,” “The Ache of Marriage”
- 5 Response to Landon, Gilman, Coleridge, Mew, Wickham, West, and Levertov
- 10 **Female Sexuality:** Behn, “The Willing Mistress,” “Love Armed,” “The Disappointment,” and “On Her Loving Two Equally”; Chopin, *The Awakening*; Dunbar-Nelson, “I Sit and Sew”; H.D., “Fragment Thirty-Six”
- 12 Response to Behn, Chopin, and H.D.
- 17 **The Single Woman:** Austin, “The Walking Woman”; Atwood, “Asparagus”; Adcock, “Miss Hamilton in London,” “Against Coupling”; Tapahonso, “Leda and the Cowboy”
- 19 Response to Austin, Atwood, Adcock, and Tapahonso

	24	Gender, Race, and Ethnicity: Truth, "Ain't I a Woman?"; Hurston, "How It Feels to Be Colored Me"; Bonner, "On Being Young—a Woman—and Colored"; Angelou, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings"; Kingston, "No Name Woman"
	26	Response to Truth, Hurston, Bonner, Angelou, and Kingston;
April	7	Women, the Body, and Violence: Barnes, "How It Feels to Be Forcibly Fed"; Swenson, "Bleeding"; O'Connor, "Good Country People"; Sexton, "In Celebration of My Uterus"; Rich, "Power": Oates, "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"; Boland, "Anorexic"; Levertov, "The Mutes"
	9	Response to Barnes, Swenson, O'Connor, Sexton, Rich,
	14	The Family: Livesay, "Green Rain"; Wright, "The Sisters"; Plath, "Daddy"; Smith, "Papa Loves Baby"
	16	Response to Livesay, Wright, Plath, and Smith

Requirements

1. Students should do all the prescribed readings before class and be prepared to participate in class discussion.
2. Students may not submit work done for another class.
3. The student is responsible for all the information given in class, and also for any changes to the syllabus that are announced in class.
4. Grade distribution and assignments:

Presentation	40%
Critique	40%
Participation	20%

Attendance

Mandatory, unless extenuating circumstances can be shown.

Grade Summary

96-100	A+	
91-95	A	Excellent
86-90	A-	
82-85	B+	

75-81	B	Good
72-74	B-	
68-71	C+	
63-67	C	Satisfactory
60-62	C-	
56-59	D+	
50-55	D	Minimal Pass
0-49	F	Failure

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform University-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Ambrose University Academic Policies:

Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty or record. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a "Request to Withdraw from a Course" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Exam Scheduling

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a

laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a course Extension from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. We encourage students to build mental health supports and to reach out when help is needed.

On Campus:

- Counselling Services: ambrose.edu/counselling
- Peer Supportive Listening: One-to-one support in Student Life office. Hours posted at ambrose.edu/wellness.
- For immediate crisis support, there are staff on campus who are trained in Suicide Intervention and Mental Health First Aid. See ambrose.edu/crisissupport for a list of staff members.

Off Campus:

- Distress Centre - 403-266-4357
- Sheldon Chumir Health Care Centre - 403-955-6200
- Emergency - 911

Sexual Violence Support

All staff, faculty, and Residence student leaders have received *Sexual Violence Response to Disclosure* training. We will support you and help you find the resources you need. There is a website with on and off campus supports – ambrose.edu/sexual-violence-response-and-awareness.

Off Campus:

- Clinic: Sheldon Chumir Health Centre - 403-955-6200
- Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse - 403-237-5888

Note: Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.