

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

ENGL 290: WOMEN IN LITERATURE

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: ENGL 290 Women in Literature

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2017

D. Effective Term: Fall 2017

E. Sponsoring Department: English

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture: 3
Laboratory: 0
Out of class student work per week: 6

H. Prerequisites/Corequisites: ENGL 111 English Composition I

I. Laboratory Fees: None

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair at time of approval: Susan Arvay, Susan.Arvey@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite: ENGL 111 English Composition I. This course explores how women's roles have been defined in literature and how writers have both affirmed and questioned traditional notions of gender and sexuality. It critically examines past and present histories and stories--personal and national, cultural and political--to enable students to gain an appreciative understanding of the ways writers have approached a variety of issues, including traditional ideas regarding "female" work, attitudes and identities. The course will also examine ways in which writers have resisted and/or subverted conventional notions of women's gender and sexuality. Assigned texts may include novels, memoirs, poetry, and film, from a variety of cultural and historical contexts. The course will analyze themes such as voice, identity, empowerment, family, violence, the body, and the intersections between gender, race, class, and sexual orientation.

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. Women in Literature provides students with an opportunity to study literature by and about women. It is a course typically featured in college English departments.
- B. This course does not have a Lab component.
- C. This course generally transfers as a Humanities/English Literature or Global and Cultural Awareness general education course.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course serves as a General Education course in Humanities/English Literature and Global Cultural Awareness
- C. This course meets a diversity-based English elective requirement in the English AA degree and serves as an Option Elective in the Women and Gender Studies Option of the AA Liberal Arts program.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Gender Roles and Sexuality
- B. Stereotypes and archetypes
- C. Voice
- D. Race, class, and sexual orientation
- E. Family
- F. Beauty
- G. Rape and other forms of violence
- H. Feminist literary criticism
- I. Empowerment, independence, and freedom

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze literary and cultural texts by women within the historical and social context of gender, both orally and in writing (GE-NJ 1, 6, 8, *)
2. Use textual evidence to support logical and persuasive claims in writing (GE-NJ 1, 6, *)

3. Demonstrate how women writers' responses to historical events and social structures are influenced by their time, culture, and perspective (GE-NJ 1, 7, 8)

(*Embedded critical thinking)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

SEE ABOVE

C. Assessment Instruments

Given the outcomes described above, the following assessment methods may be used:

1. research papers
2. demonstrations
3. essays
4. journals
5. response papers
6. discussion questions
7. portfolios

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. Essays that communicate effectively in standard English with attention to grammar, mechanics, and the finer points of writing style
- B. projects
- C. exams
- D. presentations
- E. discussion questions
- F. reading quizzes
- G. class participation
- H. response papers
- I. journals

Given the goals and outcomes described above, the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course include:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. guest speakers
- D. student oral presentations
- E. student collaboration
- F. independent study

VIII. Texts and Materials

Samples of specific texts are:

- A. Samina Ali, *Madras on Rainy Days*
- B. Dorothy Allison, *Two or Three Things I Know for Sure*
- C. Julia Alvarez, *In the Time of the Butterflies*
- D. Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice or Persuasion*
- E. Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home*
- F. Jennifer Finney Boylan, *She's Not There*
- G. Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre*
- H. Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*
- I. Kate Chopin, *The Awakening*
- J. Frouzeh Dumas, *Funny in Farsi*
- K. Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *The Yellow Wallpaper*
- L. Lucy Greely, *Autobiography of a Face*
- M. Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
- N. Henrik Ibsen, *Hedda Gabler*
- O. Audre Lorde, *Zami*
- P. Anchee Min, *Red Azalea*
- Q. Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*
- R. Bharati Mukherjee, *The Tree Bride*
- S. Sylvia Plath, *The Bell Jar*
- T. Sapphire, *Push*
- U. Yukiru Sugisaki, *The Candidate for Goddess*
- V. Amy Tan, *Saving Fish From Drowning*
- W. Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth*
- X. Alice Walker, *The Color Purple*
- Y. Jeannette Winterson, *The Passion*
- Z. Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway or A Room of One's Own*

Samples of specific films:

- A. *Bend It Like Beckham*
- B. *The Contender*
- C. *A Girl Like Me: The Gwen Araujo Story*
- D. *The Heidi Chronicles*
- E. *If These Walls Could Talk*
- F. *Iron Jawed Angels*
- G. *The Magdalene Sisters*
- H. *Mona Lisa Smile*
- I. *Thelma and Louise*

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

IX. Resources

Students will need to use library databases and other library resources for critical research assignments if the individual instructor chooses to assign a research project.

X. Honors Options

There is no Honors Option for this course.