COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

Global Women’s Writing provides a critical examination of the literary representation of experiences of, and strategic resistance to, gendered inequality by writers across the globe. Students will gain a solid grounding in transnational feminisms and critical literary theories to examine gendered power dynamics at the intersection of race, class, sexuality, Indigeneity, and other identity categories. Focus will be on the way in which writers challenge the social construction of gender and disrupt structures of oppression and injustice. This course examines topics in feminist and gender studies such as domestic violence, polygamy, forcible heteronormativity, and decolonization as feminist praxis in novels written by women writers from Egypt, Mozambique, Equatorial Guinea, and Métis Canada.

Credit: 3

* This is a UCC course

* This course fulfills a core requirement for the B.A. and the Undergraduate Certificate in Women’s and Gender Studies

* This is a Discipline-specific Global Learning Course counting towards your global learning graduation requirement

Course Objectives

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

▪ Define, explain, and apply critical feminist and decolonizing literary theories.
▪ Identify, analyze, and interpret experiences of and resistance to gendered inequality and oppression in women’s literature, and assess in what ways these impact culture and society.
Assess in what ways non-Western feminist thought, including decolonizing and Indigenous feminist theories, enrich the critical analysis of women’s writing and feminist praxis.

Evaluate women writers addressing and resisting inequality and oppression at the intersection of gender, class, race, ethnicity, and Indigeneity.

Develop a feminist interpretation of a literary text based on assigned theories, collect research from scholarly sources, support the interpretation with evidence, and cite the source material.

Global Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interrelatedness of local and global contexts in the construction of gendered experiences in global women’s literature.

Students will demonstrate ability to develop a multi-perspective analysis of gendered experiences in a given literary text against local, global, international, and intercultural backgrounds and across linguistic boundaries.

Students will be able to demonstrate willingness to engage in local, global, international, and intercultural problem solving by addressing the narrative experiences of gender inequalities within a local and global framework.

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Required Textbooks


All required books have been ordered at the Modesto Maidique Campus bookstore in the Graham Center, http://fiu.bncollege.com. Any additional readings are available on our Canvas website.

As of Fall 2021, FIU has implemented the Panther Book Pack. This is an affordable course materials subscription rental program providing you with the print and digital course materials required by your instructor at a flat rate of $20 per credit hour. I recommend that you review the pricing for all materials per semester for the greatest savings. You have the option to opt out of this subscription for the semester until the cancellation of enrollment date for the term. Once you opt out, the flat rate subscription amount will be credited to your student account. For more details, visit http://bookpack.fiu.edu.

EXPECTATIONS OF THIS COURSE

This is an ONLINE LIVE course: You will complete course work online, and we will have one weekly synchronous online class meetings. The class is organized into 3 Units with 10 content Modules in total. The content of the Modules is cumulative, meaning that with each Module you build up knowledge that
you need in the later Modules. The Modules “open” (i.e., will be accessible) each Monday at 7:00 am. The Module will close (you will no longer be able to post assignments) Sunday 11:59 pm of that week. These ‘open’ and ‘close’ times are important because you will need to post on the discussion board/complete quizzes during the time that a lesson is open to you (see details in ‘Assignments’)

Your responsibilities:

● Pace your learning according to the weekly course assignments.
● Complete the weekly readings (both textbooks and lectures) by WEDNESDAY of each week.
● Log into the course each THURSDAY from 11am-12:15pm for the synchronous Online LIVE class
● Complete the weekly assignments (discussions, quizzes, group work, etc.)
● Regularly check your email (4 times a week).
● Respond to emails, messages, and discussions within 2 days.
● Submit assignments by the corresponding deadline; failure to do so will result in an automatic zero (0) for the assignment in question.

Instructor responsibilities:

● Log in to the course at least 4 times per week.
● Respond to emails within 2 normal business days.
● Grade assignments and discussions within 7 days of the submission deadline.

Rules

All assignments have to be completed/submitted on the dates they are due. If you fail to complete a Quiz/Activity or submit a written assignment within the allotted time, you will receive a zero (0) for the assignment in question. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED, except under extreme circumstances. To excuse a missed assignment, I require documentation of an emergency (e.g., medical emergency; jury duty; etc.). Your computer being down or no internet connection, cannot be accepted as an excuse!

