

20407/20408 ENGL 7451001/8451001

Women and Literature: Bodies, Embodiment, Borders, and Boundaries

Offered by Dr. Cohoon

Spring 2021

R 5:30-8:30

Virtual office hours via email on TR 12:45-1:45, and by appointment—in most cases, I will be available (virtually) the hour before the seminar begins.

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Participants enrolled in this course will read a variety of texts by women and will explore concepts of bodies, borders, and boundaries, considering inclusive and expansive definitions, performances, experiences and expressions of women and womanhood and considering how publishing forms and forums (think Dickinson's fascicles) offer scholars of women and literature ways to think about how concepts of bodies and embodiment intersect with borders and boundaries of writing, identity, and existence. Participants will explore texts associated with feminist literary theory and feminist literary history. In addition, participants will develop projects that will allow them to research women's participation in a variety of literary, political, geographical, and personal arenas.

Tentative list of texts

Little Women (Norton Critical Edition)

Norton Anthology of Literature by Women

Essential Feminist Reader

One Crazy Summer (Rita Williams-Garcia)

Select readings from Audre Lorde

Wide Sargasso Sea (Jean Rhys)

Select readings from Gloria Anzaldúa

Jane Eyre (Charlotte Brontë)

Nervous Conditions (Tsitsi Dangarembga)

Select poems of Emily Dickinson

Requirements: One short conference length paper, one longer research paper, two presentations, research, reading, discussion, in-class writing.

Grading: one conference length paper (six to seven pages for 7477, seven to eight pages for 8477) 25%, one seminar paper (10 to 12 pages for 7477, 12 to 15 pages for 8477) with rough draft and annotated bibliography to be turned in before the final draft 35%, and two presentations 10% each. Weekly contributions to discussions will be required. Library work will be required.

94-100 A, 90-93 A-, 87-89 B+, 84-86 B, 80-83 B-, 77-79 C+, 74-76 C, 70-73 C-, 69-67 D+, 64-66 D, 60-63 D-, 59 and below F.