

# Course Overview ENGL 4451 – Studies Women in Literature

## Women Writing Against Erasure: Voice, Myth, and Memory

### Course Description

This course explores how women writers reclaim voice, revise myth, and preserve cultural memory in response to historical and cultural erasure. Through fiction, poetry, and essays from diverse cultural traditions, students will examine how authors challenge silence, reinterpret inherited narratives, and tell stories often excluded from dominant histories. Readings will include works by Zora Neale Hurston, Toni Morrison, Sandra Cisneros, and Madeline Miller. Emphasis will be placed on close reading, critical discussion, and the relationship between literature and cultural memory.

### Primary readings will include:

- *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora Neale Hurston
- *Circe*, Madeline Miller
- *Beloved*, Toni Morrison
- *The House on Mango Street*, Sandra Cisneros

### Why This Course Matters?

Stories shape how societies remember the past and understand the present. Yet many voices – especially those of women – have historically been ignored, distorted, or erased from dominant narratives. In this course, we explore how women writers reclaim storytelling as a form of resistance, rewriting myths, recovering hidden histories, and preserving cultural memory. By reading and discussing works by authors such as Zora Neale Hurston, Toni Morrison, Sandra Cisneros, and Madeline Miller, we will examine how literature challenges silence and gives voice to stories that might otherwise disappear. Understanding these narratives helps us think more critically about history, identity, and the power of storytelling in shaping cultural memory.