

ENG 4312 WOMEN IN LITERATURE

Summer 1 2016

Course: Eng 4312 Women in Literature
Class meets: WEB delivered course

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"Fiction is like a spider's web, attached ever so lightly perhaps, but still attached to life at all four corners." — Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*

Course description:

This course introduces students to works by and about women from historical, social, and literary perspectives; each reading will simultaneously teach you about gendered identities, which will open discussion regarding all that makes up the notion of a gendered existence, which is a sociopolitical one. Students will be exposed to different literary genres, including: short stories, poetry, and drama. Students will understand that gender is not an isolated concept, and so you will also be learning about how gender develops, which in turn, changes how women's views of themselves are reflected in their writing. Literature does not exist in a vacuum; that is, in order to fully appreciate a work of literature, the historical, philosophical, religious, and cultural scenarios under which the literature was inspired, will increase your understanding and appreciation of the works we read.

This web course is not a self-paced course. Pay close attention to due dates (and times) for all assignments. Web-delivered courses differ from face-to-face courses in that almost all contact between instructor and students and between students will be electronic. If you have not taken a Web course before this semester, or if you need to refresh your memory about the electronic requirements for an online course and about the tools you will be required to use in Blackboard, review the "Getting Started" information on our course homepage. *You are expected to be familiar with Blackboard; not knowing how Blackboard works is not an excuse for turning in work late!* ***If you have difficulties submitting an assignment, contact me immediately NOT AFTER THE DUE DATE, as notifying me of a problem after the deadline negates any opportunity for possible makeup work.***

Required Format for Turning in Assignments

Please turn in all of your assignments in either **Microsoft Word OR PDF formats**. I have a lot of trouble opening any other kind of format, and I will not accept work turned in using any other format.

Due Dates, Time, and Life in General

Assignments will have very specific due dates, but in most cases, most assignments will be due on a **SUNDAY no later than 11:59 pm**. **WARNING! DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TURN IN YOUR WORK.** As has happened in the past—many times, students

who wait until the last minute sometimes run into unforeseen problems, such as: running out of battery life, PC dies, PC is stolen, a virus hits, but none of these are valid reasons and will not be honored as excuses for turning in work late. You are given ample time in which to work in and complete these assignments ahead of time, *if you wait until the last minute, and something unforeseen happens, this is regarded as student negligence and the makeup work policy is fully negated.*

I know some of you have full time jobs (some of you have more than one job), and some of you have families, but you must negotiate your time properly, in a manner that does not sacrifice the quality of your work.

Life and work will always be a juggling act; it's up to you to take care of business.

Online Classroom Expectations

DAILY, FREQUENT CHECK-INS: You must check into Blackboard frequently/daily. I write detailed summaries of objectives for the day/week under the Announcements/email feature in Blackboard 9; it is your responsibility to read them. I will not review any assignment/lecture materials AFTER the due date.

REASONABLE TIME CHECKS: What this means is, don't contact me *late in the evenings* and expect me to respond. I have two sons (ages 7 and 3 years old), so I am in bed early and get up early. It's best to contact me via email early in the morning, or during office hours. I will always email you in a timely fashion, so look for my response as soon as you contact me. If you need to speak with me, call me during office hours, and/or leave a message. For students living in Alpine, I encourage you to stop by my office! If my office hours don't work for you, you can always make an appointment with me. I'd be happy to meet you in person!

Community decorum: In respecting others opinions, we will cultivate a virtual classroom environment that fosters communal learning. No one is allowed to bully, intimidate, or make disparaging comments/remarks. Everyone is expected to maintain a level of respect which fosters a sense of community and equitable learning. If you cannot maintain common decency, you will be barred from participating in online discussion for that session, and receive a "0" for that assignment. If you continue disrespecting others, you will be barred from the course entirely, and you will earn an "F" for the course.

Individual decorum: Online courses do share some characteristics of traditional classroom environments, but are still quite unique in their operations, especially in that success in online courses depends on individual responsibility, more so than in a traditional face-to-face classroom. You are required to master time management, as well as make a conscious decision to **CHECK IN DAILY.** In order to achieve success in this course, please ensure you do the following:

- read assignments as they are assigned. Keeping up with the reading schedule is **absolutely vital to your success in this course.** If you do not consider the reading schedule a priority, your grade will suffer because quizzes, assignments, and major papers, revolve around the reading schedule
- turn in assignments by the due dates
- check your email/ Blackboard Announcements on a *daily* basis
- participate respectfully during forums. Your input, thoughts, and ideas relative to course readings and other course materials, are an important part of this course.
- DO NOT interfere with others' ability to learn; this means, you cannot monopolize the online classroom conversation, rudely interrupt others, shame or intimidate others, or otherwise prohibit

or interrupt the learning process with disrespectful and/or disruptive behavior.

