In this course, we will critically examine the production of literature by women for representations of cultural, historical, legal, social, and political genderization. We will explore how gender identity is defined within these texts, and other spheres of identity that influence subject formation such as ethnicity, race, socio-economics, and sexual orientation. As a class, we will attempt to master discourses pertinent to studying women’s literature, specifically, and literature as a whole. We will ask questions such as: how is “woman” defined in these texts? What is the role of literature in describing the different subject positions women embody? How do these texts define the role of women’s bodies and psyches within socio-political contexts? To assist in answering these questions, students are responsible for one class presentation in which they present on a chosen author from the course reading list. Students will also write one mid-term paper on a topic of their choice. In addition, a unique, original full length final paper that grapples with the concepts we have discussed over the course of the semester will be due as the semester closes. This course requires students to have fulfilled CORE CURRICULUM requirements for English prior to enrollment.

Course Objectives

- Master discourses pertinent to studying women’s literature
- Critically engage representations of genderization in conjunction with other elements of intersectionality
- Explore the scholarly and creative writings by “women” to discern themes, motifs, and trends in this field

Reading List

- Allison, Dorothy. Bastard Out of Carolina.
- Ambert, Alba. The Anarchist’s Daughter.
- Garcia, Diana. When Living was a Labor Camp.
- Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. The Yellow Wallpaper.
- Hurston, Zora Neale. Their Eyes Were Watching God.
- Kincaid, Jamaica. Lucy.
- Kingston, Maxine Hong. Woman Warrior.
- Malladi, Amulya. Serving Crazy with Curry.
- Trujillo, Carla. What Night Brings.
Grades and Assignments

- Class Participation 100 points (20% of final grade)
- Online Responses and Quizzes 100 points (20% of final grade)
- Midterm Paper (3-5 pages) 100 points (20% of final grade)
- Group Oral Presentation 50 points (15% of final grade)
- Final Research Paper (5-8 pages) 150 points (25% of final grade)

500 points = 100%

Letter Grade | Point Ranges
--- | ---
A+ | 470 - 500
A | 430 - 469
A- | 400 - 429
B+ | 370 - 399
B | 330 - 369
B- | 300 - 329
C+ | 270 - 299
C | 230 - 269
C- | 200 - 229
D+ | 170 - 199
D | 130 - 169
D- | 100 - 129
F | 0 - 99

*Grades will not be given over the phone or internet. Extra Credit Assignments will be made available.

Attendance: Participation is key to a successful course. As such, students are permitted 2 unexcused absences. Additional absences will result in a lowering of their final grade by one third of a letter grade per absence. Tardiness, or habitual lateness (arriving more than 5 minutes after class), is strongly discouraged. Six late arrivals will be counted as one absence. Arrival more than ten minutes after class can result in not being allowed access to class. Arrival more than 15 minutes after class will result in an absence for the day. If you do arrive within the allowed five minutes, please choose the nearest open seat to the door.

Classroom Policies: Our classroom should be a zone free from racist, sexist, homophobic, and other forms of derogatory language and conduct. We should all aim to create a space where students feel comfortable to speak and participate. As well as following the Student Code of Conduct, outlined in the UTSA Course Catalog, we are all expected to treat one another with respect and courtesy. In this light, cell phones should be turned off prior to entering class; only students who request special allowances due to pressing circumstances will be allowed to have cell phones out and on, but they must be set to vibrate mode. Students are also required to come to class prepared and ready to learn. You are expected to complete all reading assignments prior to class and have all hand-in assignments ready for submission. Late work is not accepted without penalty, if at all. Guests are only permitted in class if pre-approved by the faculty.

Professionalism in the Classroom: The Provost’s statement on “Civility in the Classroom” states that “students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. To assure all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class.” While diversity of opinion is encouraged in this class, we must also seek to engage one another respectfully and professionally. In this light, all members of class should refrain from disruptive behaviors such as persistent ringing of cell phones or beepers, inappropriate challenges to the professor’s authority, excessive tardiness or leaving class early, making offensive remarks, missing deadlines, prolonged chatting, reading newspapers during class, sleeping, talking out of turn, dominating discussion, shuffling backpacks and notebooks, and overt inattentiveness are discourages (all examples listed in the Provost’s statement on “Civility in the Classroom”).
**Electronic Technology in the Classroom:** Cell phone use is not permitted in class. If you need to use your cell phone, please leave the classroom to do so. If you have extenuating circumstances, please notify the instructor and you will be allowed to have your phone set to vibrate but must leave the classroom to take the call. Texting is distracting and therefore discouraged in these special circumstances. Laptops are permitted only for in-class use such as taking notes. Web-surfing, checking emails and Facebook, and instant messaging are not permitted in class. If you plan to use a laptop in class, please notify the instructor of record and make your computer screen easily visible to the instructor during class.

**Plagiarism:** According to Section 203.b of the UTSA Code of Conduct Handbook, “Scholastic dishonesty” is any form of cheating or plagiarism that violates the Student Code of Conduct. Scholastic Dishonesty or academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion without faculty consent, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or the attempt to commit such an act. Any instance of plagiarism that is found will result in an immediate “F” for the assignment, potentially a failing grade for the course, and judicial action. If you are concerned at any point in the semester that you might be broaching one of these areas, please speak to me prior to handing in your work so that we can determine how to remedy the situation.

