

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, NEW YORK**



MASTER SYLLABUS

ENGL 340—AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS

CIP Code: 230101

**Prepared By: Emily Hamilton-Honey, PhD
September 2016
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**SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH/ HUMANITIES
FALL 2019**

- A. **TITLE:** American Women Writers
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** ENGL 340
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:**
 3 Credit Hours
 3 Lecture Hours: 3 per week
 Course Length: 15 Weeks
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No
- E. **GER CATEGORY:** None
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Spring
- G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** In this course students will become acquainted with significant American women writers, such as Wheatley, Bradstreet, Harper, Dickinson, Alcott, Gilman, Stowe, Yeziarska, Wharton, Stein, Moore, Sexton, Plath, Cisneros, Morrison, Erdrich, and others. The historical, social, and political backgrounds for each author and their works are also examined, with an introduction to basic concepts of cultural criticism and gender studies. Works are selected to highlight the diversity of American women, including, but not limited to, race/ethnicity, gender, social class, sexual orientation, nationality/immigration status, religion, and family structure. Focus can be multi-genre or on one specific genre, at the discretion of the instructor.
- H. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:**
 a. Pre-requisite(s): ENGL 101 or ENGL 102 and completion of at least 45 credit hours.
 b. Co-requisite(s): none
- I. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

<u>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</u>	<u>PSLO</u>	<u>GER</u>	<u>ISLO</u>
a. <i>Explain</i> orally or in writing the literary, historical, and cultural contexts that inspire American women writers.			1. Communication (O or W)
b. <i>Analyze</i> literature using appropriate literary terminology and approaches.			2. Critical Thinking (CA)

c. <i>Identify</i> basic concepts in cultural criticism and <i>analyze</i> how they contribute to the understanding of American women's writing.			2. Critical Thinking (CA)
d. <i>Analyze</i> their own cultural perspectives as they compare and contrast with those of the writers.			4. Social Responsibility (IK)

KEY	<u>Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]</u>
ISLO #	ISLO & Subsets
1	Communication Skills Oral [O], Written [W]
2	Critical Thinking <i>Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry & Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS]</i>
3	Foundational Skills <i>Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit./Reasoning [QTR]</i>
4	Social Responsibility <i>Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T]</i>
5	Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

J. **APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT:** Yes _____ No X _____

K. **TEXTS:**
(Representative texts)

Alcott, Louisa May. *Work: A Story of Experience*. 1873. New York: Penguin, 1994.

Blake, Lillie Devereaux. *Fettered for Life*. 1874. New York: Feminist Press, 1996.

Brooks, Gwendolyn. *Selected Poems*. New York: Harper Perennial, 2006.

Cather, Willa. *O Pioneers!* 1913. New York: Vintage Books, 1992.

Cisneros, Sandra. *The House on Mango Street*. 1984. New York: Vintage Books, 1991.

Erdrich, Louise. *Love Medicine*. 1984. Revised Ed. New York: Harper Perennial, 2009.

Harper, Frances E. W. *Iola Leroy*. 1892. Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, 2010.

- Hogeland, Lisa Maria and Mary Klages, Eds. *The Aunt Lute Anthology of American Women Writers, Vol. 1: 17th Through 19th Centuries*. San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books, 2004.
- Hogeland, Lisa Maria and Shay Brawn, Eds. *The Aunt Lute Anthology of American Women Writers, Vol. 2: The 20th Century*. San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books, 2007.
- Honey, Maureen, ed. *Shadowed Dreams: Women's Poetry of the Harlem Renaissance*. 2nd ed. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers UP, 2006.
- Hurston, Zora Neale. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. 1937. New York: Harper Perennial, 2006.
- Moore, Marianne. *The Poems of Marianne Moore*. New York: Penguin, 2005.
- Naylor, Gloria. *Linden Hills*. 1985. New York: Penguin, 1986.
- Sexton, Anne. *Transformations*. 1971. Orlando, FL: Mariner Books, 2001.
- Stein, Gertrude. *Three Lives*. 1909. New York: Penguin, 1990.
- Stowe, Harriet Beecher. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. 1852. New York: Library of America, 2010.
- Yeziarska, Anzia. *Bread Givers*. 1925. New York: Persea, 2003.