Required texts (please ensure you acquire the correct volume and edition!)

1) *Literature by Women: The Traditions in English* Volume 2, 3rd edition. Edited by Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar. ISBN#:978-0-393-93014-6. I will copy and scan any readings from our textbook FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES ONLY. AFTER THAT POINT, YOU ARE COMPLETEY RESPONSIBLE FOR PURCHASING THE CORRECT EDITION OF THE TEXTBOOK WE WILL BE USING.

2) Several other required readings and other materials will be posted under READINGS in Blackboard. Other material (such as course notes, PowerPoints, video clips, etc.) will be posted in Course Notes/handouts and/or Audio/Visual tab in Bb.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, you should be able to demonstrate knowledge of the texts, the authors and literary and social movements that produced them, and the elements of those texts, such as symbols, themes, and points of view. Students will also demonstrate the following:

Undergraduate Program Learning Outcomes

Students will be expected to complete the following state-mandated outcomes in order to successfully complete the course: The objective of the humanities and visual and performing arts in a core curriculum is to expand students' knowledge of the human condition and human cultures, especially in relation to behaviors, ideas, and values expressed in works of human imagination and thought. Through study in disciplines such as literature, philosophy, and the visual and performing arts, students will engage in critical analysis, form aesthetic judgments, and develop an appreciation of the arts and humanities as fundamental to the health and survival of any society. Students should have experiences in both the arts and Humanities.

Program Learning Outcomes

ENGLISH (UNDERGRADUATE)

Graduating students will demonstrate that they can

- Construct essays that demonstrate unity, organization, coherence, and development
- Analyze literary works by applying principles of literary criticism or theory
- Produce research papers that demonstrate the ability to locate a variety of acceptable sources, employ them effectively through quotations or paraphrases, integrate them smoothly into the writer's own prose, and document them correctly using MLA format
- Demonstrate creativity or originality of thought in written or multimedia projects
- Compare/contrast and analyze major works and periods within World, English, and American literature

Required Materials

--Internet access to Blackboard and your sulross.edu email address. Many readings/ material and important class news/updates will be sent to you via Blackboard. *It is your responsibility to*

check Blackboard 9 and your email/Announcements frequently!

Required Format for Turning in Assignments

When using Blackboard to turn in assignments, please turn in all of your assignments in either **Microsoft Word OR PDF formats**. I will not accept work turned in using any other format. Every assignment must be typed or digitally uploaded, unless otherwise noted.

Tech Assistance

If you need help with the technology when submitting an assignment, contact the Lobo Technology Assistance Center (see below) immediately. If you need technical assistance, contact the Support Staff at the Lobo Technology Assistance Center (LTAC): **Online:** Contact us (24x7x365): <http://www.sulross.edu/pages/4401.asp>. Please use your email/ domain credentials to log in. Our website (www.sulross.edu/oit) has “how to” information on using the online system, which is designed to help you avail quicker service and responses from OIT staffs. **Phone:** 432-837-8888 (x8888/8765). Hours (Subject to change): Weekday (Mon-Fri): 8am-6pm Weekend (Sat-Sun): 11am to 4 pm. **In-person:** LTAC support counters will provide in-person/ walk-in helpdesk services and technology consultation. LTAC counters are located at: BAB 101 and Library ground floor in the back of the building. Hours: 8am to 5pm (Mon- Fri). **Not knowing how to upload your work properly via Blackboard is not an excuse for not turning in assignments late.**

Absences

The instructor's policy on class attendance will be explained at the beginning of the semester or term. In accordance with the instructor's policy, the instructor has the right to penalize students who are out of compliance with the class attendance policy.

Explanation: Different Kinds of Absences

Authorized/Excused Absences(*excused but work MUST be completed BEFORE you'll be absent*): An absence because of participation in an official University activity is considered to be an authorized/excused absence. When a student has to miss a class due to an authorized University activity, it will be the **responsibility of the student to notify the instructor of the class in advance**. The department responsible for the authorized University activity will also notify instructors through the Student Life Office by providing an excused absence list to the office, but this list does not substitute the student's responsibility to notify their instructor of their impending absence. It is the student's responsibility to notify me *before* s/he will be absent, and to make arrangements to make up any assignment. You (the student) must notify me **BEFORE** you will be absent from class, not after. Work must be turned in **BEFORE** student is absent. **Failure to notify the instructor within a reasonable amount of time (not the day off or an hour or minutes before the class begins or an assignment is due) of an authorized absence negates the Makeup Policy.** Instructors will give students participating in an authorized University activity the opportunity to make up class work, including tests, within a reasonable time (one week) and at the convenience of the instructor. These absences fall under university-sponsored activities (clubs, athletics, student government, etc).

