DIVISION COURSE SYLLABUS

Division  Humanities  
Course Prefix and Number  ENGL 2253

Course Title  Women in American Literature

Semester and Year Submitted  Revised Spring 2015  
Credit Hours  3

Prepared by  Sandra Keneda and Kristin Hahn

Hours Per Week: Class 3  
Lab 0

Course Description (as it appears in Catalog)

ENGL 2253 Women in American Literature (3-0-3) A study of the images of women reflected in American literature. May be taken as Humanities credit for General Education Requirements. Prerequisite: ENGL 1213 or equivalent.

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Text(s):  
Title (1) American Women Writers: Diverse Voices In Prose Since 1845

Author  Eileen Barrett and Mary Cullinan, Editors

Publisher  St. Martin's Press

Copyright Date

ISBN#

Reading Level 9

Supplemental Materials: (other books, audio visual aids, etc.)

Also required:

Title: Tell Me A Riddle  
Author: Tillie Olsen
Publisher: Dell Publishers
ISBN#: 0-385-29010-1

Title: The Awakening  
Author: Kate Chopin
Publisher: Norton
ISBN#: 0-393-9172-4

Title: Summer  
Author: Edith Wharton
Publisher: Penquin
ISBN#: 0-451-52566-3
Suggested books for possible outside reading and written assignments:

*The Second Sex*, Beauvoir, Simone De

Thinking About Women, Ellman, Mary

*Love and Death in the American Novel*, Fielder, Leslie A.

**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: Introduction to American Women Writers
1. Presentation of course rationale, objectives and procedures for evaluation.
2. Discussion of means and methods of literary analysis.
3. Presentation and explanation of critical terminology.
4. Presentation of a brief overview of time frame covered by course.

Unit 2: Growing Up Female in America
1. Read and analyze representative selections of short fiction, poetry, and novels.
2. Explore and identify common features of growing up female in America.
3. Identify and explain the social, gender, and economic forces that characterize influences on American females from childhood to adolescence.

Unit 3: Growing Older Female in America
1. Read and analyze representative selections of short fiction, poetry, and novels.
2. Explore and identify common features of growing older female in America.
3. Identify and explain the social, gender, and economic forces that characterize influences on American females as they age.

Unit 4: Women in Relationships and Making Personal Choices
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 relationships and personal choices.
3. Identify and explain the social, gender, and economic forces that characterize influences on American women in relationships and making personal choices.

Unit 5: American Women, Ethnicity, and Culture
1. Read and analyze representative selections of short fiction, poetry, and novels.
2. Explore and identify how the diversity of American culture impacts the lives and culture of its women.
3. Identify and explain the social, gender, and economic forces that characterize influences on culturally diverse women in American.