

ENG497G – Women’s Literature

Asynchronous Online Web Course

Instructor: [Dr. Kristi Branham](#)**Email:** kristi.branham@wku.edu**Office Hours:** 11a-1p Tuesday and by appt.**Office:** CH 117**English Dept. Phone:** (270) 745-3043

If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.

--[Abigail Adams](#), second First Lady of the United States, 1776

After I’ve lied and told the whole world I’m happy and I’m okay [...] now I’m telling you the Truth. I’m so angry it’s insane.

--[Britney Spears](#), Princess of Pop, 2021

Required Texts:

- Cather, Willa. *My Antonia*.
- Chopin, Kate. *The Awakening*.
- Cisneros, Sandra. *Woman Hollering Creek*.
- Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*.
- Other readings available on course site (See course schedule and Blackboard site for details)

Catalog Course Description: ENG 497. WOMEN’S LITERATURE. (3) Prerequisites: Colonnade Category F-AH. Study of the literary history, criticism, and theory of women’s writing, with an emphasis on American and British writers.

Course Overview: In this course, we investigate the term (and course title) “women’s literature” using a feminist methodology. We ask how adding the word “women’s” changes our ideas about and expectations for “literature.” Our investigation takes as its object of study *US women’s literature* from the twentieth century (1890-1990). We read fiction, poetry, and prose from a representative collection of American women writers. We progress through the following questions: What is *literature*? What is *women’s literature*? What is *American women’s literature*? Themes include the literary canon, history of literary studies, authority and authorship, women’s work and caring labor, and American mythology.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Students must satisfactorily complete the following requirements in order to pass this course. Please remember that if you’re having difficulties, speaking with me is the best way to resolve them.

The breakdown of your final grade is as follows:

Discussion Board	220
Trading Cards	150
Source Share	150
Final Analysis Essay	200
Total Points.....	<u>720</u>

Discussion Board (Db): Discussion board participation requires one original post (OP) and one reply post (RP) for a minimum of 400 words **each week** unless otherwise noted in the course schedule. Original posts must demonstrate familiarity with the week’s assigned readings. Original posts should

include (1) a brief summary of the readings, (2) critical analysis of a theme, issue, or pattern within the reading, and (3) discussion of connections to previous readings. Original posts should include short quotations to support your analysis and the complete bibliographic citation at the end of the post. Reply posts must be in response to a classmate's original post and should address a critical claim or argument found in the original post. Discussion of readings and replies to others' comments are the single-most important ongoing requirement of this course. You absolutely must schedule your participation in such a way that others have a chance to reply to you and you have a chance to reply to them.

Women Writers Trading Cards: In groups of 2-3, students will be responsible for sharing with the class a two-slide Powerpoint trading card for any US or North American "woman writer." Groups will begin by selecting an image of the writer from the World Wide Web. Using this image as inspiration, each group will cull significant information, "stats," about the writer to include on the writer's trading card. Trading Cards must include brief biographical information, list of important works, context and influence, 1-2 important quotes, and an image of the writer. I'll set-up a discussion board forum for groups to share trading cards with the class. The group post must include a brief paragraph that describes the choices made to create the trading card and a link or attachment to the group's completed trading card. (150pts)

Source Share: Each student will locate an academic journal article on one of the assigned women writers and/or an assigned reading to summarize and review for the class. I'll set-up a discussion board forum for students to post their article reviews. Reviews must include the complete bibliographic citation in MLA format, overview of author/author's credentials, a brief summary of the article's main argument, brief discussion of connection to course material, and a short critical review of the article. (150pts)

Final Analysis Essay: Students will compose a literary analysis essay about one of the main themes we have talked about in this course. The essay must include a close reading of at least one assigned reading. The final essay should focus on at least one of the authors or assigned reading studied during the semester and include secondary sources. **Undergrad requirements:** 5-6 pages/1 academic source. **Graduate requirements:** 7-9 pages/3 academic sources. (200pts)

Emergencies: In the event of an emergency, do your best to contact me (email, phone, fax, snail mail). Continue to make reasonable independent efforts toward course completion as per the syllabus. Have a back-up plan for Internet access in case your computer fails.

COURSE POLICIES

Academic Integrity: It is understood that students will present their own work for all assignments. Student work will be checked using plagiarism detection software. Plagiarism, cheating, or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty will result in failure of the assignment and for especially egregious cases in failure of the course. Please refer to the course's Statement on Academic Integrity and the *WKU Student Handbook* for more information.

Late Assignments: Assignments submitted after the due date will be penalized one letter grade for each business day it is late. Assignments late more than five business days will receive minimal partial credit.

Email and Office Hours: I will use WKU's Blackboard and email systems to communicate with students outside of class. These communications will range from class announcements to suggestions for supplemental readings. Students will be responsible for information posted on the course Blackboard site and sent via email. In addition, the best way to contact me outside of class is via email at kristi.branham@wku.edu. Understand, however, that I need 24 hours to respond to email.

Incompletes

Typically, incompletes will not be granted for any English course. When extenuating circumstances arise—for example, if a student in the military is deployed or if a student has a personal or medical crisis that comes up toward the end of the semester—the student must discuss the situation with the instructor if possible and the instructor will consider an incomplete. The instructor will only consider an incomplete for students who are in good standing (C or higher) in the course.

Resolving Complaints about Grades: The first step in resolving a complaint about grades is for the student to attempt to resolve the problem directly with the course instructor. See the Student Handbook, available at <http://www.wku.edu/handbook/> for additional guidance.

Important Semester Dates

Last day to add a class or drop a class without a grade: January 23.

Last day to opt out of Big Red Backpack: January 26.

60% point: March 15.

Last day to drop a class with a W: March 28.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES**Regular and Substantive Interaction (Online Courses)**

The U.S. Department of Education requires that distance education courses must include regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty. For more information about Regular and Substantive Interaction at WKU, please visit the Regular and Substantive Interaction in Online and Distance Learning webpage. In this course, regular and substantive interaction will take place in the following ways:

- Faculty participation in weekly discussion boards,
- Weekly announcements, and
- Timely and detailed feedback on assignments provided within one week of submission.

ADA Accommodation: In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, Room 1074. The SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Pregnant and Parenting Students: Western Kentucky University does not discriminate against any student or exclude any student from its educational programs or activities, including classes or extracurricular activities, on the basis of pregnancy and/or pregnancy-related conditions such as, but not limited to, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom. Students who seek pregnancy or pregnancy-related accommodations should make their requests as soon as possible via WKU's Title IX Website at www.wku.edu/titleix/ under the heading, "Pregnancy or Pregnancy-Related Conditions." Students can also contact the Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir, via email at ena.demir@wku.edu or by phone at (270) 745-6867 to request accommodations or seek assistance. We encourage students and faculty to work together to establish a plan that allows the student to complete the class and coursework without jeopardizing academic integrity and course standards. The Title IX Coordinator can help facilitate conversations between students and faculty regarding appropriate and reasonable accommodations.

If you are a WKU student and believe that you have experienced an incident(s) of discrimination or harassment based on pregnancy (or pregnancy related conditions or issues), please report it to the Title IX Coordinator via email at ena.demir@wku.edu or by phone at (270) 745-6867.

Additional resources for pregnant and parenting students can be found on WKU's Title IX Website at www.wku.edu/titleix/.

Title IX/Discrimination & Harassment: Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's [Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#) (#0.070) and [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#) (#0.2040). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Executive Director, Office of Institutional Equity/Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir, 270-745-6867 or Title IX Investigators or Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's [Counseling and Testing Center](#) at 270-745-3159.