Should an instructor have an attendance policy that allows for the dropping of a student after a certain number of absences, authorized/excused absences will not be counted towards that number of absences. Any student dropped for excessive absences will receive either an “F” or a

“W” depending upon the faculty member’s discretion. **For my course, the student will receive an “F” for excessive absences.**

“Other” Absences (*possibly excused*)

These are reserved for serious cases of illness or personal/family injury and/or emergencies only, and are given at the **professor’s discretion**. *Makeup work allowed only if student notifies professor ahead of time* (a reasonable amount of time, not just prior to when class begins); student is solely responsible for completing/turning in assignment(s) within one week of absence. *If you are allowed turn in your work because of a pre-approved excuse, please follow these rules:*

1) Make arrangements to turn in your work early, if you know you will be unable to attend class. Or notify me—via email or phone call, in a reasonable amount of time that you will be absent (not AFTER class meets, not 5 mins before class meets). However, do not assume your absence will be excused.

2) Make arrangements with me to have the work turned in a later time; in the meantime, I will enforce a “0” as a placeholder grade. Generally, you will have 7 DAYS to make up the assignment; if you forget, the “0” stands. No exceptions.

Unexcused Absences (*never excused*)

The student did not turn in their work due to negligence. Negligence is defined as: the student not taking proper care in executing any and all assignments. For example: the student did not familiarize themselves with how Blackboard works. The student did not ensure their work was properly uploaded to Bb. The student did not check Announcements daily, as required. The student missed the deadline due to forgetfulness or other responsibilities getting in the way of uploading an assignment. Any work assigned/due earns “0” points. No makeup/late work allowed.

Excessive Absence Policy

--In a **MWF** course, you will earn a grade of “F”, if you have **9 TOTAL absences**, which includes excused and unexcused absences.

--In a **TTh** course, you will earn a grade of “F”, if you have **6 TOTAL absences**, which includes excused and unexcused absences.

--In any **summer course**, you will earn a grade of “F” if you have **5 TOTAL absences**, including excused and unexcused absences. For what constitutes as an absence, see the “Non-Participation Statement” below.

Distance Education (Web-course) Non-Participation Statement. Policies in effect for on-campus, traditional classroom instruction courses also apply to students enrolled in distance education courses, including Web-based and ITV courses. Non-participation and inactivity may include not logging on to the course, not submitting assignments or participating in other assigned activities as scheduled, not communicating with the instructor by phone or e-mail, and/or not following the instructor’s participation guidelines stated in the syllabus.

Sul Ross State University allows a maximum of 20% absences in a course before an instructor drops a student for excessive absences. In this online course, "excessive absences" is defined as non-participation in the course for three (3) weeks or more. Any student dropped for non-participation will receive an F in the course.

To avoid being dropped, you must participate regularly.

Participation in the course is defined as:

- logging in to the course to check activities and to read discussion boards,
- gaining access to and using supplemental materials,
- posting on discussion boards as scheduled, and
- turning in assignments in a timely manner.

Professor e-communication

I will communicate with the class through Announcements and by e-mail, so be sure to log in daily to check for announcements on the course home page and to check your Sul Ross e-mail account regularly. **REMEMBER: this is NOT a self-paced course, which means assignments and deadlines will be posted with specific deadlines and times.** You will find specific assignment details, due dates, and times in TENTATIVE ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Makeup Work

Opportunities to make up assignments are available only in extreme, urgent circumstances AND In the case of an Excused and possibly for "Other" Absences ONLY: it is your responsibility to turn in your work on or before the deadline. If the assignment is not turned in by the agreed upon deadline, the makeup work might be accepted by at 10 points off each day (weekends count) the assignment is late.

No Late Work Policy

Late work is not accepted for any reason due to **student negligence** (forgetting to turn in an assignment, forgetting to log in, not notifying your professor of impending absence, waiting until the last minute to begin assignments, not knowing how to use Blackboard, not managing your time properly, feeling exhausted after a long drive back to Alpine, etc).

Professor e-communication

I will communicate with the class through Announcements and by e-mail, so be sure to log in daily to check for announcements on the course home page and to check your Sul Ross e-mail account regularly.

