



WST 3120 "Global Women's Writing: Gendered Experiences Across Societies and Cultures"

Fall 2016 (August 22 – December 10, 2016)

Instructor Details

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Class Information

Location:
Hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays, 11am – 12:15pm
Website: Blackboard Login at <http://fiu.blackboard.com>

Course Description

Global Women's Writing provides a critical introduction to global women's literature, examining the dynamics of power and gender against the specific socio-cultural, political and historical frameworks of diverse cultural contexts. Assignments are aimed at developing your skills in reading and writing analytically about literary texts. You will become familiar with feminist critical approaches in order to analyze how the assigned writers address and problematize formations of gender, race/ethnicity, class, and sexual inequality. By the end of the course, you should be able to demonstrate knowledge of feminist literary criticism, how they apply to global women's writing, and to show an enhanced understanding of gendered experiences in societies across the globe.

*****This is a global learning Course counting towards your global learning graduation requirement*****

Course Objectives

This course is designed to help students:

- Develop critical reading, thinking, and writing skills by examining how women writers articulate gendered experiences.
- Demonstrate understanding of the historical and social contexts in which authors produce a text.
- Evaluate how the representation of gendered inequalities in women's literature challenges dominant patriarchal discourse.
- Apply critical feminist literary theories to global women's literature.
- Examine the connection between global women's literature and contemporary concerns of gender, race, and class central to critical feminist analyses.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be assessed on their ability to:

- Assess how women writers employ the elements of fiction in order to explore or critique social issues at the intersection of gender, class, and race/ethnicity.
- Engage with thematic exploration of set texts to analyze how texts relate to local socio-cultural as much as global historical and political contexts.
- Develop an interpretation of a literary text, collect research from appropriate sources, support the interpretation with evidence, and cite the source material.

Global Learning Course Outcomes

Students will be assessed on their ability to:

- Students will demonstrate awareness as well as understanding of interrelated socio-cultural, historical, political and economic forces shaping gendered experiences in global women's literature, examining the impact of women's dis/empowerment based on feminist literary theory.
- 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.

Required Texts

1. **COURSE PACK** (available at the MMC bookstore in GC)
2. Nawal El-Saadawi. **WOMAN AT POINT ZERO**, 2nd edition, 2007. ISBN: 978-1842778739
3. Paulina Chiziane. **THE FIRST WIFE: A TALE OF POLYGAMY**, 2016. ISBN: 978-0914671480
4. Figiel, Sia. **WHERE WE ONCE BELONGED**, 1999. ISBN: 978-1885030276
5. Rigoberta Menchú. **I, RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ: AN INDIAN WOMAN IN GUATEMALA**, 2nd edition, 2010. ISBN: 978-1844674113

All required texts, as well as the course pack, have been ordered through the Modesto Maidique Campus bookstore at the Graham Center. To order online, go to <http://fiu.bncollege.com>, select link 'Textbook'.

IMPORTANT: This is a web-assisted course. All course information including the syllabus are available through the course website. To log on, click on the Blackboard Login tab on the navigation at <http://fiu.blackboard.com> For Blackboard technical support, please contact IT's Educational Technology Services (ETS) team by calling #305-348-3630.

Course Requirements

Class Participation/Group Work (20 points)

You are expected to be present and prepared for class. For part of your class participation credit, you will occasionally complete in-class group work as assigned by the instructor. For this purpose, you will self-sign into Study Groups by Week 2 of the semester. Students will evaluate the performance of each of their Study Group members at the end of the semester (see "GUIDE: Evaluation Group Membership").

Unexcused absences and lack of participation will count against your final grade. It is at the instructor's discretion to consider you absent if you are late or unprepared for class discussion. Students who miss more than 3 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 automatically receive an F grade.

Reading Quizzes (20 points)

You will complete 4 Reading Quizzes based on the assigned novels, which are due before the first discussion of each novel in class. The Quizzes include multiple choice as well as true/false questions. Please see detailed course schedule for due dates.

Midterm Exam (20 points)

The midterm exam will be an essay, featuring either analyses of short passages or critical questions about individual works. You have to show that you have read the

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novels and secondary material critically, identify gender issues, and write clearly about them. The exam will evaluate your familiarity with the themes and ideas we have explored in class, not test the limits of your memory. Please consult our detailed course schedule for exact date. Exams are *open-book, closed notebook*.

