

HUM 3390 AA: Women in Literature

Indiana Tech
Course Syllabus

Course Information

HUM 3390 AA: Women in Literature | Spring 2016 | MWF 11—11:50 a.m. | CN 304

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Cortney Robbins, Associate Professor of English

Day Phone: 260.422.5561 ext. 2241

E-mail Address: CRRobbins@indianatech.edu [Don't forget: 2 "R"s, 2"B"s & .edu]

Office Location: Academic Center 245

Office Hours: M: 10-11 | 12-4:30 T: 9-9:30 | 12:15-2 W: 10-11 | 12-4

R: 9-9:30 | 12:15-2 F: 10-11 | 12-2

Texts

Atwood, Margaret. *The Handmaid's Tale*. New York: Anchor Books, 1998. Print.

Gilbert, Sandra M., and Susan Gubar, eds. *The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women*. 3rd ed. W.W. Norton & Company, 2007. Print. [2 vols.]

Morrison, Toni. *The Bluest Eye*. New York: Vintage International, 2007. Print.

Course Materials

- Email account: As Indiana Tech students, you are provided one. Please note that an email address is **required**, as that will be one of our means of communication outside of class. When you email me (or anyone), use a clear subject line and a full, proofread explanation of why you are writing.
- Blackboard: You will need to get familiar with our Blackboard site as soon as possible. The site will be used to store course documents, submit assignments, participate via discussion board, and post grades.
- Reliable access to the Internet and word processing software/printer

Course Description

This course is designed as a survey and introduction to a variety of female writers, and students will think critically, write, and present about these texts. This course will also seek to answer why women's writing has often been marginalized and how women writers have begun to gain more prominence. (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): ENG 1270

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recognize a selection of diverse women writers.
2. Recall and analyze key themes in women's literature.

3. Examine and critique questions about women's literature.
4. Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the significance of women in literature.
5. Analyze, interpret, synthesize, and write about texts written by women.

Course Assignments [1000 pts. total]

▪ Essays [3 essays @ 100 points each | 300 pts. total]

* Participation [250 pts.]

• Researched Group Presentation [100 pts.]

◦ Author Project [250 pts.]

~ Final Exam [100 pts.]

▪ You will be required to complete 3 essays throughout the semester. Five essays will be assigned, of which you will choose to complete 3. You must complete at least one of the first two essays and at least one of the final two essays. Information about specific essay topics and page lengths will be distributed in class. The due dates for these essays are noted on the schedule.

* 250 pts. is 25% of your final grade for this course. For that reason, I suggest you take participation seriously. Participation includes participation and engagement in discussion in class and via discussion board, and the completion of reading sheets. You will lose participation points for being rude and disruptive. 100 of the 250 participation points come from points earned through contributions to class discussion. Participation may also include quizzes [if necessary]. Quizzes will be given if participation in discussion is not at the level it should be. If quizzes become necessary often, this category's point total will also increase. The other 150 of the 250 participation points come from the completion of 10 reading sheets [worth 15 points each] throughout the semester. The blank reading sheet is posted on Blackboard. I will randomly collect reading sheets at the beginning of class on 10 days this semester; you will **not** be notified ahead of time when reading sheets will be collected. If you will be absent, you should email me your reading sheet in case I collect them on that day. You are expected to complete a reading sheet every day reading is assigned. These sheets will also be able to be brought to and used during the final exam, so there are multiple reasons it is in your best interest to complete a reading sheet every day reading is assigned. You will be allowed to submit one extra sheet on a day that I do not collect them as a make-up or for bonus points.

• You will work with a small group in researching a topic that is important to the texts we will read this semester and the broader idea of women in literature as a whole. Then, you will present on this topic for 20-25 minutes during one of our meetings. Groups and presentation dates will be assigned early this semester. The four topics are Gender Roles (including parenting, work, household responsibilities, etc.), Gender and Religion (multiple religions and their relationship to gender should be explored here), Gender and Race (Do gender ideas vary by race? How does race complicate gender roles

and expectations? etc.), and Gender and Beauty (standards of beauty for men and women, causes and effects of standards of beauty, etc.). Information about specific topics, lengths, and other information will be distributed in class.

