

Instructor:

Dr. Lilla Tőke

Email:

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Course Overview

This course is designed to familiarize students with the ways in which the role of women has been portrayed in literature. By identifying various stereotypes, archetypes, and recurrent themes in a range of texts by female and male authors, students will explore how literature reflects and sometimes determines societal expectations about gender. Texts may include those of authors such as Sylvia Plath, Toni Morrison, Audre Lorde, Sandra Cisneros, Ana Castillo, Henrik Ibsen or Tennessee Williams.

Office Hours:

Virtual office hours on
Tuesdays
10:30AM-11:00AM
and by appointment
(on Thursdays)

Pathways Learning Objectives

- * Identify and apply the fundamental concepts and methods of a discipline or interdisciplinary field exploring the relationship between the individual and society, including, but not limited to, anthropology, communications, cultural studies, history, journalism, philosophy, political science, psychology, public affairs, religion, and sociology.
- * Examine how an individual's place in society affects experiences, values, or choices.
- * Articulate and assess ethical views and their underlying premises.
- * Articulate ethical uses of data and other information resources to respond to problems and questions.
- * Identify and engage with local, national, or global trends or ideologies, and analyze their impact on individual or collective decision-making.

Student Learning Objectives

1. Introduce students to major and lesser-known authors' views of women in a range of literary works and genres.
2. Enable students to engage with and think critically about stereotypes and archetypes of women in literature.
3. Introduce historical and cultural factors that have shaped images of women in literature and the category of "woman" in contemporary discourse.
4. Familiarize students with major literary movements and trace their influence on the evolving images of women in literature.
5. Introduce and reinforce key literary concepts in relation to women in literature.
6. Reinforce and expand writing and research skills acquired in English 101 and introduce and/ or reinforce writing on literary texts.

Required Text (PLEASE BUY/RENT THESE EDITIONS, NO OTHER EDITIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED)

1. Poems by various authors (PDF on Blackboard)

2. “The Yellow Wallpaper,” Charlotte Perkins Gillman (PDF on Blackboard)
3. “To Room Nineteen,” Doris Lessing (PDF on Blackboard)
4. *The House on Mango Street*, Sandra Cisneros (Vintage, ISBN: 9780679734772)

Grading Policy

Essay nr. 1	– 25 %
Essay nr. 2	– 25 %
Reading Quizzes	– 20%
Final Exam	– 10%
Slack participation	– 20%
TOTAL	100%

Resources

We will be using **Blackboard** for reading quizzes, exams, homework assignments and essay submission. We will use **Slack** for course conversations. We will use **Zoom** for office hours. Make sure you have access to these platforms. In addition the **Writing Center**, the **Library** and the **English Department main office** are here to help you as well. For more information on these resources, see Blackboard Announcements. Please download Slack on your phone and make sure you have access to Blackboard and Zoom as well.

Course Process Overview

Please note that we will NOT have weekly course meetings in this class. We will have optional *office hours* where you can join me to ask questions or clarifications related to any assignments, readings, etc. I have recorded all my lectures and posted them on Blackboard. You will need to do the following things each week in this order: 1. Complete the **reading assignment** for the week; 2. Take the **reading quiz**; 3. Watch the **lecture(s)** posted for the week; 4. Participate in the weekly **discussions** on Slack; 5. Submit any paper **assignments/homework** (if due).

A Word about Due Dates

Since this course is most asynchronous the assignment due dates are quite flexible. I have a suggested due date for all activities, but go at your own

pace. **HOWEVER, all assignments each week have to be completed by the end of the week, which is Sunday.** This includes reading assignments, quizzes, lectures, Slack discussions and homework/essay assignments. So my advice is to pace yourself, don't rush but also don't leave everything to the last minute because you won't be able to accomplish everything in a short period of time. Here are my suggestions for timing yourself: watch the **lecture(s) on Monday-Tuesday**, finish the **reading assignment by Thursday**, take the **quiz on Friday**, **submit essays, etc. to Blackboard on Sunday**. Importantly, **visit Slack at least 2-3 times throughout the week** to participate in the ongoing discussions.

Office Hours – How Can You Get in Touch with Me?

Please get in touch with me to ask any questions or clarifications you need (about the technology we use, about assignments, due dates, my lectures, the reading, etc.). Here is the list of how:

1. I will hold weekly office hours over **Zoom**. I will be available for office hours on **Tuesdays 10:30AM to 11:00AM**. You can join me by using this Zoom link (Meeting ID: 82494399505, no passcode): <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82494399505>
2. You can also make **individual appointments** with me to meet on **Thursdays between 9:00AM and 10:00AM**. Click on the following link to make an appointment: <https://calendly.com/ltoke/office-hours-for-eng-245>
3. You can **email** me at Ltoke@lagcc.cuny.edu any time. I am quick to respond and will answer any quick questions you may have. If you need a longer conversation, please see options 1 and 2.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic to be Covered and Reading	Homework and Other Assignments
Week 1 – June 22-24	Course Module 1: Poems (PDF on Blackboard)	1. Watch Lectures 1.a and 1.b 2. Participate in Slack Discussion
Week 2 – June 27-July 1	Course Module 2: “The Yellow Wall Paper” (PDF on Blackboard) and	1. Watch Lectures 2.a and 2.b 2. Participate in Slack Discussion 3. Take Quiz 1 4. Post poem recording on Slack

Week	Topic to be Covered and Reading	Homework and Other Assignments
Week 3 – July 5-8	Course Module 3: To Room Nineteen” (PDF on Blackboard)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Watch Lectures 3 and 4 6. Participate in Slack Discussion 7. Take Quiz 2
Week 4 – July 11-15	Course Module 4: <i>The House on Mango Street</i> (pp.3-53)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Watch Lecture 5 2. Participate in Slack Discussion 3. Take Quiz 3 4. SUBMIT Essay 1 (DUE on Sunday, July 17)
Week 5 – July 18-22	<i>The House on Mango Street</i> (pp.54-78)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Watch Lecture 6.a 2. Participate in Slack Discussion 3. Take Quiz 4
Week 6 – July 25-29	<i>The House on Mango Street</i> (pp.79-110)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Watch Lecture 6.b 2. Participate in Slack Discussion 3. Take Quiz 5
Week 7 – August 1-5	Conclusion to the course FINAL EXAM on Wednesday, August 3 (on Blackboard)	1. SUBMIT Essay 2 (DUE on Friday, August 5)

Essay and Exam Schedule

Assignment	Description and Due Date
Poem Recital Recording	You will select, memorize and record your recital of a poem. You will share this recording with your classmates on Slack.
Class discussion on Slack	Every week, I will post discussion questions on Slack. You will have to post your answer to the questions and also reply/respond to/engage with at least 2 class mates’ answers.
Weekly Reading Quizzes	There will be 5 short, multiple choice quizzes that you will need to complete to simply demonstrate that you keep up with the reading.
Essay nr. 1	This writing assignment will ask you to address a specific question related to the readings in the course. DUE Week 4
Essay nr. 2	This writing assignment will ask you to address a specific question related to the readings in the course. DUE Week 7

Assignment	Description and Due Date
Final Exam	The final exam will be a combination of multiple choice questions, short answers and medium long answers. It will take place on August 3 .
