

Instructor: Katie Ferrell
katief@maybeckhs.org
Office Hours: Wednesday at lunch

WOMEN WRITERS Spring 2011

“Woman must not accept; she must challenge. She must not be awed by that which has been built up around her; she must reverence that woman in her which struggles for expression.” –Margaret Sanger

Course Description:

This course surveys some of the important women writers of the 19th and 20th centuries. The thematic focus is how women represent the unique issues that stem from their experiences and identities as women and as writers, as well as on how they challenge their identification. We examine how women, in particular, come to terms with contradicted and/or alienated experiences.

Texts:

Herland, by Charlotte Perkins Gilman
The Bell Jar, by Sylvia Plath
The Bluest Eye, by Toni Morrison
The Handmaid's Tale, by Margaret Atwood
Children of Men, by P.D. James

Course Expectations:

Participation is a crucial component of this seminar style class. Please come to each class having read the assigned materials. Also be prepared to discuss your ideas and/or questions. In order to foster a classroom atmosphere where all participants feel safe to voice their ideas, we will maintain a high level of respect for the opinions and feelings of others. Coursework will include three formal essays (with mandatory revisions), a final exam, in-class writing assignments, pop quizzes on the reading, and a group presentation (possible topics will be discussed in class). You will also be asked to bring extra copies of your essays to class to be used in peer review groups.

Grade Breakdown:

50%: Essays:

 15%: Essay #1

 15%: Essay #2

 20%: Essay #3

20%: Final Exam

30%: Class Participation & Homework (attendance, discussion, in-class writing, essay drafts, quizzes on assigned reading, behavior, etc.)

Policy on Late Work:

1. Late work will be accepted, but will be penalized by half a letter grade (5%) per class day after the due date, capped at four days (total deduction may not exceed 20%). However, extenuating circumstances will be taken into account.
2. If you are absent the day an assignment is due, you can email me the assignment before class to avoid losing points. You will still need to bring a printed copy of the assignment when you return to class.
3. If you are absent during a pop quiz, you will have the option of completing an alternate assignment of equal point value.
4. If you are absent, please speak to me or one of your classmates to find out what you missed.

* **NOTE:** I will give you a reading schedule for each novel or play we read. I look forward to working with all of you!