◦ The author project will involve in-depth research and study of one author to be selected this semester. A proposal, annotated bibliography, essay, and poster presentation are the components of this major project. The due dates are noted on the schedule. Information about specific topics, lengths, and other information will be distributed in class. *****You will be required to present your work at a poster presentation event to be held on Wed., March 30 from 11 a.m.—12 p.m. in the Academic Center’s theater. Attendance is MANDATORY. *****

~The final exam will be in-class essays in which you will be asked to draw upon knowledge gained throughout the course. Reading sheets will be the only items you may draw from during the exam.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic(s)/ Activities	Assignment[s] Due
W, Jan. 20	Course intro/ syllabus	
F, Jan. 22	“Women’s literature” Reading Journals	Read, print, & bring to class the webpages http://www.victorianweb.org/gender/womlitov.html & http://crossref-it.info/articles/114/portrayal-of-women-in-literature
M, Jan. 25	“Women in literature” Major Course Projects	Read, print, & bring to class the scholarly article “A Mirror for Men: Stereotypes of Women in Literature” [available on Bb] First Reading Journal Due [One should be completed for each assigned day of reading from now on; Remember, these will be randomly collected and graded.]
W, Jan. 27	<i>The Handmaid’s Tale</i> (by Margaret Atwood) Researched Group Presentation	<i>The Handmaid’s Tale</i> , Chs. 1—5
F, Jan. 29	<i>The Handmaid’s Tale</i> Author Project	<i>The Handmaid’s Tale</i> , Chs. 6—10 Syllabus Quiz
M, Feb. 1	<i>The Handmaid’s Tale</i> Library Instruction	<i>The Handmaid’s Tale</i> , Chs. 11—15
W, Feb. 3	<i>The Handmaid’s Tale</i> Essay 1	<i>The Handmaid’s Tale</i> , Chs. 16—20 Author Project Proposal Due
F, Feb. 5	<i>The Handmaid’s Tale</i>	<i>The Handmaid’s Tale</i> , Chs. 21—25

	M, Feb. 8	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> Author Project Bibliography	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> , Chs. 26—30
	W, Feb. 10	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> Presentation 1: Gender Roles	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> , Chs. 31—35
	F, Feb. 12	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> Presentation 2: Gender and Religion	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> , Chs. 36—40
	M, Feb. 15	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> , Chs. 41—Historical Notes
Roles of Women	W, Feb. 17	"The Story of an Hour" (by Kate Chopin)	Read, print, & bring to class "The Story of an Hour" [available on Bb]
	F, Feb. 19	"Boys and Girls" (by Alice Munro)	Author Project Annotated Bibliography Due Read, print, & bring to class "Boys and Girls" [available on Bb]
	M, Feb. 22	"Sweat" (by Zora Neale Hurston)	<i>The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women [NALBW] v2</i> , Hurston, pgs. 347—57
	W, Feb. 24	"Woman Hollering Creek" (by Sandra Cisneros)	<i>NALBW v2</i> , Cisneros, pgs. 1399—1408
	F, Feb. 26	TBD	Essay 1 Due
Rights of Women	M, Feb. 29	"A Vindication of the Rights of Woman" (by Mary Wollstonecraft) Essay 2	<i>NALBW v1</i> , Wollstonecraft, pgs. 370—90
	W, Mar. 2	"Shakespeare's Sister" and "Professions for Women" (by Virginia Woolf)	<i>NALBW v2</i> , Woolf, pgs. 237—47
	F, Mar. 4	"The Yellow Wallpaper" (by Charlotte Perkins Gilman)	<i>NALBW v1</i> , Perkins Gilman, pgs. 1392—1403
	M, Mar. 7	Poster Presentations	Author Project Digital Poster DRAFT & Significant Quote and Picture Due
	W, Mar. 9	Conferences	Author Project Digital Poster Due
	F, Mar. 11	"The Second Sex" (by Simone de Beauvoir)	Read "The Second Sex" [available on Bb]

