

**Carleton University  
Winter 2014  
Department of English**

**ENGL 2108A : *Women and Literature*  
Prerequisite: Second year standing**

**Tues/Thurs 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

**Location: UC 180**

***Please confirm location on Carleton Central***

**Instructor: Dr. Janne Cleveland  
Email: Janne.Cleveland@carleton.ca  
Office: DT 1913  
Office Hours: TBA**

**Course Outline:**

In examining texts from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century onwards to the contemporary moment, this course will explore what is often relegated and dismissed as ‘women’s writing’. We will consider how women’s writing has evolved across the century, along with a variety of themes and issues that these texts examine, including, but not limited to the role of motherhood, female sexuality, and the complications of gender expectations. Novels, essays, and plays by Canadian, British, Nigerian, and American-Caribbean authors will be examined through feminist, postcolonial, psychoanalytic, and Marxist theoretical perspectives. The intersections of race, class, gender, sexual orientation and identity will be explored.

A primary aim of the course is to encourage students to develop their skills in critical reading, thinking, and writing, and as such this is a writing attentive course. Students will be expected to do the following in assignments and examinations:

- develop and sustain a thesis statement in each assignment;
- develop complex ideas using correct and effective expression, according to academic English practice;
- develop analytic reading skills through close reading;
- use and cite evidence from primary texts appropriately using secondary research and citation skills in MLA format;
- a portion of class time will be devoted to developing and improving essay writing skills and research essay skills.

## Required Reading:

*To the Lighthouse* (1927)  
*The Joys of Motherhood* (1994)  
*Cloud Nine* (1999)  
*Sexing the Cherry* (1989)  
*My Brother* (1998)  
*Harlem Duet* (1998)  
*East of Berlin* (2007)

Virginia Woolf  
Buchi Emecheta  
Caryl Churchill  
Jeanette Winterson  
Jamaica Kincaid  
Djanet Sears  
Hannah Moscovitch

Recommended: *Checkmate: A Writing Reference for Canadians* by Joanne Buckley

Books are available at *Haven Books*.

## Evaluation

**NOTE:** All assignments must be completed in order to be eligible to write the final exam. Failure to hand in any assignment will preclude your ability to sit the final exam and will result in a grade of “F”.

**Attendance:** 10% of your total grade will be based upon your presence and participation in class. Marks will be deducted for absenteeism without an accompanying doctor’s note. It is important to attend all classes. Students must come prepared to discuss the texts thoroughly and thoughtfully, and have already read the assigned material. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to get notes from one of your classmates, as I do not give lectures twice.

**In-class Quizzes:** 10% There will be random in-class reading quizzes throughout the term. These quizzes will be based solely on information from the readings – no analysis is required for these. Missed quizzes cannot be made up outside of the class in which they take place.

**One Essay:** (8 – 10 pages **excluding references**): 30% A list of possible topics will be distributed. The essay will be due at the beginning of class on **March 18<sup>th</sup>**. There will be **NO** extensions given, except in the case of medical emergency, and then only when supported by medical documentation.

**Essay Outline/Annotated Bibliography:** 10% A proposal/outline of the research paper of 5-7 pages, including 6 – 8 **scholarly** sources, is due at the beginning of class on **March 4<sup>th</sup>**. A fully developed thesis/argument should be presented, along with an outline that includes an annotated bibliography – that is, a detailed explanation of research sources, and their relevance to the thesis. An explanation of the research methodology used (what and why) should be included in this assignment. A properly formatted works cited page is expected. For more information on the requirements of an annotated bibliography, go to [http://www.library.mun.ca/guides/howto/annotated\\_bibl.php](http://www.library.mun.ca/guides/howto/annotated_bibl.php)

**Final Examination:** 40% A 3-hour exam will be scheduled by the university in the exam period. It will consist of a series of passages from the texts studied; you will identify and analyze 10 of these passages, providing as much analytic detail as possible.

**Late Policy:** Assignments must be handed in on the due date at the beginning of class to receive full marks. There will be **no extensions** granted unless discussed prior to the due date with the instructor. In the case where illness prevents a student from submitting an assignment on time, a doctor's note will be accepted. All other late assignments will be penalized **1 mark** per day for up to 7 days, including weekends. No assignments will be accepted if they are more than 7 days late, with the exception of those stated above.

**NOTE: It is your responsibility to insure that all assignments are completed and handed in on time. Keep a backup copy that can be submitted upon request at any time.**

### **Formatting and Citation**

Papers must be formatted using MLA style. You can find guidelines for MLA formatting on the library webpage, [http://www.library.carleton.ca/sites/default/files/help/writing-citing/mla\\_style.pdf](http://www.library.carleton.ca/sites/default/files/help/writing-citing/mla_style.pdf) Papers should be typed/printed double-spaced on 8 ½ x 11" white paper. Please ensure proper margins on all sides of the page and use a 12 pt Times New Roman font or equivalent. Also, remember to keep backup copies of your papers, either hard copy or on a floppy/flash disk.

### **Plagiarism**

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own". This can include:

- Reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source
- Using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgement in any academic assignment
- Failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks

Plagiarism is a serious offence. When an instructor suspects plagiarism the Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student. Penalties can include a final grade of "F", which will appear on the student's transcript. **There is ZERO tolerance for plagiarism.** For specific examples of plagiarism and tips on how to avoid it visit the Academic Integrity section of the Learning Commons at <http://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/>

### **Academic Accommodations**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term.

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>

## Reading Schedule\*

January 7 January 9	Introduction To the Lighthouse
January 14 January 16	To the Lighthouse To the Lighthouse
January 21 January 23	To the Lighthouse Joys of Motherhood
January 28 January 30	Joys of Motherhood Joys of Motherhood
February 4 February 6	Cloud Nine Cloud Nine
February 11 February 13	Cloud Nine Cloud Nine
February 18 February 20	<b>Winter Break – no class no class</b>
February 25 February 27	My Brother My Brother
March 4 March 6	My Brother <b>Outline/Annotated Bib Due</b> East of Berlin
March 11 March 13	East of Berlin East of Berlin
March 18 March 20	Harlem Duet <b>Essay Due</b> Harlem Duet
March 25 March 27	Harlem Duet Sexing the Cherry
April 1 April 3	Sexing the Cherry Sexing the Cherry
April 8	Review

\*Subject to change