L. **REFERENCES:**

(Representative references)

- Baym, Nina. *Woman's Fiction: A Guide to Novels By and About Women in America, 1820-1870*. Champaign, IL: U of Illinois P, 1993.
- Berger, Arthur Asa. *Cultural Criticism: A Primer of Key Concepts*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 1994.
- Davis, Cynthia and Verner D. Mitchell, Eds. *Zora Neale Hurston: An Annotated Bibliography of Works and Criticism*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2013.
- Farrell, Grace. *Lillie Devereux Blake: Retracing a Life Erased*. Amherst, MA: U of Massachusetts P, 2002. Print.
- Gates, Henry Louis Jr. *The Trials of Phillis Wheatley: America's First Black Poet and Her Encounters With the Founding Fathers*. New York: Basic Civitas Books, 2003. Print.
- Gayles, Gloria Wade, ed. *Conversations With Gwendolyn Brooks*. Jackson, MS: UP of Mississippi, 2003.
- Hochman, Barbara. *Uncle Tom's Cabin and the Reading Revolution: Race, Literacy, Childhood, and Fiction, 1851-1911*. Amherst, MA: U of Massachusetts P, 2011.
- Howe, Florence. *No More Masks!: An Anthology of Twentieth-Century American Women Poets*. New York: Harper Perennial, 1993.
- LaPlante, Eve. *American Jezebel: The Uncommon Life of Anne Hutchinson, the Woman Who Defied the Puritans*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco-Harper Collins, 2004.
- LaPlante, Eve. *Marmee and Louisa: The Untold Story of Louisa May Alcott and Her Mother*. New York: Free Press-Simon & Schuster, 2012.

- Matteson, John. *Eden's Outcasts: Louisa May Alcott and Her Father*. New York: W. W. Norton, 2007.
- Melhem, D. H. *Gwendolyn Brooks: Poetry and the Heroic Voice*. UP of Kentucky, 1988.
- Nichols, Heidi L. *Anne Bradstreet: A Guided Tour of the Life and Thought of a Puritan Poet*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2006.
- Pilcher, Jane and Imelda Whelehan. *50 Key Concepts in Gender Studies*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2004.
- Reynolds, David S. *Mightier Than the Sword: Uncle Tom's Cabin and the Battle for America*. New York: W. W. Norton, 2012.
- Smith, Philip and Alexander Riley. *Cultural Theory: An Introduction*. 2nd ed. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2008.
- Wong, Hertha D. Sweet. *Louise Erdrich's Love Medicine: A Casebook*. New York: Oxford UP, 1999.

M. EQUIPMENT: technology enhanced classroom

N. GRADING METHOD: A-F

O. SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS

- Exams
- Quizzes
- Papers
- Participation

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE: (must use the outline format listed below)

I. Introduction

- A. Reading American Women's Writing
- B. Elements of American Women's Writing.
- C. Gender Studies and Criticism
- D. Cultural Criticism and Literature
- E. Writing About Literature

II. American Women Poets

- A. Defining Cultural, Historical, and Literary Background
- B. Poets, e. g.
 1. Anne Bradstreet
 2. Phyllis Wheatley
 3. Emily Dickinson
 4. Frances E. W. Harper
 5. Julia Ward Howe
 6. H. D.
 7. Marianne Moore
 8. Elizabeth Bishop
 9. Edna St. Vincent Millay
 10. Alice Dunbar-Nelson

11. Angelina Weld Grimke
12. Amy Lowell
13. Gwendolyn Brooks
14. Anne Sexton
15. Sylvia Plath
16. Adrienne Rich
17. Maxine Kumin
18. Rita Dove
19. Maya Angelou

III. American Women Short Story Writers

A. Defining Cultural, Historical, and Literary Background

B. Short Story Writers, e. g.

1. Kate Chopin
2. Charlotte Perkins Gilman
3. Sarah Orne Jewett
4. Marjory Stoneman Douglas
5. Zona Gale
6. Mary E. Wilkins Freeman
7. Mary Tappan Wright
8. Edith Maude Eaton (Sui Sin Far)
9. Clare Winger Harris
10. Katherine Anne Porter
11. Eudora Welty
12. Flannery O' Connor
13. Dorothy Parker
14. Joyce Carol Oates
15. Alice Adams
16. Ann Beattie
17. Lorrie Moore
18. Connie Willis
19. Patricia Highsmith

IV. American Women Novelists

A. Defining Cultural, Historical, and Literary Background

B. American Women Novelists, e. g.

1. Louis May Alcott
2. Lillie Devereaux Blake
3. Frances E. W. Harper
4. Harriet Beecher Stowe
5. Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward
6. Susan Warner
7. Edith Wharton
8. Willa Cather
9. Jessie Fauset
10. Josephine Herbst
11. Zora Neale Hurston
12. Nella Larsen

13. Tillie Olsen
14. Meridel LeSeur
15. Gertrude Stein
16. Anzia Yezierska
18. Julia Alvarez
19. Toni Cade Bambara
20. Sandra Cisneros
21. Louise Erdrich
22. Toni Morrison
23. Gloria Naylor
24. Cynthia Ozick
25. Ayn Rand

V. Conclusion

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: None