	M, Mar. 14—F, Mar. 18	Spring Break—No classes	
Religion and Women	M, Mar. 21	“She Unnames Them” (by Ursula LeGuin) Essay 3	Essay 2 Due <i>NALBW v2</i> , LeGuin, pgs. 953—955
	W, Mar. 23	“Distant View of a Minaret” (by Alifa Rifaat)	Read, print, & bring to class “Distant View of a Minaret” [available on Bb]
	F, Mar. 25	Excerpts from Malala Yousafzai’s Memoir	Read, print, & bring to class https://www.orionbooks.co.uk/assets/OrionPublishingGroup/downloads/Extracts/I-Am-Malala-by-Malala-Yousafzai-and-Christina-Lamb-Extract.pdf & http://time.com/3490769/malala-yousafzai-the-day-i-woke-up-in-the-hospital/
	M, Mar. 28	Prep. for Poster Pres.	
	W, Mar. 30 11 a.m.—12 p.m.	Women’s History Month Event: Women Authors Poster Presentations—Academic Center Multi-Flex Theatre—<u>ATTENDANCE REQUIRED</u>	
Race and Women	F, Apr. 1	Short Works (by Phillis Wheatley & Sojourner Truth) Essay 4	Author Project Essay Due <i>NALBW v1</i> , Wheatley, “On Being Brought from Africa to America,” pg. 359, & Truth, pgs. 509—513
	M, Apr. 4	“Peckerwood Dentist” (by Maya Angelou)	<i>NALBW v2</i> , Angelou, pgs. 926—31
	W, Apr. 6	“The Shawl” (by Louise Erdrich)	<i>NALBW v2</i> , Erdrich, pgs. 1408—13 Essay 3 Due
	F, Apr. 8	“No Name Woman” (by Maxine Hong Kingston)	<i>NALBW v2</i> , Hong Kingston, pgs. 1228—1237

Representations of Women	M, Apr. 11	“Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?” (by Joyce Carol Oates) Essay 5	NALBW v2, Oates, pgs. 1191—1203
	W, Apr. 13	“A Temporary Matter” (by Jhumpa Lahiri)	NALBW v2, Lahiri, pgs. 1498—1510
	F, Apr. 15	Poems (by Marge Piercy, Anne Sexton, Maya Angelou, and Emily Dickinson)	Piercy: http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/barbie-doll/ NALBW v2, Sexton, “Housewife” & “Woman with Girdle,” pgs. 921—922 Angelou: http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/phenomenal-woman/ NALBW v1, Dickinson, “260,” “267,” & “307,” pgs. 1043—1044
M, Apr. 18	<i>The Bluest Eye</i> (by Toni Morrison)	<i>The Bluest Eye</i> , pgs. 3—32	
W, Apr. 20	<i>The Bluest Eye</i>	<i>The Bluest Eye</i> , pgs. 33—58	
F, Apr. 22	<i>The Bluest Eye</i> Presentation 3: Gender and Race	<i>The Bluest Eye</i> , pgs. 61—93	
M, Apr. 25	<i>The Bluest Eye</i>	<i>The Bluest Eye</i> , pgs. 97—131	
W, Apr. 27	<i>The Bluest Eye</i> Presentation 4: Gender and Beauty	<i>The Bluest Eye</i> , pgs. 132—163	
F, Apr. 29	<i>The Bluest Eye</i>	<i>The Bluest Eye</i> , pgs. 164—206 [end]	
M, May 2	Film: <i>The Hours</i>	Essay 4 Due	
W, May 4	Film: <i>The Hours</i>		
F, May 6	Film: <i>The Hours</i>	Essay 5 Due	
TBA	Final Exam		

Grading Scale

92-100	A	78-79	C+
90-91	A-	72-77	C
88-89	B+	70-71	C-
82-87	B	60-69	D
80-81	B-	59↓	F

Assignment Submission Policy

All assignments must be submitted on or before their due date, regardless of student absence. If you are absent on the day an assignment is due, you should submit it through other means, such as e-mail. I will give you one pass throughout the semester to turn in a late assignment; use it wisely. The late assignment must be turned in no later than one week after it was due. The pass may NOT be used for tests, quizzes, or presentations. **For every essay, you will submit a soft copy to Blackboard. Failure to submit the assignment to Blackboard will result in a “0.”**

Format for Papers

All papers must follow MLA format guidelines: 12 point font (Arial, Calibri, or Times New Roman), double-space, 1” margins, indented paragraphs, and a first page heading instead of a title page.

Jane Doe

Doe 1

Professor Robbins

HUM 3390

January 29, 2016

Example of MLA Format

Tab once to indent for a paragraph and begin typing. Continue typing as normal until you reach the end of your paragraph, then enter and tab again (if necessary) to begin a new paragraph.

University Resources

It is required that you make use of McMillen Library’s resources for certain assignments:
<http://library.indianatech.edu/find/>

Missed Presentations, Quizzes, and Exams

If you miss a presentation, quiz, or exam due to unexcused tardiness or absence, you will **not** be permitted to reschedule.

