COMMON COURSE OUTLINE: Course discipline/number/title: ENGL 2277: Women and Literature

A. CATALOG DESCRIPTION
1. Credits: 3
2. Hours/Week: 3
3. Prerequisites (Course discipline/number): ENGL 1117
4. Co-requisites (Course discipline/number): None

This course focuses on literature by and/or about women. Course content will revolve around questions such as these: What are the images of women in literature? How can feminist literary criticism help us to analyze literary texts? How has women’s literature been marginalized? How are women’s identities and experiences incorporated in literary texts? What can we learn about the different approaches to the human condition by reading works by women? While these critical questions will remain the same, the particular literary course content will vary from year to year, including such sub-titles as “Women & the Development of the Novel,” Images of Women in Fiction,” or “Afro-American Women Writers.” Course may be repeated twice for credit if the focus of the class is different.

B. DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year): April, 2007

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:
1. Images of women in the literature of a time period or of a movement, etc.
2. Women’s experiences as they are presented in the creative works
3. Feminist literary criticism that might be relevant to a particular
4. Grouping of texts, including a discussion of “lost works” of literature
5. Why works of fiction are marginalized
6. How works of fiction are marginalized
7. How works are chosen for the literary canon
8. Attitudes towards women writers
9. The time period of the literary works
10. Relevant social movements emanating from the works
11. The lives of the authors
12. Plot development
13. Character development
14. Theme development
15. Point of view
16. Other literary techniques
17. Comparison of the creative works
18. Critical methodology such as psychoanalytic criticism, Marxist criticism, etc.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL): The student will be able to:
1. Learn to analyze the images of women in literature.
2. Learn to use techniques from feminist literary to guide analysis.
3. Learn how women’s texts have been marginalized and why.
4. Learn how women’s identities are developed through literary and creative works.
5. Learn how women’s experiences are incorporated in literary and creative works.
6. Learn about the human condition and human values.
7. Learn to respond critically and personally to creative works.

E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC): Goal 2/Critical Thinking: The student will be able to:
1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives, which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC): Continued.

3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.

4. Recognize and articulate the value assumptions, which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.

Goal 6/The Humanities—The Arts, Literature, and Philosophy: The student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.

2. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within a historical and social context.

3. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.

4. Engage in the creative process or interpretive performance.

5. Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

Goal 7/Human Diversity: The student will be able to:

1. Understand the development of and the changing meanings of group identities in the United States’ history and culture.

2. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.

3. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts, and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.

4. Describe and discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc.) of the many groups that shape American society and culture, in particular those groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.

5. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.

F. METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING:

1. Evaluation methods may include some or all of the following:

2. Essay exams

3. Research papers

4. Quizzes or other objective exams

5. Written homework

6. Small group projects

7. Service projects

8. Oral presentations

9. Or any other work as deemed appropriate by the individual instructor and so indicated on his/her syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any): None