Group Presentation & Wiki (20 points)

At the beginning of the semester (week 2), you will self-sign into Study Groups on our course website on Blackboard. In your respective Study Group, you will research a gender topic based on one of the novels we are discussing, as assigned by the instructor. Students will record individual research findings on our Blackboard course website in a Wiki, and present findings in class. For details, see "GUIDE: Group Presentation" on Blackboard.

Final Take-home Essay (20 points)

Students will write a Final Take-home Essay that analyzes one gender aspect of a novel/ short story discussed in class. This assignment requires students to apply one or more theoretical articles discussed in class to a novel of their choice and evaluate the texts' representations of one or more of the following key issues: status of women/gendered minorities in society; gender inequality, human rights and social justice. Based on class discussions and class lectures about the political, economic, and cultural framework, you will formulate a central interpretive idea about the text. For details, please see the "GUIDE: Final Take-home Essay" on Blackboard.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Range (%)	Letter Grade	Range (%)	Letter Grade	Range (%)
A	95 or above	B+	83 - 86	C	70 - 76
A-	90 - 94	B	80 - 82	D	60 - 69
B+	87 - 89	B-	77 - 79	F	59 or less

Distribution Course Grade

Exam/ Assignments	Percent Grade
Class Participation	10%
Group Work	10%
Reading Quizzes	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Group Wiki & Presentation	20%
Final Take-home Essay	20%
Total	100%

Write on Writing Assignments

Cite your sources using MLA Citation Style and provide a works cited list at the end of written assignments. See 'Student Resources' on Blackboard, or check out this online resource: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Policies

NO EXTRA CREDIT work will be given. All assignments have to be submitted on the dates they are due. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED except under extreme circumstances. Any student who expects to have trouble meeting any of the class deadlines *for legitimate reasons* must consult the instructor *prior to due date*. In order to excuse an absence I require documentation (e.g., in the form of a doctor's note, tow-truck or auto mechanic's receipt, jury duty notice, etc.). Projects not turned in on the assigned date will receive one letter grade penalty. NO EXCEPTIONS!

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Communication

For any questions or concerns, please contact me via email (mmoura@fiu.edu) to make an appointment for my office hours. Outside the classroom, we will primarily interact through your FIU email, so please make sure to check it on a regular basis. In addition, you should include my email address in your safe list so that messages do not end up in your junk mail.

Disruptive Behavior

Behavior which is considered disrespectful or inappropriate in the classroom includes but is not limited to: Coming late to class, leaving early, interrupting others, reading, sleeping, etc. Unless used for in-class assignments, turn off all cell phones and any other electronic devices that may be a distraction to your classmates or me.

Class discussions are expected to be civil, rational and respectful of others' opinions. Inappropriate or disrespectful remarks, personal attacks and disruptive classroom behavior violate the *Student Code of Conduct* and will not be tolerated. If you engage in such behavior, you will be asked to leave the class. We will be discussing a number of topics throughout the term that are of a sensitive and personal nature or about which many people have strong opinions. Respect for others and openness to different points of view are of the utmost importance!

Academic Misconduct

All students are expected to follow FIU's Code of Academic Integrity, which is designed to uphold academic honesty and integrity. Violations of the code will be addressed through all available channels at FIU. The university assumes as a basic and minimum standard of conduct in academic matters that students be honest and that they submit for credit only the products of their own efforts. Plagiarism is presenting another person's work as one's own. Plagiarism includes any paraphrasing or summarizing of the works of another person without acknowledgment or submission of another student's work as one's own. All dishonest work will be rejected as a basis for academic credit.

You are responsible for understanding and complying with FIU's Code of Academic Integrity available at <http://academic.fiu.edu/AcademicBudget/misconductweb/1acmisconductproc.htm>

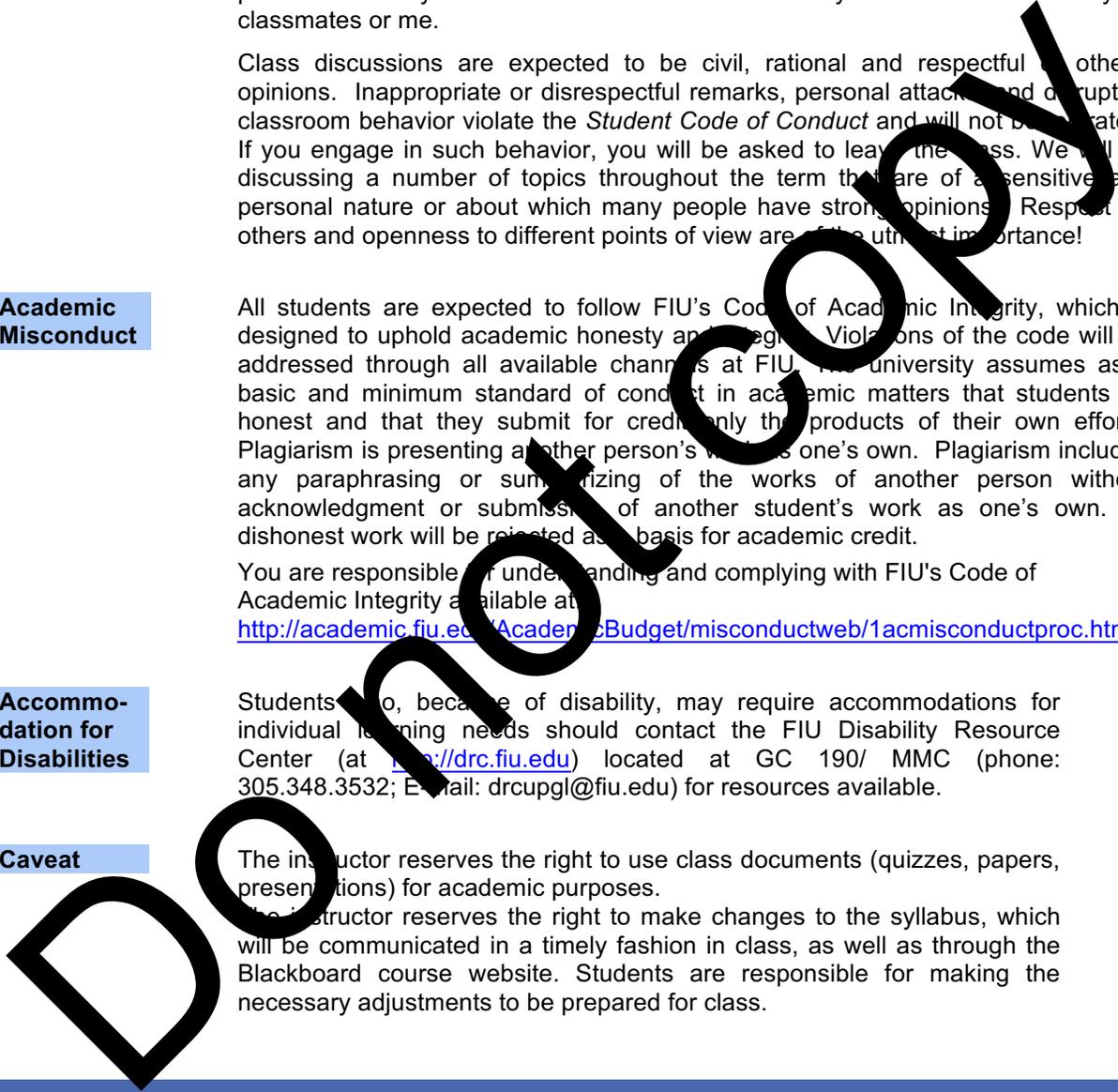
Accommodation for Disabilities

Students who, because of disability, may require accommodations for individual learning needs should contact the FIU Disability Resource Center (at <http://drc.fiu.edu>) located at GC 190/ MMC (phone: 305.348.3532; Email: drcupgl@fiu.edu) for resources available.

Caveat

The instructor reserves the right to use class documents (quizzes, papers, presentations) for academic purposes.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus, which will be communicated in a timely fashion in class, as well as through the Blackboard course website. Students are responsible for making the necessary adjustments to be prepared for class.



COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 Tue 8/23 and Thu 8/25

INTRODUCTION

Review course requirements; introduction of key concepts

 Poetry Analysis [Handout]

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UNIT 1 - THEORY

What is Women's Writing?

- 📖 Russ, Joanna, "What Can A Heroine Do?" [coursepack]
- 📖 Toril Moi, "I am not a woman writer" [Blackboard]

Week 2 8/30 and Thu 9/1

Feminist Literary Criticism

- 📖 Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own* [coursepack]
- 📖 Gilbert & Gubar, *Madwoman in the Attic* [coursepack]
- 📖 Elaine Showalter. "Toward a Feminist Poetics" [coursepack]

ASSIGNMENTS:

Self-sign into Study Groups
due Wednesday by 11:59pm

Week 3 Tue 9/6 and Thu 9/8

UNIT 2 – EGYPT

Readings

- 📖 Saadawi, *Woman at Point Zero*
- 📖 Mohanty, "Under Western Eyes" [Blackboard]

ASSIGNMENTS:

Quiz Egypt
due Monday by 11:59pm

Week 4 Tue 9/13 and Thu 9/15

Readings

- 📖 Saadawi, *Woman at Point Zero*

Week 5 Tue 9/20 and Thu 9/22

Readings

- 📖 Saadawi, *Woman at Point Zero*
- 🎥 Movie Analysis: "Cairo 678"

Group Presentation "EGYPT"

ASSIGNMENTS:

* Group Presentation in class
* Group Wiki "Egypt"
due Friday by 11:59pm

Week 6 Tue 9/27 and Thu 9/29

UNIT 3 – MOZAMBIQUE

Readings

- 📖 Aidoo, "The American Woman Today" [Blackboard]
- 📖 Chiziane, *The First Wife*

ASSIGNMENTS:

* Quiz Mozambique
due Monday by 11:59pm

Week 7 Tue 10/4 and Thu 10/6

Readings

- 📖 Chiziane, *The First Wife*
- 📖 Madabayakwe, "Polygamy in African Fiction" [Blackboard]
- 🎥 Movie Analysis, "Four Wives – One Man"

Week 8 Tue 10/11 and Thu 10/13

Readings

- 📖 Chiziane, *The First Wife*

Invited Speaker: Kenyan author Jacqui Owitti

Group Presentation "Mozambique"

ASSIGNMENTS:

* Group Wiki "Mozambique"
due Friday by 11:59pm
* Group Presentation in class

Week 9 Tue 10/18 and Thu 10/20

MIDTERM EXAM

CASE STUDY: INDIGENOUS FEMINISM

Readings

- 📖 Paula Gunn Allen, *The Sacred Hoop* [FIU Library Online Access]
- 📖 Trask, *Light in the Crevice* [Handout]

ASSIGNMENTS:

- * Midterm Exam (in class)

Week 10 Tue 10/25 and Thu 10/27

UNIT 4 – SAMOA

Readings

- 📖 Figiel, *Where We Once Belonged*
- 📖 Tusitala Marsh, “Migrating Feminisms” [Blackboard]

ASSIGNMENTS:

- * Quiz Samoa due Monday by 11:59pm

Week 11 Tue 11/1 and Thu 11/3

Readings

- 📖 Figiel, *Where We Once Belonged*
- 🎬 Movie Analysis: *Exploring Gender Equality Issues in Samoa Part I*

Week 12 Tue 11/8 and Thu 11/10

Readings

- 📖 Figiel, *Where We Once Belonged*
- 🎬 Movie Analysis: “Fa’afafine”

Group Presentation “Samoa”

ASSIGNMENTS:

- * Group Presentation in class
- * Group Wiki “Samoa” due Friday by 11:59pm

Week 13 Tue 11/15 and Thu 11/17

UNIT 5 – GUATEMALA

Readings

- 📖 *I, Rigoberta Menchú*

ASSIGNMENTS:

- * Quiz Guatemala due Monday by 11:59pm

Week 14 Tue 11/22

Readings

- 📖 *I, Rigoberta Menchú*

NO CLASS ON THURSDAY – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Week 15 Tue 11/29 and Thu 12/1

Readings

- 📖 *I, Rigoberta Menchú*
- 🎬 Movie Analysis: *Broken Silence*

Group Presentation “Guatemala”

ASSIGNMENTS:

- * Group Presentation in class
- * Group Wiki “Guatemala” due Friday by 11:59pm
- * Evaluation Group Members due Friday by 11:59pm

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Week 16

FINAL TAKE-HOME EXAM

ASSIGNMENTS:

* Final Take-Home Exam
due **Wednesday 11:59pm**

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