Class Attendance Policy

Your success in this class depends upon your attendance at every class meeting and your participation in the exchange of ideas and information that occurs in class. **The attendance policy for this class is as follows: Up to 6 absences [for any reason]= no penalty. That is 2 weeks of class I am allowing you to miss. However, if you miss more than 6 classes, you have two options: a) you will fail the course, or b) you must write a ten-page paper on a book of my choice. If you know you are going to be absent, make arrangements to turn in papers, reading sheets, etc. in advance.** If it is an absence due to illness, unforeseen circumstances, etc. you need to email me **ASAP**. Emergency situations will be considered on a case-by-case basis. You will be responsible for finding out what you missed from your classmates.

Tardiness

Please make every effort to make it to class on time. This is a discussion-based course. Entering class late and/or leaving early interrupts the flow and exchange of ideas necessary for group learning. I take attendance at the beginning of class. **If you are not in the classroom when I take attendance you will be counted absent.**

Athletes: It is YOUR responsibility to notify me if you will be missing class due to an excused athletic event. You should check your athletic schedule against our course schedule and notify me at least one class period before you are to miss class. Pay special attention to dates you will miss when an assignment is due or we are scheduled to have a quiz or presentation. Again, it is YOUR responsibility to request alternate arrangements to submit assignments and make up quizzes and tests.

Cell Phones, Laptops, and Other Electronic Devices

All electronic devices must be turned to silent or vibrate as you enter the classroom. **Failure to do so will result in an absence for the day.** I understand that you may need to be reachable because of emergency situations; however, if your phone produces a ring in class, or if you send or receive text messages during class, you will be counted absent. If you have a laptop in class and are using it for anything other than class, you will be counted absent.

Plagiarism 101:

I will get a sense of your individual writing styles soon after the course begins; therefore, I will notice any and all attempts to pass off someone else's work as your own in your papers. **I will detect plagiarism.**

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's words or ideas as your own, without giving credit to the original author. This is not based on intent. Whether you forget to put quotes around material or cite the source, or if you intentionally buy or copy an essay, plagiarism is a serious matter. Cheating will not be tolerated in any fashion. In a word – do not even consider it. In addition, you may not turn in papers written for another class to fulfill the assignments for this one. You are required to complete

original, new work for this class.

Plagiarism of any kind will result in a grade of “F” for the course and the submission of an Infraction Card.

Policy Concerning Students with Disabilities: "Indiana Tech is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a documented disability requiring academic adjustments or accommodations, please notify me during the first week of class. Early notification will ensure that your learning experience is not compromised or delayed. You should also contact the Associate Dean for your campus. Please refer to Student Handbook for additional information."

The Golden Class Rule

Our class will operate on **respect**. Your successes and failures are measured in part by how respectful you are to others and yourself. Below are some rules that will help you to understand how our class will work, and what to do if you'd like to stay in this class:

1. Do not talk when others [your professor, your classmates, and any guests that we may have] are talking. It is rude and **disrespectful**.
2. When you disagree with someone during a discussion, do not tell that person that you disagree in a rude manner. You are encouraged to make your disagreements known, as long as you do so in a civil, logical way. Be **respectful**.
3. Do not sleep, play with your cell phones/iPods/other electronic devices, talk to someone while someone else is talking, or "do your own thing" in class. If you have a tendency to participate in the above-mentioned activities in class, stay at home. If you do any of those things in class, you will be counted absent anyway. Come to class to learn. Be **respectful**.

Indiana Tech Code of Ethics and Statement of Academic Integrity

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and hold themselves accountable to Indiana Tech's Code of Ethics and Statement of Academic Integrity, which can be found at <http://www.indianatech.edu/about/ethics/> and <http://academics.indianatech.edu/academic-policies/> .

THE LAST WITHDRAW DATE is Tuesday, Apr. 5.

Right of Revision Statement

The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus and/or schedule as deemed necessary for the course.

-----Please print, complete, and return this page to the instructor-----

Course Contract

By signing the following, you indicate that you have read and understood the syllabus for this class, and accept the policies contained therein:

I, _____, acknowledge that I have read
(print clearly)

and understood the syllabus for **HUM 3390: Women in Literature** **Spring 2016**

Sign and date here: X _____

Alternate Email [for emergency only]: _____

Phone number[optional; for emergency only]: _____

Does your phone allow text messaging? Yes No

Major _____

Sport played at Tech _____ Coach _____

Please list any questions or concerns about the course here, which I will address as soon as possible:
