

MEDAILLE COLLEGE  
AGASSIZ CIRCLE  
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

**COURSE OUTLINE**

Program: Humanities  
Course Number: ENG 425  
Course Title: Themes and Topics in World Literature: Representations of Gender  
Number of Credits: 3  
Prerequisites: Any 200 level literature course

A. Catalog Description of Course:

This course explores selected works from world literature that address the representations of gender, specifically, the role of women in the political process, family life, the work place, interpersonal relationships, art, and race relations.

B. Goals:

- To acquaint students with representative works that thematically evaluate women in a variety of geographical and cultural settings around the world.
- To expose students to gender traditions, morals, and mores, as they manifest themselves in different world cultures.
- To encourage students to develop and express a better appreciation for the varieties of gender roles as shown through world literature.
- To enrich students' ability to read closely, think critically, and to discuss and write about short stories and poems within a thematic global context.

C. Objectives:

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

- Develop and express, through the use of theme-specific oral reports or other strategies, a better appreciation for gender representations as expressed in world literature.
- Demonstrate the use of effective literary analysis and vocabulary through in-class discussions, exercises, and written literary analyses.
- Develop and express a better appreciation for gender roles as shown through world literature.
- Develop and express a better appreciation for multiculturalism as shown through world literature.

D. Outline of Course Content:

- Study of gender representations within the reading of representative literary works from the following regions:
  - Latin America and the Caribbean
  - Africa and the Middle East
  - Asia
  - Australia and Oceania
- Methods of written and oral analysis of texts.

E. Suggested Texts:

*One World of Literature*, Shirley Geok-Lin Lim, Houghton-Mifflin, 1993.

F. Suggested Modes, Media, and Techniques of Instruction:

Lectures

Close readings and discussion

Oral reports from students

Group work

G. Instructor References:

Adams, Elsie; Briscoe, Mary Louise. *Up Against the Wall, Mother...On Women's Liberation*. Beverly Hills, CA: Glencoe Press, 1971.

Adelstein, Michael E.; Pival, Jean G., Editors. *Women's Liberation (Perspectives Series, Volume II)*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1972.

Ahmed, Leila. *Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1992.

Anderson, Bonnie S.; Zinsler, Judith P. *A History of Their Own: Women in Europe from Prehistory to the Present (Vol. II)*. New York, NY: Harper Trade, 1989.

Ascher, Carol (editor); DeSalvo, Louise A. (editor); Ruddick, Sara (editor). *Between Women: Biographers, Novelists, Critics, Teachers, & Artists Write about Their Work on Women*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 1984.

Bardes, Barbara A.; Gossett, Suzanne. *Declarations of Independence: Women & Political Power in Nineteenth-Century American Fiction*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1990.

Barker-Benfield, G.J. *The Horrors of the Half-Known Life: Male Attitudes Toward Women and Sexuality in Nineteenth-Century America*. New York: Harper and Row, 1976.

Bateson, Mary Catherine. *Composing a Life: Life as a work in Progress – the Improvisations of Five Extraordinary Women*. New York: Plume Books, 1990.

Bauermeister, Erica, Jesse Larsen, and Holly Smith. *500 Great Books by Women: A Reader's Guide*. New York: Penguin Books, 1994.

Benstock, Shari (editor). *Feminist Issues in Literary Scholarship*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1987.

El Saadawi, Nawal. *Women at Point Zero*. London: Zed Books, Ltd., 1983.

Millett, Kate. *Sexual Politics*. Garden City: Doubleday & Company, 1970.

Roszak, Betty and Roszak, Theodore [editors]. *Masculine/Feminine: Readings in Sexual Mythology and the Liberation of Women*. New York: Evanston, and London Harper Colophon Books, 1975.

Sato, Barbara. *The New Japanese Woman: Modernity, Media, and Women in Interwar Japan*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2003.

Showalter, Elaine (editor). *The New Feminist Criticism: Essays on Women, Literature, & Theory*. New York, NY: Pantheon Books, 1985.

Walters, Suzanna D. *Material Girls: Making Sense of Feminist Cultural Theory*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1995.