

MEDAILLE COLLEGE
AGASSIZ CIRCLE
BUFFALO, NY

COURSE DISCLOSURE

Course Number: ENG 405

Course Title: Themes and Topics in Amer Lit – Women & Place

Section: 01

Semester: Spr 08 / MW 4-5:25

Prerequisites: ENG 200

Instructor: Dr. Terri K. Borchers

Instructor Availability: M 3:30-4, 5:30-6:30; TTh 10:40-11:10, and by appointment

Office: M 212, tel ext. 151

E-mail: tkborch@roadrunner.com

Please note: Grading of student papers will reflect standard English usage. The MLA bibliographic style generally is used at Medaille.

Statement on Disabilities

Any student with a disability who believes that he or she needs accommodation(s) in order to complete this course must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) as soon as possible. The staff in the ODS will determine what accommodations are appropriate and reasonable under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The ODS is located in the Main Bldg., Rm. M021, and can be reached by telephone at (716) 884-3281, ext. 280.

Academic Integrity

Medaille's faculty and administration expect all students to complete their academic assignments with honesty and integrity. Students who engage in any form of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on a test, forging a signature or an entire college document) will be dealt with severely, with penalties from an F on a given assignment to failing a course or even academic suspension. Students should consult their **Student Handbook** for full details on the college's policy and procedures for handling formal charges of academic dishonesty.

A. Catalogue Description of Course

An exploration of the literary contributions of American women writers.

B. Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

Recognize a range of major women writers and their contributions to the development of American literature.

Interpret female perspectives on historical, philosophical, and social events with the larger context of American life.

Write a critical essay that analyzes elements of selected literary works.

C. Outline of Course Content

1. Introductory handouts on the spirit and politics of the American place.
2. Northeast and Southeast America from different perspectives.
3. The American South from different perspectives.
4. The American Midwest from different perspectives.
5. The American Southwest, in writing and visual art.
6. The American West and Pacific Northwest, in writing and visual art.
7. The “Difficult” American Nation.
8. American women’s lyric and song.

D. Method of Evaluating Students

Your grade will be determined as follows:

5-6 page Analytical Research Paper	35%
4-5 page Personal Essay	25%
Multi-Media Oral Performance	15%
Weekly Response Journal	15%
Class Participation	10%

E. Attendance Policy

Attendance at every class is required. This class is based on a workshop format and you cannot help yourself or your class members if you are not present in class to engage in class discussion and small group activities. I will take attendance at the start of each class meeting and reserve the right to lower a student’s grade by a letter grade for each unexcused absence after the third. When you know in advance that you will not be able to attend a class meeting, you must tell the professor in advance. If you are absent on the day an assignment is to be turned in, your work will not be accepted unless you have contacted the professor in advance. The professor reserves the right to fail any student who misses more than 5 classes.

F. Required Texts

Chopin, Kate. *The Awakening*. Cather, Willa. *My Antonia*. Poems, essays, stories, and other materials in handouts and on e-reserve..

G. Suggested Reading

Explore essays, stories, poetry, and song lyrics by American women. Explore critical research by women scholars on American women writers, artists, and lyricists.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

This weekly schedule may change as the semester progresses. As a result, you are responsible to attend every class period; to keep up with any changes in assignments or due dates.

WEEK ONE - Jan 23

Introduction: talk about handouts and reading assignments; go to library and print out materials on e-reserve.

READ: Bradstreet, Bishop, Oliver, Guest, and Rukeyser. Begin reading Chopin's *The Awakening*.

WEEK TWO - Jan 28-30

Discuss Williams' essay and poetry of women of the Northeast and Guest's and Rukeyser's Southeast.

READ: Poetry by women of the Northeast, Guest's and Rukeyser's Southeast, and Chopin's *The Awakening*.

DUE Jan 28: Response Journal.

WEEK THREE - Feb 4-6

Discuss women of the Northeast, Guest's and Rukeyser's Southeast, and begin discussion of Chopin.

READ: Chopin's *The Awakening* and short stories by Flannery O'Connor.

DUE Feb 4: Response Journal.

WEEK FOUR - Feb 11-13

Discuss Chopin.

READ: Chopin's *The Awakening*, short stories by O'Connor, and *My Antonia*.

DUE Feb 11: Response Journal.

WEEK FIVE - Feb 20 (HOLIDAY on Feb 18)

Finish discussion of Chopin and begin discussion of O'Connor.

READ: O'Connor and *My Antonia*.

DUE Feb 20: Response Journal.

WEEK SIX - Feb 25-27

Discuss O'Connor.

Feb 27: GO TO LIBRARY TO FIND RESEARCH FOR PAPER.

READ: *My Antonia* and Gwendolyn Brooks.

DUE Feb 27: List of research sources for Analytical Research Paper.

WEEK SEVEN - Mar 3-5

Discuss *My Antonia*.

READ: *My Antonia*, Gwendolyn Brooks, and Terry Tempest Williams' *Refuge*.

DUE Mar 3: Response Journal.

WEEK EIGHT - Mar 10-12

Discuss *My Antonia* and Gwendolyn Brooks.

DUE Mar 10: DRAFT OF PERSONAL ESSAY.

Mar 12: GO TO LIBRARY TO FIND MORE RESEARCH FOR PAPER AND DISCUSS PERSONAL ESSAYS WITH PEER GROUP AND PROFESSOR BORCHERS.

READ: Terry Tempest Williams' *Refuge*.

DUE Mar 12: List of research sources for Analytical Research Paper.

WEEKS NINE AND TEN - SPRING BREAK

WEEK TEN - Mar 26

Discuss Williams' *Refuge*.

DUE: Introduction, map of direction, and thesis statement for 6-8 page Analytical Research Paper.

DUE: REVISION OF PERSONAL ESSAY.

WEEK ELEVEN - Mar 31-Apr 2

Discuss Williams' *Refuge*.

Apr 2: Meet in library conference room to view Georgia O'Keefe visual art and women's photography.

READ: California and Oregon women poets – Schnackenberg, Laux, and others.

DUE Mar 31: Response Journal.

WEEK TWELVE - Apr 7-9

Discuss California and Oregon women poets – Schnackenberg, Laux, and others.

Apr 9: Meet in library conference room to view American Indian artwork.

READ: Rich's "Atlas of a Difficult World."

DUE APR 7: SIGN UP LIST FOR MUSIC AND LYRIC.

DUE Apr 9: Response Journal.

WEEK THIRTEEN - Apr 14-16

Discuss Rich's "Atlas."

DUE APR 16: BRING LYRIC BY WOMEN MUSICIANS FOR THOSE SIGNED UP FOR APR 21.

DUE Apr 14: Revision of Intro, Map of Direction, and Thesis Statement for Analytical Research Paper.

WEEK FOURTEEN - Apr 21-23

Discuss and listen to women writers and their music.

DUE APR 21: BRING LYRIC BY WOMEN MUSICIANS FOR THOSE SIGNED UP FOR APR 23.

DUE APR 23: REVISED PORTFOLIO OF RESPONSE JOURNAL.

WEEK FIFTEEN - Apr 28-30

DUE: MULTI-MEDIA ORAL PERFORMANCE.

DUE APR 30: 5-6 PAGE REVISED ANALYTICAL RESEARCH PAPER.

WEEK SIXTEEN May 5 – LAST DAY OF CLASS

DUE: MULTI-MEDIA ORAL PERFORMANCE.

DUE MAY 5: PERSONAL ESSAY.