

ENGL 2190

Instructor Information

Professor Amy Ellison

Office Location: TLC 3131

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Office Hours: M/W from 9:30-11am and 12:30-2 pm; T/Th from 9:30-12 pm; other by appt

Course Description

A course focused on a specific topic in literature by women, with an emphasis on finding pleasure in reading and engaging ideas in literary texts. One of four possible choices of 2000 level classes for English majors. May be repeated for credit as topic varies.

Section Description

Course Theme: *Witches, Bitches, and Broads*

- ❖ In this course, we still study literary and artistic depictions of "the monstrous feminine." Examining women in circumstances of power exchange will give us a chance to examine how gender roles are defined--and redefined--in different historical periods and genres, and how the monstrous lens provides insight into the challenges of patriarchal society.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

- In this class, students will develop the skills necessary to interpret texts organized around a specific topic in literature by women, with a focus on close reading, locating the text in historical/cultural context, and increased understanding of how literary texts can be read independent of and within these contexts. Students will read a range of texts from different time periods and genres, written by a diverse selection of authors, and will practice using literary texts to better understand how women have lived and written their experiences in these various historical/national/cultural/political contexts. Students will practice reading and interpretive skills as they engage with voices similar to and different from their own.
- Use a selection of literature by women to identify and engage with social and cultural themes in literary texts, both verbally and in writing;
- Demonstrate reading and interpretation skills such as previewing, close reading, rhetorical analysis annotating, summarizing, journaling, and deep listening, via discussion and various modes of writing;
- Develop the ability to discuss the importance of literature to their lives, environments, and relationships to history, via discussion and various modes of writing.
- Practice active reading by formulating meaningful questions, interrogating their own affinities with and resistance to texts they read, and identifying gaps in knowledge they encounter when reading, both verbally and in writing.

Texts and Course Supplies

1. *The Bloody Chamber* by Angela Carter
 2. *White is for Witching* by Helen Oyeyemi
 3. *The Babadook* directed by Jennifer Kent; available for rent on Amazon for \$3.99
 4. Access to Netflix for *Paris is Burning* (1990) and *The Witcher* (2019)
- All other texts are free online!

Content Advisory

Art and entertainment are filled with the many complicated elements of human life. That means the texts we will discuss may contain violence, sexual content, all manner of potentially offensive themes, and profanity. You should be aware that your continued enrollment in this course requires that you consume such content with maturity and a scholarly perspective. No assignment will be waived on the basis of moral objection.

Assignments

- Course Participation: Students will engage in assignments such as discussion boards, reading notations, annotations, and close reading exercises. 20%
- Short Responses: Each response should be a 500-750 word (generally 2-3 pages) exploration of one text within the corresponding assignment group, focusing on the text's argument concerning gender constructs. 20%
- Synthesis Essay: Students will submit a 1500-1750 word (generally 5-7 pages) essay based on texts from the class, supported by research. 40%
- Mini-Conference Presentation: Students will present video essays, focusing on the main focus and findings in their research. 20%

Work Policies

- All work loses 10 points per day late. After points are no longer an option, I will not review the work.
- ****Note**** There is no extra credit work for this course, and no work done for another course may be recycled as an assignment for this course.
- Please see the [Common Language for Course Syllabi](#) for official information on UWG's Academic Integrity Policy. *Note that I will enforce this policy.*

Attendance Policy

When you enter class, make sure to sign the attendance book.
Being engaged and active in class boosts your grade every time we meet!

Communication Rules

You may contact me via UWG Gmail. Do not email me using an email address other than your official account (such as Yahoo)--I will not respond to you for security reasons. I will answer all emails within 24 hours during the week and generally within 48 hours over the weekends. If you don't hear back from me within that time frame, please email me again or see me in class.

Expected Response Times

Larger assignments, such as the essay, will generally be graded within two weeks of the due date and will contain feedback on what you did well and what you can do to improve. Smaller assignments will usually take less time to return and will coordinate with the follow up exercise or assignment.

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement:

If you are a student who is disabled as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act and require assistance or support services, please seek assistance through the [Center for Disability](#). UWG also provides [Accessibility Statements for Technology](#) that you may be required to use for this course.

For more information on the Americans with Disabilities Act, UWG Email, Credit Hour, and UWG Honor Code policies as well as information on Academic Tutoring, Student Services, and Technical Requirements, Privacy Policy, and Accessibility Statements, please see the [Common Language for Syllabus](#) document.

The University Writing Center (UWC)

TLC 1201
678-839-6513

Hours: Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

writing@westga.edu

www.westga.edu/writing

The University Writing Center seeks to assist students in their pursuit to become better writers, thinkers, and scholars. We can assist students with any writing assignment in any class.

Tentative Class Schedule

Please note that our weeks technically run Sunday-Saturday.

Everything is due on Saturdays at 11:59pm **with the exception of the final essay.**

The dates listed below simply start with Mondays for the sake of planning.

January

- M 1/6 Welcome to class!
Due: Discussion Board for Week 1; Order books and get Netflix up and running!
- M 1/13 *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*—located on CourseDen
Read Chapters 2 and 3 (pgs 12-35)
Due: Discussion Board for Week 2
- M 1/20 “The Yellow Wallpaper” and “The Cure” located on CourseDen
Read the short stories
Due: Discussion Board for Week 3
- M 1/27 Due: Short Response Paper 1
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February

- M 2/3 “Goblin Market” located on CourseDen
Read the poem
Due: Discussion Board for Week 5
- M 2/10 From *The Bloody Chamber*: TBA
Read the short stories
Due: Discussion Board for Week 6
- M 2/17 *The Babadook*--can be rented through Amazon for \$3.99
View the film
Due: Discussion Board for Week 7
- M 2/24 Due: Short Response Paper 2 (dropbox)

March

- M 3/2 “Don’t Press Charges and I Won’t Sue” located on CourseDen
Read the short story
Due: Discussion Board for Week 9
- M 3/9 *Paris is Burning* (Netflix); “A Litany for Survival”:
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/147275/a-litany-for-survival>
View the film and read the poem
Due: Discussion Board for Week 10
Recommendation: begin reading *White is for Witching*
- M 3/16 Spring Break
- M 3/23 *White is for Witching*
The whole novel is due this week!
Due: Discussion Board for Week 11
- M 3/30 Due: Short Response Paper 3 (dropbox)

April

- M 4/6 *The Witcher* Episodes 1-4
Due: Watch the episodes
Due: Discussion Board for Week 13
- M 4/13 *The Witcher* Episodes 5-8
Due: Watch the episodes
Due: Discussion Board for Week 14
- M 4/20 Due: Short Response Paper 4 (dropbox)
Due: Essay topics for approval (dropbox)
- M 4/27 Due: Mini-Conference Video Presentations (dropbox)**
Please fill out the Course Evaluations online! I really appreciate feedback for the course. Tell me what worked and what I need to fix.

May

- W 5/6 **DUE: Final Essay due on CourseDen by Midnight, Wednesday May 6 (dropbox)**