**Disabilities**
Students who require special accommodations for in-class work must register with Disability Services. Please visit www.utsa.edu/disabilities for more information.

Description of Assignments:

**Class Participation:** In order to create lively and unique class discussions, all students are expected to assist in creating a positive environment conducive to learning. Your input is valuable to every discussion, and we should all plan to speak at least once per class. However, negative behavior and/or derogatory comments will negatively impact your grade. Please review “Classroom Policies” and “Notes on Professionalism” for further information on behavior/commentary guidelines.

**Online Responses and Quizzes:** By Monday at 12pm, all students are required to submit a 150-250 word response on Blackboard about the readings for the week. You might choose to discuss a theme, motif, or character you find interesting. You might also wish to provide a close reading of a passage/scene/line/etc. You are also permitted to creatively engage one of the texts to discuss something you find interesting. In addition, quizzes might be given at any point in the semester. These quizzes are your chance to show your knowledge of the texts, the characters, motifs, scenes, and knowledge of important passages.

**Group Presentation:** In this assignment, you and several classmates will edify the class on an author whose work we read in this course. You are expected to provide pertinent biographical information, a bibliography of their work, and any professional work they have engaged. There should be a handout for every member of class providing an overview of your presentation, as well as a picture of the author. Part of your grade is dependent on this handout and part on the presentation. In this light, visual aids are strongly encouraged, but please ensure to have all necessary equipment ready for your presentation. Your groups is required to meet with the faculty to discuss your presentation prior to its due date.

**Midterm Paper:** In this 3-5 page paper, you have the opportunity to explore any aspect of any text we have read in class up to and including the text we read on the day the paper is due. The paper must be written in MLA format, including 1 inch margins all around, size 12 Times New Roman font, and no extra spacing between paragraphs. Your paper must be stapled.

**Final Research Paper:** In this 5-8 page paper, you will explore a topic of your choice as it pertains to women’s literature and the themes we have discussed in this course. As part of this assignment, you will be able to conduct research based on your topic and engage any text from the course with this information. The paper must be written in MLA format, including 1 inch margins all around, size 12 Times New Roman font, and no extra spacing between paragraphs. A timeline of due dates are available on the Final Research Paper handout. You are required to submit this paper to the Women’s Studies Undergraduate Scholarship.
**Schedule**

08/25 – Welcome to Class! Overview of course, Poetry, Critical Literacy, and Engaged Readers

08/30 – “The Yellow WallPaper,” Class Handouts and When Living Was A Labor Camp Sections: “Camp Observations,” “An Orchard in the Fall,” “When Living was a Camp Called Montgomery,” and “Serpentine Voices”

09/01 – When Living Was a Labor Camp Sections: “Breasting the Rogue,” “It’s Not About Race,” and “Gleanings” *Presentation

09/06 – Borderlands Chapters 1, 2, and 3 *Presentation

09/08 – Borderlands Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7

09/13 – Their Eyes Were Watching God Chapters 1-6, “In Search of Our Mother’s…” and *Presentation

09/15 – Their Eyes Were Watching God Chapters 7-14

09/20 – Their Eyes Were Watching God Chapters 15 - Finish

09/22 – The Anarchist’s Daughter Chapters 1-6* Presentation

09/27 – The Anarchist’s Daughter Chapters 7-14

09/29 – The Anarchist’s Daughter Chapters 15-Finish, Author’s Notes, and Acknowledgements

10/04 – Bastard Out of Carolina Chapters 1-5 *Presentation

10/06 – Bastard Out of Carolina Chapters 6-10  **MIDTERM PAPER DUE**

10/08 – Bastard Out of Carolina Chapters 11-16

10/13 – Bastard Out of Carolina Chapters 17-Finish

10/18 – What Night Brings Pages 1-62 *Presentation

10/20 – What Night Brings Pages 62-122

10/25 – What Night Brings Pages 122-180

10/27 – What Night Brings Pages 180- Finish

11/01 – The Woman Warrior Chapters “No Name Woman,” and “White Tiger” *Presentation

11/03 – The Woman Warrior Chapter “Shaman” and “A Room of One’s Own” by Virginia Woolf

11/08 – The Woman Warrior Chapter “At the Western Palace”

11/10 – The Woman Warrior Chapters “A Song for a Barbarian Reed Pipe”

11/15 – Lucy Chapters “Poor Visitor,” “Mariah,” and “The Tongue” *Presentation

11/17 – Lucy Chapter “Cold Heart”

11/22 – Lucy Chapter “Lucy”

11/24- NO CLASS- NATIONAL HOLIDAY

11/29 – Serving Crazy With Curry Pages 1 – 78 *Presentation

12/01 – Serving Crazy With Curry Pages 79 – 163

12/06 – Serving Crazy With Curry Pages 164 – Finish

12/08 – STUDY DAY!

**FINAL EXAM:** Monday 12-Dec 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM  **Final Paper Due**

*this syllabus is subject to change*