

English 355-01E: Women Writers
Course syllabus- Spring 2015
Dr. Tabettha Adkins
Texas A&M University- Commerce

Class space: Hall of Languages 325
Class Time: MWF 1:00 PM- 1:50 PM
Professor e-mail address: Tabetha.Adkins@tamuc.edu
Office phone: (903) 886-5269
Office location: Hall of Languages 229
Office hours: Monday: 10 AM- 11:30 AM, 2PM- 5PM
Wednesday: 10 AM- 11:30 AM
Friday: 10 AM- 11:30 AM
Tuesday and Thursday: by appointment

Course Information

Textbooks Required:

Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*
Kate Chopin, *The Awakening*
Louise Erdrich, *Tracks*
Nella Larsen, *Passing*
Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis*

Additional required readings available on eCollege:

“Homecoming”
“Toma de Nombre”
“Goblin Market”
“The Yellow Wallpaper”
“Why I Wrote ‘The Yellow Wallpaper’”
“Barbie Doll”
“Recitatif”
“Summer of My Korean Soldier”
“How It Feels To Be Forcibly Fed”

Course description: ENG 355- Women Writers. A study of literature written by women. This course may cover specific historical periods (e.g. U.S. or Latin American texts after 1950), cultural groups (e.g., Black, Chicana, Asian-American, Native American) or specific genres (e.g. science fiction, poetry). The course may be repeated once when the course emphasis changes.
Prerequisite: English 1302.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students enrolled in ENG 355 will demonstrate that they:

- can write and/or speak critically about the literature we read in the class

- can identify the important elements of texts we read including characters, setting, plot
- recognize important themes found in the texts we'll read in the class
- can write and/or speak critically about the themes found in the texts we'll read in the class

Course Requirements

Instructional Methods/ Activities/ Assessments

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is an important element of successfully completing this course, but I do not take attendance. Rather, I give a daily quiz. You can expect these quizzes to cover the assigned reading for the day or some other element of the course in cases when there is no assigned reading. Sometimes these quizzes will be “open book”; other times, they will require you to recall elements of the reading without the text. The quizzes help me determine (1) whether you are completing and understanding the assigned reading and (2) whether you are in class on time. Quizzes cannot be made up, so you must be there at the beginning of class to take the quiz. I will not stay after class to give you a quiz. Quizzes cannot be taken in my office. But the good news is that I will drop your lowest three quiz grades at the end of the semester. That means you have three “freebies”—these can be days when you are absent, didn’t understand the text, etc. Use these three freebies wisely.

I reserve the right to change this policy if it is not effective for our class.

Assignments:

Daily quizzes- detailed above under attendance policy. Quizzes are worth 20% of your final grade, and your lowest three quiz scores will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Participation- You intend to come to class faithfully and on time, complete the reading, show up to scheduled one-on-one conferences, and make contributions to class discussion, right? Then you should expect to receive full credit (10% of your final grade) for participation.

Response Papers- You will receive a prompt for each of these response papers. The prompt will clarify (1) the topic you should write about, (2) how long the response paper should be, and (3) how much detail is expected in your answer. These papers are your opportunity to show that you have deeply engaged with course readings and understand these readings and how we read them as contemporary, critical readers. You will write three response papers. They are

each worth 10% of your grade for a total of 30%. These response papers are due (1) Monday Feb 16, (2) Friday March 27, and (3) Wednesday April 22.

Midterm- Your midterm exam will be distributed to you after class on February 23 via eCollege. You will have one week to complete the exam—it is due *Monday, March 2* by 1:00 (class time). The exam will ask you to quote course texts to support your answers. Class discussion will help determine the midterm questions, so you will want to be sure and engage in our discussion. The midterm directions will be more detailed than this description. The midterm is worth 15% of your final grade.

TED Talk- Visit <http://www.ted.com/about/our-organization> to find out all about TED talks and what they are, how TED started, and the goals of TED. The point of a TED talk is to share information and help the audience become smarter and more informed on a very specific topic. Your final assignment for this class is to choose a topic related to the class and inform your classmates about that topic. Notice that I say “inform”—this talk should not repeat what your classmates already know. This talk should elevate our discussion and understanding of an element of the class. Don’t worry: we will work on this together, and we’ll visit the library to get their help, too.

When you watch TED talks, you’ll notice that the speakers don’t read a script—they actually talk. They typically make use of a teleprompter with notes. You will give your talk within the same context: you can use one piece of paper (a big post-it I’ll supply) as your teleprompter and nothing else. Don’t read to us; *talk* to us.

Depending on how many students enroll in the class, we will give TED talks April 30-May 6.

TED talk reflection- You will be asked to write a reflection of your TED talk experience during our final exam time, which is Friday, May 15 at 10:30 AM in our classroom.

Grading Scale:

90%-100%= A, 80-89%= B, 70-79%= C, 60-69%= D, 59% & below= F

Here is how your grade will be determined and the deadlines:

Assignment	% of grade	Deadlines
Daily quizzes	20%	Daily
Participation	10%	-
Response papers	3 @ 10% each= 30%	Monday Feb 16 Friday March 27 Wednesday April 22
Midterm	15%	Monday March 2

“Ted Talk”	20%	(at latest) April 30- May 6
Talk reflection	5%	In-class during final exam time- Friday May 18 at 10:30 AM

Technology Requirements

You will need access to the Internet and a printer.

All assignments, with the exception of daily quizzes, must be typed and printed.

