

Missouri Western State University
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Department of English, Foreign Language, and Journalism
English 210-40

Approaches to Literature—Women's Literature

Dr. Stacia Bensyl Eder 222-I

Phone: 271-5936 email: bensyl@missouriwestern.edu

Office Hours: 9:00-10:00 MWF, 2:00-3:00 MW, 10-12 T, and by appointment

Required Texts:

Gilbert, Sandra M. and Susan Gubar, eds. *The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women*. 3rd ed. New York: Norton, 2007.

Assessment methods:

- **Eleven 10-point quizzes (objective and short answer)**
- **A mid-term, worth 100 points (70 points objective and two short--one paragraph--answers worth 15 points each), taken Friday, February 27.**
- **A final exam, worth 100 points (50 points objective and one essay worth 50 points), taken between April 29 and May 4.**
- **A 750 word (minimum) paper due April 17. This assignment is worth 100 points.**
- **Weekly participation in online discussion. This assignment is worth 10 points per week, 150 points total.**

“Classroom” expectations:

- **Students should keep up with their reading assignments.**
- **Quizzes cannot be made up. Please do not ask to do so. I will drop the lowest quiz score you receive during the semester.**
- **Online discussion cannot be made up. If it is not online by 10:00 P.M. CST the Friday of each week, you will not get credit.**
- **Students should read and participate in this class with an open mind. We will be reading and discussing ideas and cultures that may be different from our own.**
- **Your paper must be in Word format and attached as a Word document. I cannot read Word 2007 documents. Please save as Word 2003.**

Objectives:

- **Students will have a better understanding of literature by women.**
- **Students will be able to put literature by women in a historical and cultural context to further this understanding.**
- **Students will be able to discuss and write about literature by women and about the ways culture and society influence that literature.**

Online class advice:

- **Because this is an online class, I expect you to have daily access to a computer. You must have an open email account at MWSU in order to participate in this class. All of your papers must be in Word format and must be submitted as an attachment in Word.**
- **One idea some people have about online classes is that they can do the work “any time they want to.” That is true, up to a point. You cannot, however, turn in work “any time you want to.” I have specific due dates and time restrictions on assignments. The key to being successful in a course of this nature is keeping up with daily work and pacing yourself. Waiting until the last minute to do your work is the kiss of death.**
- **I will not accept late work. If you are having technical difficulties, contact me.**
- **Make sure you save your work to something you have access to. Don't save it to a desktop you may not be able to get to each day. NEVER save anything to a MWSU desktop. They are cleared daily**

and your work will disappear.

- **I insist on professionalism and respect in your interactions, both with me and with your peers. Postings for class discussion should contain language your grandmother could read without blushing. This doesn't mean we can't disagree. I encourage it, as long as we are all civil with one another. Sometimes it is difficult to convey tone effectively online.**
- **If you have some unforeseen problem, contact me. I cannot help you if I don't know what is going on. Students often think the problem will just go away.**
- **If you don't hear from me for a day or two, or don't get a response to your paper, please contact me to see if there is a problem. I may not have received your work. Keep on top of our communication and I will do the same.**
- **Feel free to stop by my office if you wish. Just because we are online doesn't mean we have to be completely anonymous.**

Student Disability:

Any student in this course who has a disability that prevents the fullest expressions of abilities should contact Missouri Western's special needs coordinator for possible certification of special needs and expert recommendations for assistance. You should also contact me personally as soon as possible so that we can discuss class requirements.

Attendance policy:

In order to improve student learning as well as to achieve compliance with federal financial aid policies, Western has a mandatory attendance policy for all 100 and 200-level courses. You will be given an excused absence when acting as an official representative of the university, provided you give prior written verification from the faculty/staff supervisor of the event.

All other absences will be deemed unexcused. **The maximum number of unexcused absences allowed for this class before the midterm report, March 16, is five (5). Thus, when you have five unexcused absences you will be reported to the Registrar's Office, who will automatically withdraw you from this class. For the purposes of this online class, failing to take a quiz or participate in the weekly online discussion constitutes an absence.**

Furthermore, if you fail to post or turn in your work during the first week of class you will be reported to the Registrar's Office, who will automatically withdraw you from this class. The Financial Aid Office will reduce financial aid as appropriate.

Academic Honesty Policy:

I abide by all the regulations outlined in the Missouri Western State College Catalog and Student Handbook:

Academic Honesty Policy and Due Process

Academic honesty is required in all academic endeavors. Violations of academic honesty include any instance of plagiarism, cheating, seeking credit for another's work, falsifying documents or academic records, or any other fraudulent activity. Violations of academic honesty may result in a failing grade on the assignment, failure in the course, or expulsion from the University. When a student's grade has been affected, violations of academic honesty will be reported to the Provost or designated representative on the Academic Honesty Violation Report forms.

Please see the 2006-07 Student Handbook and Calendar on page 21 for specific activities identified as violations of this policy and the student due process procedure. This handbook is also available online at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/handbook/index.pdf>

I will not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or claiming another's work as your own. Please don't cheat! If I find evidence of academic dishonesty, I will automatically assign that student an "F" for the course.

Course grading scale:

100-90% = A

80-89% = B
70-79% = C
60-69% = D
59- 0% = F

Tentative Assignment Schedule
ENG210-04 Women's Literature

Note: Please read the introductions to each text. We will be discussing aspects of them online. A bold-face Roman numeral I or II follows each page number assignment to indicate the Norton volume number.

- Week 1 Jan. 12-16 Introduction
Wollstonecraft from *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* page 370 **I**
- Week 2 Jan. 19-23
 Girlhood, Adolescence and Courting
 "In the Waiting Room," page 614 **II**
 "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" page 1191 **II**
 Quiz #1
- Week 3 Jan. 26-30
 "The Moths," page 1414 **II**
 From *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, page 926 **II**
 "Good Country People," page 893 **II**
 Quiz #2
- Week 4 Feb. 2-6
 Jane Eyre, page 633 **I**
- Week 5 Feb. 9-13
 Jane Eyre
 Quiz #3
 Marriage
 "To My Dear and Loving Husband" page 153 **I**, "A Letter to Her Husband, Absent upon Public Employment" page 153 **I**
- Week 6 Feb. 16-20
 "A Married State," page 174 **I**
 "Poem in Praise of My Husband (Taos)," page 1086 **II**
 "Sweat," page 349 **II**
 Quiz #4
- Week 7 Feb. 23-27
 Mid-term exam Friday,
 Trifles, page 178 **II**
- Week 8 March 2-6
 The Awakening, page 1253 **I**
 Quiz #5
- Week 9 March 16-20
 "The Blank Page," page 276 **II**
 "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers," page 965 **II**
 "Eve to Her Daughters," page 726 **II**
 Quiz #6

- Week 10 March 23-27
Motherhood
“the mother,” page 781 **II**
“the lost baby poem” page 1120 **II**
“The Cooboo,” page 261 **II**
“The Black Madonna” page 791 **I**
Quiz #7
- Week 11 March 30-April 3
“Seventeen Syllables,” page 835 **II**
“The Shawl,” page 1409 **II**
Quiz #8
- Week 12 April 6-10
“No Name Woman,” page 1229 **II**
“The Pomegranate,” page 1293 **II**
Quiz #9
- Week 13 April 13-17
Old Age
“Ain’t I a Woman?” page 510 **I**
“Moments of Being” page 233 **II**
Quiz #10
- Week 14 April 20-24
“The Daughters of the Late Colonel,” page 321 **II**
“The Jilting of Granny Weatherall,” page 1483 **II**
Quiz #11
- Week 15 April 27
“In a Café,” page 619 **II**