

Women in Literature Online : Course Syllabus



"No entertainment is so cheap as reading; nor any pleasure so lasting"
- Lady Mary Wortley Montagu

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Hours:

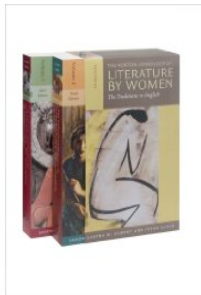
English 115/ Women's Studies 115 at Ohlone College

Students may receive either English credits or Women's Studies credits for this class.

Books:

The readings for this class include various short selections (such as poems, short stories, speeches, excerpts from longer works) and four novels: *Pride and Prejudice*, *Jane Eyre*, *The Awakening*, and *Quicksand*. *The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women*, 3rd edition, includes three of these novels and all the shorter reading selections. You have several choices about how you can buy the books and/or access the readings for this class:

- 1) Buy the following two books:



The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women, 3rd edition by Gilbert and Gubar (NOTE: Be sure to get the 3rd edition which comes in two volumes.)



Pride and Prejudice, by Jane Austen (NOTE: You can also read this novel online!)

- 2) Buy one book, *Quicksand*, and read all the other selections and novels online. [NOTE: No online version of *Quicksand* exists.]

3) Check out from the library (or buy) the four novels. Read all the other selections online.

If you select Option 1, the easiest way to get your books is to order them online through the [Ohlone College bookstore](#). The Ohlone Bookstore has bundled *The Norton Anthology* along with *Pride and Prejudice*, so you can buy these as a set (option #1). But you can also find these books on other online sites, in the library, or in a good bookstore. Let me know immediately if you have any problems getting the books for the class; I often have extra copies of the novels (especially *Pride and Prejudice* and *Jane Eyre*) that I would be happy to give away. Any edition of each novel is acceptable, but be sure to buy the third edition of the *Norton Anthology*.

Course Description:

The main objective of this course is to increase students' understanding and appreciation of literature written by women. We will read fiction and nonfiction written by women from the 1600's to the present. We will examine how, through literature, these writers express the problems, experiences, and lives of women and of women writers.

Class Format:

This class is taught entirely online--no in-person meetings required. To be successful in this class, you should have the following:

- Access to a computer with a word processing program and internet connection
- An e-mail address
- Basic computer skills: know how to use a word processing program to create documents, to copy and paste, download and save files
- Basic internet skills: be able to compose and send e-mail, use a web browser
- Independent work skills: carry out directions without constant supervision, budget time, complete work according to a schedule, and ask questions promptly when problems arise

It is highly recommended that you take the two quizzes [Are you ready to learn online?](#) to understand the technical and study skills required to do well in an online class.

This class is taught using WebCT course management software. In order to familiarize yourself with online learning and with the WebCT software, it is strongly recommended that you review the information on the [Ohlone Online website](#), especially How to Login to WebCT, Student Orientation to WebCT, and the Student Resources page. If you have any problems logging on to the class or using WebCT, contact the [Online Help Desk](#) as soon as possible.

Class Work:

Plan to spend about **9-12 hours each week** doing work for this course. This includes about 3 hours per week "attending class" by logging on to the website daily to read the assignments and the postings in the Discussion Area. You should plan about another 6-8 hours to complete the assigned readings and compose a weekly online discussion. Most of the work, such as reading, can be done offline. Also, deadlines will be set each week for completing reading assignments and for participating in online class discussions. Students must meet these deadlines to receive full credit for their work.



Weekly Readings

Each week you will be assigned readings from the literature, as well as background reading about the women writers and their lives. Readings will be supplemented by visiting websites, viewing videos, or listening to recordings. Plan to read approximately 100 pages per week.



Recommended Reading or Viewing

Recommended reading or viewing is most often a link to a website or webpage with background information about the readings or visuals to enhance your understanding of the literature. Click on these links--or not.



Writing Tips

Look for the weekly writing tip, posted as a separate page under each week's assignment page. These writing tips explain various conventions for writing about literature, such as how to quote, how to cite the works we will read, or how to effectively integrate quotes into a literary analysis. One writing tip is included each week before the midterm to help prepare for the graded essay.



Online Discussions

Each week you will write a response to the readings and post your response in the discussion area. Sometimes, you will also be asked to write a response to your classmates' responses. This is how we will discuss the literature as a class. Plan to write one well written page (250 words minimum) each week.



Midterm Exam

On the midterm, students must write two essays analyzing the readings to date. This an opportunity for each student to reflect on the readings in-depth.



Final Exam

Like the midterm exam, on the final exam students must write two essays analyzing the readings in the class since the midterm.

Student Conduct:

Since you will be communicating with the instructor and with other students online, you must be familiar with netiquette. Read the [Core Rules for Netiquette](#) and know that students who violate these rules, especially by perpetuating "flame wars" or by being rude in an online discussion, will have their messages deleted or, if after warnings their conduct does not improve, will be asked to leave the class.

Also, since you will be writing about literature, you should be familiar with quoting and citing sources and know how to avoid plagiarism. For a quick review, read [Plagiarism: What It is and How to Recognize and Avoid it](#). This class is structured so that students can--and should--use their own ideas, in reference to the literature we read. But if you feel the need to research, always quote when you use someone else's words and always acknowledge your sources of information when you use someone else's ideas. It is never acceptable to copy ideas or cut and paste words from others' writing. Students who plagiarize will most likely fail the class.

Please read one professor's response to a fictional student who plagiarized a paper in an English class to understand why plagiarism is considered a serious academic offense, one that defeats the purpose of getting an education: [Dear Plagiarist](#). Personally, I share this professor's feelings and beliefs about plagiarism--students, particularly at this advanced level, should be capable of developing their own ideas in response to the literature and, if they feel the need to consult other sources, should know how to use these wisely and with documentation, if need be. Students who plagiarize on weekly discussion posts or on essays will have a letter placed in their

academic file and will not receive credit for the assignment, nor be allowed to redo the work.

Please consult with the teacher if you have any questions about how to properly cite sources or if you are in doubt as to whether or not you might be unintentionally plagiarizing.

Grades:

To be successful in this class, students need good reading and writing skills. The weekly readings and online discussions, as well as the writing tips and the teacher's comments each week will focus on literary analysis.

Online Discussions: 20% (150 points possible)

Grades will be determined by the student's complete and timely participation each week. That is, if a student posts in response to the week's assignment, meets the deadline, and fulfills the minimum writing requirements, he or she will receive full credit. Think of this as class discussion--make a good faith effort to respond thoughtfully to the literature and to classmates' ideas, just as you would in a traditional classroom. Late posts will lose one point for each day late.

Exams: 80%

- Midterm Exam: 40% (200 points possible)

- Final Exam: 40% (200 points possible)

Grades for the midterm and final exams will be determined by the student's ability to thoughtfully address a given topic and to effectively express ideas in writing. That is, unlike the online discussions, students will be evaluated on their ability to write as well as their ideas about the literature. Each student will receive advice--as a class and individually--about how to write well on the exams.

Instructor Contact:

Email is the best way to contact me. I check my email at least twice a day: once in the early morning and once in the late afternoon or evening. I can usually respond to an email within 24 hours. On the weekends, however, I may not always be able to check my email. Once you are registered for the class, you should email me from inside WebCT. If you are having problems with WebCT, though, you can always email me through Ohlone: akuehner@ohlone.edu.

You may also phone me at my campus number: (510) 979-7436. If I am not in, leave a voicemail message. Of course, you are welcome to drop to see me by during office hours.

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