DIVISION COURSE SYLLABUS

Division  Humanities  Course Prefix and Number  ENGL  2253

Course Title  Women in American Literature

Semester and Year Submitted  Revised Spring 2021  Credit Hours  3

Prepared by  Lacey Veazey-Daniel

Hours Per Week:  3  Lab  0

Course Description (as it appears in Catalog)

ENGL 2253 Women in American Literature (3-0-3) This course examines the images of women as reflected in American literature to provide an overall view of the changing roles women have experienced culturally, socially, and psychologically. May be taken as Humanities credit for General Education Requirements. Prerequisite: ENGL 1213 or equivalent.

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Text(s):  There is no formal textbook for this course. Instead, open-source readings are provided through Canvas, and students will provide a novel of their choosing from a list within the course.

RATIONALE

For the prospective student of literature, this course will attempt to define the female tradition in American literature. For the English major, this course will present through literature an overall view of the changing roles women have experienced culturally, socially, and psychologically. The course will also question bias and stereotypes that defined women’s’ roles in the United States. This course can by be taken by English majors to meet AA requirements.

The non-major also will benefit from this course because it is a comprehensive study that acquaints the student with a range of American literature written by women. Taken in conjunction with History 1303, History of American Woman, the course would serve as special interest area for both English and non-English majors. Women in Literature may be taken by non-English majors to meet general education requirements.

Obviously, such a course also, and perhaps most importantly, aids the student to look realistically at him or herself in the search for self-awareness and to compare contemporary attitudes toward women with the writing selections discussed in class.
Expected Course Outcomes
Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Engage in a critical reading of a variety of literary genres; recognize, understand, and explain various literary elements of texts.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of American key authors, works, and literary periods; relate texts to the cultural, historical, and social context in which they were produced.
3. Analyze and interpret texts based on both original ideas and literary theory.
4. Write well-organized, thesis driven literary argument papers; support ideas with explicit reasoning and textual evidence.
5. Conduct research, evaluate secondary sources, and cite literary evidence using accurate MLA conventions.
6. Demonstrate the ability to use complex language in a variety of contexts.
7. Examine how language and literature shape one’s worldview and deepens one’s personal insights.

Methods of Instruction:

Methods of instruction may vary with individual instructors. Instructors are encouraged to explain their methods at the beginning of each course. The following methods of instruction may be used in order to accomplish the stated objectives:

1. lectures
2. audio-visual presentations
3. guest lecturers
4. individual research and library work
5. oral and/or written reports
6. class discussion/discussion board
7. individual conferences
8. journals or other written responses to literature
9. exams and quizzes
10. online learning component

Assessment (Including Critical Thinking Measurements):
Methods of assessment may vary with individual instructors. Instructors are encouraged to explain their methods at the beginning of each course. Methods are may include (but are not limited to)

1. Objective and essay exams
2. Oral/written presentations
3. Written assignments
4. Research project(s)
5. At least 20 pages of credited writing for assessment, inquiry, learning, thinking, and/or communication. (These pages may include but are not limited to the following: journals, exploratory writing, and discussion board postings, etc.)
Learning Objectives: In addition to exhibiting competence in research and writing in Units 2-5, the student will be able to do the following:

Unit 1: Feminism

1. Demonstrate understanding of course rationale, objectives and procedures for evaluation.
2. Discuss means and methods of literary analysis.
3. Present and explain critical terminology.
4. Demonstrate understanding of general overview of feminism and its overarching presence in the course.

Unit 2: Local Color Women Writers

1. Read and analyze representative selections of short fiction, poetry, and novels.
2. Explore and identify common features of local color author from diverse locations.
3. Identify and explain the social, gender, and economic forces that characterize influences on American females regardless of location and how these relate to our overall understanding of women’s place in literature and society.

Unit 3: Southern Women Writers

1. Read and analyze representative selections of short fiction, poetry, and novels.
2. Explore and identify common features of Southern literature.
3. Identify and explain the social, gender, and economic forces that characterize influences on females in the South and how these relate to our overall understanding of women’s place in literature and society.

Unit 4: African American Women Writers

1. Read and analyze representative selections of short fiction, poetry, and novels dealing with relationships and personal choices.
2. Explore and identify common features of African American literature.
3. Identify and explain the social, gender, and economic forces that characterize influences on African American women and how these relate to our overall understanding of women’s place in literature and society.

Unit 5: Native American Women Writers

1. Read and analyze representative selections of short fiction, poetry, and novels.
2. Explore and identify common features of Native American Literature.
3. Identify and explain the social, gender, and economic forces that characterize influences on Native American women and how these relate to our overall
understanding of women’s place in literature and society.

**Unit 6: LGBTQ Women Writers**

1. Read and analyze representative selections of short fiction, poetry, and novels.
2. Explore and identify common features of LGBTQ literature.
3. Identify and explain the social, gender, and economic forces that characterize influences on LGBTQ women and how these relate to our overall understanding of women’s place in literature and society.

**Unit 7: Horror/Sci Fi Women Writers**

1. Read and analyze representative selections of short fiction, poetry, and novels.
2. Explore and identify common features of Horror/Science fiction literature.
3. Identify and explain the social, gender, and economic forces that characterize influences on women writers in these genres and how these relate to our overall understanding of women’s place in literature and society.