

English 547 (001)
Feminist Literary Theory
Fall 2021

T, Th 12:30-1:45
Curtin 124

Jane Gallop, Instructor
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Office Hours, T&Th, 2-3

Course Description: We will read seven books by feminist literary intellectuals that have had a wide impact. Our reading will continually have a double focus: what is being said about literature? what is being said about gender? Trying to think through the relation between literature and feminism, we will be trying to think the connections between aesthetics and politics, culture and society, story and life. Although we hope to consider many of the major theoretical issues at these crossings, we also will think about the stylistic strategies of the books. Our emphasis will continually be on attentive reading, careful analysis, and close writing.

Texts:

Dorothy Allison, *Skin: Talking About Sex, Class, and Literature*
Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands—La Frontera*
Hélène Cixous, *Coming to Writing*
Audre Lorde, *Sister Outsider*
Adrienne Rich, *On Lies, Secrets, and Silence*
Alice Walker, *In Search of Our Mother's Gardens*
Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*

Assignments: Four 5-page papers (on books read for class)—1/6 of the grade each. Take-Home Final Exam—1/6 of the grade. Class Participation (attendance, reading papers aloud in class, paper discussants)—1/6 of the grade. Papers are due at the beginning of class—no late papers accepted. Each student will read a paper aloud at least once during the semester. Students will be assigned as discussants for these readings.

Calendar

Th, Sept 2 Intro	
T, Sept 7 Woolf, chs. 1-3	Th, Oct 28 No Class
Th, Sept 9 Woolf, chs 4-6	T, Nov 2 Cixous, 1-58
T, Sept 14 Paper 1 due	Th, Nov 4 Cixous, 59-131
Th, Sept 16 Rich, 9-106	T, Nov 9 Cixous, 132-181
T, Sept 21 Rich, 107-202	Th, Nov 11 Paper 3B due
Th, Sept 23 Rich, 203-310	T, Nov 16 Allison, 9-92
T, Sept 28 Paper 2A due	Th, Nov 18 Allison, 93-182
Th, Sept 30 Walker, xi-92	T, Nov 23 Allison, 183-261
T, Oct 5 Walker, 93-198	T, Nov 30 Paper 4A due
Th, Oct 7 Walker, 199-289	Th, Dec 2 Anzaldúa, 19-120
T, Oct 12 Walker, 290-393	T, Dec 7 Anzaldúa, 123-225
Th, Oct 14 Paper 2B due	Th, Dec 9 Paper 4B due
T, Oct 19 Lorde, 13-109	T, Dec 14 Final Discussion
Th, Oct 21 Lorde, 110-190	
T, Oct 26 Paper 3A due	T, Dec 21 Final Exam Due at 2 pm

For a detailed list of university policies see: <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf>