

Fall/Winter 2019-2020

AP/EN 2010 6.0A (Y)

Gender Studies

Course Director:

John Bell
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Delivery Format:

Fully Online

Time:

NA

Description:

An examination of how gender mediates the creation, reception and interpretation of literary/cultural texts. It provides students with critical tools for understanding gender in contemporary theory, and reading and writing about gender in literary texts.

We shall begin with literary texts from the 1500s when, in English literature, the new genres of secular drama and sonnets were positing new ways of looking at gender, and when England had its first queens successfully holding the throne, and thus influencing concepts of gender. However, most of our literary readings will be from the 1800s, 1900s and 2000s; during these centuries new ways of conceptualizing and theorizing gender, especially feminist theories, have been changing the ways women and men write, read, and are portrayed in literary texts. We shall be reading literary texts from all 4 major genres: poetry, drama, fiction, non-fiction. Assigned readings also include works of theory related to gender, particularly theories relating to the creation and reception of literary texts and relating to societies' ideologies and practices of gender and of sexuality. The course will pay some attention to the intersectionality of gender with class and race.

Category:

A

Historical Requirement:

NA

Requirements:

2 - 1000-word essays: 15% each

2000-word essay: 25% (at least one of the three essays must be on a designated research topic)

11/18 online discussion forums: 33%

final exam: 12%

Reading List:

(in approximate order of study)

William Shakespeare, *Antony and Cleopatra* (Signet)

Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (Penguin)

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Penguin)

Frances Trollope, *The Barnabys in America* online at www.yorku.ca/johnbell

Regina Barreca, selections from *They Used to Call me Snow White* (UPNE)

Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (Harvard)

course kit—poems and short prose selections

George Bernard Shaw, *Saint Joan* (Penguin)

Mae West, *The Drag* in *Three Plays* (Routledge)

Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own* (Penguin)

Tennessee Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (New Directions)

selections from Bessie Head, *The Collector of Treasures and Other Botswana Village Tales* (Waveland)

Alice Walker, *The Color Purple* (Henry Holt)

Tomson Highway, *The Rez Sisters* (Fifth House)

Janice Acoose-Miswonigeesikokwe, selections from *Iskwewak Kah' Ki Yaw Ni Wahkomakanak* 2nd edition (Women's Press)

Stevie Cameron, *On the Farm* (Vintage)

poems and short prose selections on the course Moodle website

Open To:

Yr2 & Yr3