Email

In an effort to maintain respect and clarity in the virtual classroom setting, please follow these guidelines when emailing your professor:

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- 1) Include a salutation (Dear Dr. Briseno)
- 2) Provide your name, class, and section
- 3) Clearly state the reason, problem/concern. Use full sentences; do a spellcheck.
- 4) Additionally, email is not the best way to teach; therefore, I do not respond to emails asking me to “look over” assignments. If you want to discuss any aspect of your work, please come to office hours.
- 5) Acknowledge that you have received my email with a simple, “Thank you” and a follow-up regarding your problem, issue, or concern; otherwise, I will be wondering whether or not your issue has been resolved.

Personal Responsibility

It is your responsibility to check Blackboard and your email/Announcements frequently! I leave detailed instructions and details in the Announcements/email feature and in the Tentative Assignment Schedule in Blackboard; it’s up to you to check in and find out what’s due, when, and how to turn in assignments. *I will not re-open links once they are closed*; as this is time consuming and a waste of precious time, so you must be aware of due dates and times.

If you are absent, do not ask me, “What did we do on the day I was absent?” I review each class day on Bb under Announcements/email; it’s your responsibility to check that every day. I will not privately re-teach the material the day you were absent.

Academic Honesty

I expect each student to strictly adhere to the rules and regulations regarding academic pursuits. The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. Please see page 82 in the SRSU **Student Handbook: for complete information.**

http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files//sites/default/files/users/docs/records_srsu/handbook_2012-2013-complete.pdf

1. “Cheating” includes:
 - a. Copying from another student’s test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs, or allowing another student to copy from same.
 - b. Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.
 - c. Collaborating, without authorization, with another person during an examination or in preparing academic work.
 - d. Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an un-administered test.
 - e. Substituting for another student; permitting any other person, or otherwise assisting any other person to substitute for oneself or for another student in the taking of an examination or test or the preparation of academic work to be submitted for academic credit.
 - f. Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test.

- g. Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of the rough and/or final versions of an assignment by a professional typist.
- h. "Plagiarism" means the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another's work or idea in one's own written work offered for credit.
- i. "Collusion" means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit.
- j. "Abuse of resource materials" means the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course materials.
- k. "Academic work" means the preparation of an essay, dissertation, thesis, report, problem, assignment, or other project that the student submits as a course requirement or for a grade.

Plagiarism Policy

As a simple guideline, if you submit your own work, you will avoid all serious types of plagiarism. Nevertheless, a responsible student should also consider the less obvious variants of plagiarism, especially when writing research papers that require citations.

Instances of plagiarism, such as submitting an essay with sentences or passages cut and pasted from an online source, a paper obtained from an online "paper mill," or colluding with others (spouses, friends, roommates, parents, etc.) will automatically fail the assignment, receive a final grade of F, and be recommended for dismissal from the university. There is no excuse for serious plagiarism. I will also regard unattributed citations – verbatim copying of another's person's work without some indication of the source – as a serious form of plagiarism. In other words, don't insert any text/idea in a paper that is not your own without also noting the source. You can email me with a question before an assignment is due, stop by my office during my office hours, or even parenthetically raise the question in your paper. *It's your responsibility to comply with principles of academic honesty; it's my responsibility to see that every student receives a fair and accurate grade.*

Here is my policy on plagiarism for this course:



The *first offense* of plagiarism, in part or in whole, will result in a failing grade on that assignment(s). The *second offense*, in part or in whole, will result in a final grade of "F," and the student will be recommended for dismissal from the university. The student has the right to appeal to the Dept. Chair, then Provost, and eventually to the Provost and VP for Academic and Student Affairs before imposition of the penalty. The decision of the Provost and VP for Academic Affairs is final.

ADA Accommodation

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Grace Duffy in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P. O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX 79832. The telephone number is 432-837-8203.

Graded Course Requirements

Online Discussion Boards and Daily Work.....30%

Students will respond online in Discussion Board sessions. You will respond to questions I assign based on reading/course material summarize course readings/materials. You will be required to participate in discussion boards during the semester, usually with specific content, length, and participation requirements. In order to receive credit for discussion boards, **you must post a minimum of three times per discussion board post assignment:** an initial posting responding to the assignment prompt and two peer responses (one response each to two other students). Once all three minimum required postings have been uploaded, you will receive a grade based off content, quality, and insight. You may respond to more than two persons, if you choose. You should continue to read discussion boards even after you have completed your postings. Generally, your postings should be approximately 100 words and must be comprised of statements that are on topic and of a depth and a scope sufficient to elicit thoughtful responses from your colleagues. **Please end your initial posting with your name.** Responses to other students must begin with that person's name; for example, a response might begin "Thomas, I agree that Voice of the Shuttle is a good place to go for critical theory resources, but I found a better source on the Internet at" Responses to the initial postings of other students that essentially say nothing but "I agree with Thomas" are unacceptable; your response should add to the discussion.