Caveat

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus and will communicate any changes to the syllabus in a timely fashion through email. You will be responsible for making the necessary adjustments to be prepared for class. In addition, the instructor reserves the right to use class documents (quizzes, papers, presentations, and communication) for academic purposes.

MY CLASSROOM COMMITMENT

Safe Zone

FIU is committed to core values including “Respect for diversity and the dignity of the individual” as well as “Freedom of thought and expression.” Based on this commitment, I have completed the University’s Safe Zone training. In my classroom you can depend on a safe and supportive environment for students of all genders, sexual orientations, sex and gender presentations.

For more detailed information, academic as well as personal support, visit studentaffairs.fiu.edu/get-involved/lgbtqa/

Contact:

FIU LGBTQA+ Initiative
email: lgbt@fiu.edu
MMC - GC 216, phone (305) 348-2436
Pronoun Statement
I will gladly address you by the name you prefer and use the gender pronouns that correspond to your gender identity. Please advise the class and me on your preferences, and the proper pronunciation of your name.

Land Acknowledgment
I acknowledge that FIU is located on Indigenous lands. The territory that we now know as South Florida has been the traditional homelands of Native nations including the Calusa, the Tequesta, and today the Seminole and Miccosukee. In this course, we will actively engage in Indigenous research and scholarship in an endeavor to make space for marginalized and traditionally invisible academic voices.

Counseling Services
Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers free and confidential help for anxiety, depression, stress, and other concerns that life brings. Call 305-348-2277 to set up a time to talk or visit the online self-help portal.

Course Communication
This course uses both, EMAIL and Canvas Email as means of communication. Please check your email regularly. If you have general questions about class or assignments, please post your question on the Q&A Forum, so that students with similar questions can benefit from our exchange. I recommend subscribing to the forum at the beginning of the semester.

If you have questions specific to your personal situation or learning outcomes, please do not hesitate to contact me at mmoura@fiu.edu to schedule an appointment during my Zoom office hours. You can anticipate a reply within 48 normal business hours.

ASSIGNMENTS
Class Participation (10 points)
Our Online LIVE class relies on your active, collaborative, and engaged participation in activities and discussions. You should sign into every class having read, annotated, and thought about the assignments carefully and be ready to discuss them with your colleagues. Your thoughts and questions will provide the starting point for many of our discussions. Your active participation will be factored into your final grade for the course. If you are reluctant to speak up, please talk to me and we’ll figure out a way for you to participate.

To receive credit, you will need to complete assignments before, during, and after our class meeting on Thursday as outlined in the detailed course calendar. Unexcused absences and lack of participation will count against your final grade. It is my discretion to consider you absent if you are late or unprepared for class discussion. Students who miss more than 2 classes unexcused will have their course grade automatically reduced one level, e.g., from A- to B+ or from B- to C+. Students who fail to attend at least 60% of classes will receive an F grade.
Group Project & Presentation (10 points)
At the beginning of the semester, you will be assigned to a Study Group. For the entire semester, you will collaborate with your group members in weekly group work on Zoom, as well as collaborate for a Group Project and Presentation. For details, see “GUIDE: GROUP INFOGRAPHIC” on Canvas.

Reading Response Papers (3 at 10 points each = 30 points)
You will write Reading Response Papers on three out of the four assigned novels – which ones is your choice. Papers must not simply summarize the texts but should rather select one or two themes presented by the readings and critically explore them in-depth. Submission deadlines as indicated in the course calendar. Target length: 700-1,000 words. For details, see the “GUIDE: RESPONSE PAPER”.

Final Take-Home Exam (30 points)
This 8-10 page analytic and scholarly essay with attached works cited list represents the principal exercise of the semester. You will formulate a central interpretive idea about a text/set of texts. In addition, you will demonstrate your ability to analyze larger debates around structures of difference surrounding the literary text. You have to show the ability to read critically, including the novels as well as the secondary material, identify narratives of and resistance to gender injustice, and write clearly about them. At least two scholarly sources are required using our library resources. For details, see the “GUIDE: FINAL TAKE-HOME”.