You will need to access the course eCollege shell space for readings (with the exception of the 5 books.)

Communication and Support

The very best way to contact me is to send me an e-mail at Tabetha.Adkins@tamuc.edu.

I am also for meeting during my office hours (listed at the beginning of the syllabus) and by appointment. My office is located at Hall of Languages 229. Appointments scheduled through e-mail are appreciated.

I can be reached via telephone during my office hours. The number is (903) 886-5269.

Course Policies and Procedures

Academic Dishonesty/ Plagiarism:

Professors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion. (Texas A&M University- Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b [1,2,3]).

Plagiarism isn't simply the use of another source's words without giving credit to that source. In fact, this issue is far more complicated. For example:

1. If you write an entire paragraph based on information from a source and only cite that source at the end of the paragraph, this practice can be considered a form of plagiarism.
2. If you use an author's idea without crediting the author, this practice can be considered a form of plagiarism.

3. If you turn in an essay you've used in another course, you can be accused of plagiarism. Yes, you can plagiarize yourself!
4. If you buy a paper from an online "paper mill," this is definitely plagiarism.
5. If someone writes your paper for you, this is definitely plagiarism.
6. If you "lift" sentences, phrases, or paragraphs from a source (online, a book, a peer's paper, etc.) without giving credit to the source, that is definitely plagiarism.

Some tips for avoiding plagiarism:

1. Take good notes so you'll know which sources are making which claims.
2. If you find information in three or more sources, that information is probably considered "common knowledge" and does not need to be cited.
3. Start working on your assignments early to avoid temptation to purchase a paper from a "paper mill" in an act of desperation.
4. If you run out of time on an assignment and are tempted to purchase from a "paper mill," talk to me. Chances are, I'll give you an extension if you need one.
5. Ask for help if you're confused. I'm happy to help you, and the writing center is staffed with tutors trained in helping students with these issues.

My promise to you:

I promise to *never* use turnitin.com or other proprietary tools like it because these programs make money off your work without compensating you. Here's how it works: A university pays turnitin.com for its services (with your tuition dollars). Teachers place student papers in the program's "bank," and the program compares that paper with other papers existing in the bank. At that point, the student's paper becomes part of the bank. Therefore, turnitin.com and other tools are making money from this bank full of papers written by uncompensated students. For more information on this issue, see this article in the Chronicle of Higher Education: <http://chronicle.com/article/Plagiarism-Detection-Tool/29885>.

I also promise, however, that I take academic dishonesty very seriously. If I catch a student blatantly and purposefully using another writer's words, that student should expect to fail the course.

Help and information: For great information about plagiarism and how to avoid it, visit this site on Purdue University's Online Writing Lab (OWL) page: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>. I am, of course, always available to talk through these issues, as well.

Grievance Procedure:

If you have concerns about the class or about me as an instructor, please speak to me about those concerns. If you are not satisfied with the outcome of our

conversation, the next person in the chain of command is the Department Head of Literature and Languages, Dr. Hunter Hayes.

Other Course Policies:

1. I do not accept late work.
2. You must turn in all assignments in order to pass the course.
3. In-class quizzes cannot be made up unless you have been granted a university excused absences (for representing the university for sports, student leadership, music, etc.)

University Procedures

ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

Course Calendar

This schedule might change throughout the semester to accommodate for student needs. I'll let you know about any changes in writing.

Week 1	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
	January 19 No class Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday	January 21 Go over syllabus	January 23 "Barbie Q" (I'll give out in class Wednesday)
Week 2	January 26 "Homecoming" (available in eCollege)	January 28 "Toma De Nombre" (available in eCollege)	January 30 "Goblin Market" (available in eCollege)
Week 3	Feb 2 "Goblin Market" and reading with a "lens."	Feb 4 Discuss Response papers	Feb 6 Intro <i>Passing</i>
Week 4	Feb 9 <i>Passing</i>	Feb 11 <i>Passing</i>	Feb 13 <i>Passing</i>
Week 5	Feb 16 Response paper 1 due Introduce <i>The Awakening</i>	Feb 18 <i>The Awakening</i>	Feb 20 <i>The Awakening</i>
Week 6	Feb 23 <i>The Awakening</i>	Feb 25 Midterm conferences	Feb 17 Midterm conferences
Week 7	March 2 Midterm due "The Yellow Wallpaper" (available in eCollege)	March 4 "Why I Wrote 'The Yellow Wallpaper'" (available in eCollege)	March 6 Barbie doll
Week 8	March 9	March 11	March 13

	"Recitatif" (available in eCollege)	"Summer of My Korean Soldier" (available in eCollege)	"How It Feels To Be Forcibly Fed" (available in eCollege)
Spring Break! March 16-20			
Week 9	March 23 <i>Persepolis</i>	March 25 <i>Persepolis</i>	March 27 Response 2 due <i>Persepolis</i>
Week 10	March 30 <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>	April 1 <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>	April 3 <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>
Week 11	April 6 <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>	April 8 Conferences	April 10 Conferences
Week 12	April 13 talk about final presentations and papers	April 15 <i>Tracks</i>	April 17 <i>Tracks</i>
Week 13	April 20 <i>Tracks</i>	April 22 Response 3 due Talk prep	April 24 Makeup day
Week 14	April 27 Talk prep	April 29 Ted Talks	April 30 Ted Talks
Week 15	May 4 Ted Talks	May 6 Ted Talks	May 8 No class (Celebration of Student Writing)