IMPORTANT: All postings must be in paragraph form, comprised of complete sentences, and couched in language that is courteous and respectful of others' opinions. Topics for discussion are usually centered around specific readings.

Students will also have various daily work assignments, such as short essay assignments (a few will be assigned), writing a precis for selected readings, writing journal entries based on readings/course materials (there is a specific method for writing your Journals; this info can be found under Journals in Bb. They will not be assigned on a daily basis); as well as writing a few short reports, which are mini-essays ranging in length of 3-5 pages.

Quizzes20%

Quizzes will consist of questions that will test your basic knowledge of reading assignments (short answer-questions); other times, you will answer only one question (All or Nothing Quiz). All quizzes will be based off previously assigned readings and/or material previously assigned /discussed.

Research Essay and PowerPoint

Presentation.....50%

Students will write one major research-based essay (8-10 pages in length) on any topic/subject previously discussed over the semester. Topics include any writer, problem, social movement, reading, etc. we studied over the term. As a complement to their written ideas, students will also create one PowerPoint presentation which will function as further insight and explanation to the ideas discussed in the essay portion of the assignment. Specific information about this assignment will be posted at a later date.

Grades

I do not change final grades *unless* I made an error calculating your grade. Always check your work and the corresponding percentages and grades that make up your final semester average before emailing me with grade concerns. Make sure that any possible make up work has been uploaded.

- A 90-100:** Outstanding performance in mastering of the subject. Achievement of superior quality. (4 grade : points per credit hour)
- B 80-89:** Consistent performance in achievement beyond the usual requirements of the course. Achievement of high quality. (3 grade points per credit hour)
- C 70-79:** Performance of a satisfactory nature. Achievement demonstrating an understanding of the subject sufficient for continued study in the discipline. (2 grade points per credit hour)
- D 60-69:** Minimally acceptable performance. Achievement demonstrating below average understanding of the basic elements of the course. (1 grade point per credit hour)
- F 50-59:** Achievement at a level insufficient to demonstrate understanding of the basic elements of the course. (0 grade points)

Incomplete grade(I):The grade of "I" is given by the instructor upon consultation with the student. The work to be completed and deadline for completion must be specified on the grade report to the Director of Records and Registration. A student may have a maximum of one academic year in which to remove an T during which time the "I" will not be calculated in the student's grade point average. f the work is not completed by the deadline set by the instructor, the "I" will be converted to an "F" and will be calculated n the student's grade point average for the semester in which the "I" was given. Normally, an incomplete grade will be awarded only for situations such as illness, family emergencies, or unusual circumstances which prevent a student from completing a course in a semester or summer term. Incomplete grades must be removed prior to graduation.

Withdrawal grade (W): The grade of "W" is given for courses dropped after the 12th/4th class days through the last day to drop a course with a "W" as published in the University's calendar. Students who wait until the published deadline must have complied with the class attendance policy of this catalog. An instructor is not obligated to recommend a "W" for a class if excessive absences have occurred. Students will not be permitted to drop a course or withdraw from the University after the published deadline.

Final Note

It's worth noting that there's a predictable and positive correlation between careful time management and academic success. I encourage you to make a wise decision as to what kind of student you will be early on and to plan accordingly. *No extra points, no extra credit work will be assigned, so don't ask.* **You are completely responsible for meeting all deadlines and keeping track of any changes made to the course schedule.** You have several resources made available to you to ensure your success in this course, so I strongly encourage you to take advantage of them.

You will get the grade you earn, not the grade I give you.

Summer 1 2016 Academic Calendar

For *detailed information* regarding assignments, due dates, etc., please read **Announcements** in Blackboard. I review what we did during class, what's for homework, and relay any other important information under Announcements on a daily basis. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK ANNOUNCEMENTS ON A DAILY BASIS; FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN EARNING A LOWER COURSE GRADE.**

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|-------------------|---|
| May 31, Tuesday | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening of Residence Halls, noon• Last day to register without a late fee |
| June 1, Wednesday | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First day of classes• Late registration and schedule changes begin |
| June 3, Friday | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Last day for late registration and schedule changes |
| June 6, Monday | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fourth class day• Last day to drop a course or withdraw without creating an academic record |
| June 16, Thursday | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mid-term |
| June 23, Thursday | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Last day to drop a course or withdraw from Summer I with a "W." Drops and withdrawals must be processed and in the Registrar's Office by 4 p.m. |
| July 4, Monday | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fourth of July Holiday |
| July 5, Tuesday | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final examinations, end of term |

July 6, Wednesday

- Summer I students check out of residential halls
- Final grades are due; grades must be submitted by noon