

Course Objectives/Course Outline
Spokane Community College

Course Title: Women Writers
Prefix and Course Number: ENGL 278

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, a student should be able to:

- Articulate an understanding of the diversity of individual and cultural values depicted in literature by women
- Discuss the skill and creativity of individual women writers
- Identify ways in which women's literary expression has reflected-and resisted-social and historical pressures, including prevalent ideas about women's spheres of influence and about women's political rights
- Trace patterns of continuity and discontinuity through the history and development of literature written by women
- Accurately describe significant themes, conventions, and techniques of women writers across ethnic, national, class and cultural boundaries
- Articulate original critical positions about literary works by women, using textual evidence appropriately as support
- Locate, and demonstrate an understanding of, relevant critical or scholarly findings about works by women writers, and use these findings to advance insights about primary texts

Course Outline:

(Note: Authors and titles are meant to be illustrative, not exhaustive.)

I. Historical Tradition / Context

A. Pre-19th Century

B. The Role of Women in 19th Century Society:

1. The Cult of True Womanhood
2. The Cult of Domesticity
3. 19th-Century Women's Writing as a Reflection of Social Contexts

C. Women Writers of the 20th and 21st Centuries

1. History of Suffrage
2. Emergent Feminism
3. Second- and Third-Wave Feminism; Feminism in Post-modernist Society
4. 20th- and 21st-Century Women's Writing as a Reflection of Social Contexts

II. Pre-19th Century Writers

- A. Julian of Norwich
- B. Margery Kempe
- C. Aphra Behn
- D. Ann Bradstreet

III. 19th Century Writers

A. The Tradition in the United States

1. Rebecca Harding Davis, "Life in the Iron Mills"
2. Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wall-paper"
3. Sarah Orne Jewett, "The Country of the Pointed Firs"

4. Edith Wharton, "Souls Belated"
 5. Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*
 6. Kate Chopin, *The Awakening*
- B. The Tradition in Britain
1. Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*
 2. Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Selected Poems
 3. Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*
 4. Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre*
 5. Christina Rossetti, Selected Poems
- IV. 20th/ 21st Century Writers
- A. The Tradition in the United States
1. Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
 2. Sylvia Plath, *The Bell Jar*
 3. Adrienne Rich, *The Dream of a Common Language*
 4. Lucille Clifton, *Blessing the Boats*
 5. Dorianne Laux, *What We Carry*
- B. The Tradition in Britain and Elsewhere
1. Virginia Woolf, "A Room of One's Own"
 2. Katherine Mansfield, "The Daughters of the Late Colonel"
 3. Rebecca West, "Indissoluble Matrimony"
 4. Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
 5. Anaïs Nin, *Diary*
 6. Doris Lessing, "To Room Nineteen"