ASSESSMENTS

Quizzes (20 points)

Syllabus Quiz (non-graded; required)
The Syllabus Quiz is required and is to be completed first thing after reviewing the course syllabus. Successful completion of the Syllabus Quiz (90%) will unlock the first course Weekly Modules. You can take the Syllabus Quiz unlimited times throughout the semester. Results (total score) will be accessible immediately after taking the quiz.

Reading Quizzes (20 points)
You will be required to take open book/open notes quizzes, 4 in total, each worth 5 points. These quizzes will cover assigned theory readings and contain multiple-choice and true/false questions. You have one minute for each question. You can take the quiz three times (if you choose to do so), and only your highest score will be counted. Questions are randomized, e.g., you might not get the same questions again. Once you open the quiz, you will be forced to finish it, so make sure you are prepared before you access it.

Quizzes are due by WEDNESDAY before our Online LIVE class, before the first discussion of each novel in class. Quizzes will open one week before submission deadline. You may take the quiz at any time before the deadline, but quizzes are due by Wednesday night (11:59 pm) - Please see the course calendar for due dates.

*** Quiz results with correct answers will be accessible after the submission deadline. ***
**Extra Credit Opportunity**

Writing Assistants (WAs), advanced undergraduate students trained by the Center for Excellence in Writing, are embedded in this course to provide feedback for undergraduate students on their writing and to help facilitate in-class activities.

In order to earn extra credit in this course, you may submit a draft for 1-3 of your Reading Response Papers to your assigned WA - for each you can earn 1 point extra credit.

You are required to submit and discuss a draft of your Final Take-Home Essay with your WA for a total of 3 extra credit points.

**A Note on Written Assignments**

Cite your sources in-text citations, and provide a works cited list at the end of the written assignment. For more information on professional writing, visit The FIU Center for Excellence in Writing (Links to an external site.) For any research question, you can always contact FIU’s Distance Learning Librarian, Sarah Hammill (email: hammills@fiu.edu; phone: 305-348-3009).

The FIU Center for Excellence in Writing offers personalized online tutoring sessions to help you improve your writing: To make an appointment with a trained peer consultant, go to the website of the Online Scheduler (Links to an external site.).

I am happy to discuss drafts, outlines, or ideas during my office hours. I am unlikely to respond helpfully to an email message sent the day before papers are due.

**Zoom Meeting**

ZOOM is an online meeting room which we use for our synchronous Online Live class meetings. You can access our classroom via our course website on canvas.fiu.edu. Zoom will also be used to conduct office hours and other course meetings. Additionally, upon request, study groups will be given an online meeting room which they can use to communicate, share screens or files, chat, broadcast live audio and take part in other interactive online activities.

- Online Office Hours - Available by Appointment

**GRADING**

Your grade for each assignment will be recorded via the Canvas Grade Center. (Please keep in mind that the Grade Center cannot link a letter grade for Grading Schemas using points, only percentages).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments:</th>
<th>Number of Items</th>
<th>Points for Each</th>
<th>Total Points Available</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Project</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response Papers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Take-Home Exam</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>n/a</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
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Do not copy without the express written consent of the instructor.
### Grading Range

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<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95 - 100</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 - 86</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 - 76</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 94</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 - 82</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 - 69</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 - 89</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 - 79</td>
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### Evaluation Criteria

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<th>A (90-100)</th>
<th>B (80-89)</th>
<th>C (70-79)</th>
<th>D (60-69)</th>
<th>F (0-59)</th>
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<td>Excellent work that is engaged, insightful, and demonstrates that you are able to apply course concepts for critical reflection and evaluation of global content.</td>
<td>Above average work that demonstrates your understanding of course concepts by using course material to support your arguments. Work develops meaningful ideas.</td>
<td>Average, passable work that considers the themes of the class, but lacks focus and does not develop class concepts effectively or in a sustained fashion.</td>
<td>Below average work that fails to consider the class concepts and material in any substantial way.</td>
<td>Work fails to meet minimum assignment requirements.</td>
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