

## **Women's Studies through Literature**

**English 720 (01)**

**Fall Quarter 2003**

**Class Time: 6:05 - 7:45 TTh**

**Classroom: 497M**

**Instructor: Dr. M.B. Pringle**

**Office Location: 485Millett**

**Office Phone with Voice Mail: 775-2265**

**Email: marybeth.pringle@wright.edu**

**Office Hours: 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. TTh, Other Times by Appointment**

### **WEEK ONE:**

- T Sept 9 Introduction to Course
- Th Sept 11 The Myths that Shape Women: Children's Literature and Other Elements of the Popular Culture; **Response #1**

### **WEEK TWO:**

- T Sept 16 "Introduction: On the Politics of Literature" by Judith Fetterley (Feminisms 564-573); **Response #2**
- Th Sept 18 The Awakening by Kate Chopin (NALW 1011-1100); "The Yellow Wall Paper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman (NALW 1133-1143); **Response #3**

### **WEEK THREE:**

- T Sept 23 "Trifles" by Susan Glaspell (NALW 1351-1359) and "The Blank Page" by Isak Dinesen (NALW 1391-1394); **Response #4**
- Th Sept 25 "A Map for Rereading: Gender and the Interpretation of Literary Texts" (to be distributed in class); **Response #5**

### **WEEK FOUR:**

- T Sept 30 "'The Blank Page' and the Issues of Female Creativity" by Susan Gubar (to be distributed in class); **Response #6**
- Th Oct 2 "Melodramas of Beset Manhood: How Theories of American Literature Exclude Women Authors" by Nina Baym (to be distributed in class); **Response #7**

#### WEEK FIVE:

T Oct 7 "Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl" by Harriet Jacobs (NALW 460-464); "In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens" by Alice Walker (NALW2315-2321); **Response #8**

Th Oct 9 "Reflections on Black Women Writers" by Nellie McKay (Feminisms 151-163), "The Highs and Lows of Black Feminist Criticism" by Barbara Christian (Feminisms 51-56); **Response #9**

#### WEEK SIX:

T Oct 14 "From Uncle Tom's Cabin" by Harriet Beecher Stowe (NALW444451), "From Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott (NALW 946-960), "Sentimental Power: Uncle Tom's Cabin and the Politics of Literary History" by Jane P. Tompkins (to be distributed in class); **Response #10**

Th Oct 16 "From Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott (NALW 946-960)," Reading for Love: Paracanons and Whistling Jo March" by Catherine Stimpson (to be distributed in class); **Response #11**

#### WEEK SEVEN:

T Oct 21 "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence" by Adrienne Rich (to be distributed in class), "Martha's Lady" by Sarah Orne Jewett (to be distributed in class); **Response #12**

Th Oct 23 "What Has Never Been: An Overview of Lesbian Feminist Literary Criticism" by Bonnie Zimmerman (Feminisms 76-96) "The Poetics of Sex" by Jeanette Winterson (to be distributed in class); **Response #13**

#### WEEK EIGHT:

T Oct 28 "From Zami: A New Spelling of my Name" by Audri Lorde (NALW2132-2134), "The Truth that Never Hurts: Black Lesbians in Fiction of 1980s" by Barbara Smith (Feminisms 784-806); **Response #14**

Th Oct 30 "Me and My Shadow" by Jane Tompkins (Feminisms 1103-1116); **Response #15**

#### WEEK NINE:

T Nov 4 "The 'Wild Zone' Thesis as Gloss in Chicana Literary Study" by

Cordelia Chavez Candelaria (Feminisms 248-256), "Tlilli, Tlapalli/The Path of the Red and Black Ink" by Gloria Anzaldua (NALW 2272-2280); **Response #6**

Th Nov 6 "A Criticism of Our Own: Autonomy and Assimilation in Afro-American and Feminist Literary Theory" by Elaine Showalter (Feminisms 213-233); **Response #17 to be handed in with portfolio**

**WEEK TEN:**

T Nov 11 Meetings on Final Papers

Th Nov 13 **Final paper due** (Hand in with stamped self-addressed envelope, if you want it returned). Summary; Evaluation

**TEXTS:**

Feminisms: An Anthology of Literary Theory and Criticism (Warhol and Herndl)

The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women (Gilbert and Gubar)

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Responses .....	45%
Paper (approximately 10 pages) .....	45%
Class Participation .....	10%

**Responses:**

To all classes where indicated on the syllabus, you will bring a typed response concerning the assignment to be covered that day. The response may be a comment about the assigned material, a series of contextualized questions, or a provocative topic for discussion.

The response may be no more than one page in length. During class you may add hand-written comments on the back of your response sheet. I will collect some of these responses after each class and return them to you at the next class session.

Grades (cr-, cr, or cr+) on these responses will be determined based on the ideas expressed, the clarity of the remarks, and the quality of the writing.

At the end of the term, you will submit these responses in a portfolio. You may revise them