

**Carleton University  
Fall 2014  
Department of English**

**ENGL 2108A: *Women and Literature*  
Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:00-11:30  
Location: *Please confirm on Carleton Central***

**Instructor: Jan Schroeder  
Office phone: 613-520-2600, ext. 1791  
Office: 1924 Dunton Tower; Office hours: Mondays 1:30-3:00  
Email: [Janice.schroeder@carleton.ca](mailto:Janice.schroeder@carleton.ca)**

### **Course Description**

We'll begin the course by interrogating the deceptive simplicity of its title. Who or what are "women?" What is "literature?" How have the changing definitions of these two terms shaped the production of gender and other identity categories over the past two hundred years? The course readings will introduce us to a range of nineteenth- to twenty-first century texts, locations, themes, and genres including the novel, slave narrative, graphic memoir, poem, essay, stage play, fictional diary, and illustrated children's book. The texts on the course will touch on socio-historical formations such as the family, motherhood, marriage, poverty, colonialism, slavery, sexual identity, domestic violence, health, and education. Questions we might explore: how has women's writing shaped understandings of these formations, and our interactions with them? How does writing by women self-consciously inscribe and interrogate histories of access to print, to literacy, to modes of publication, to literary value and literary traditions?

### **Course objectives**

- To introduce you to a sample of literary texts by and about English-speaking women between approximately 1800 and 2014
- To develop an understanding of the diversity and continuities between texts by women writers
- To develop an understand of the social and cultural contexts that inform women's literary writing, and how women's writing in turn shaped those contexts
- To introduce you to a relatively even coverage of literary genres
- To develop skills in analyzing, discussing, and writing about literary texts

### **Text List**

Prince, *The History of Mary Prince* (Penguin)  
Levy, *The Long Song* (Hamish Hamilton)  
Brontë, *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* (Penguin)  
Bechdel, *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)  
Macdonald, *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* (Knopf)  
Jordan-Fenton & Pokiak-Fenton, *Fatty Legs* (Annick)

**Required texts are available at Haven Books, 43 Seneca (at Sunnyside). Other required course readings are posted on Carleton Library's ARES system.** Please ensure that you bring the ARES texts to class, either on your laptop or other electronic device, or in hard copy.

### **Assignments**

Short response essay (4 pages, due mid term): 25%

Analytical essay proposal (1-2 pages, due one week prior to research essay): 5%

Analytical essay (8 pages, due end of term): 30%

Final exam: 30%

Participation: 10%

Late assignments will be penalized **one grade per day**. Extensions on essays will be granted only under extreme circumstances, and must be negotiated with me well before the deadline. If you cannot meet the deadline because of illness, an extension will be granted, but you must negotiate the extension with me *ahead of time* and arrange to provide me with a doctor's note. I will not discuss extensions on the day the paper is due or afterwards. In extreme emergencies, extensions at the end of term may need to be negotiated with administration.

### **Plagiarism**

Carleton University defines plagiarism as "failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks" and "submitting any work written, in whole or in part, by someone else." Another definition of plagiarism is "presenting, *whether intentional or not*, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own." This applies to material from books, articles, websites, etc. I am required by the University to report all cases of plagiarism. Do not hesitate to come to me with any questions about how to cite material in your written work. Please consult the following website for more details on instructional offences. <http://www.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/>

### **Accommodations**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows.

**Pregnancy obligation:** 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. For more details see the Student Guide.

**Religious obligation:** 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. For more details see the student guide.

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides service to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism

Spectrum Disorders (ASD) chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the PMC, 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam.

### **Contacting me**

I am available during my **office hour on Mondays from 1:30-3:00** to discuss any aspect of the course. If this time conflicts with your schedule, I would be happy to schedule an appointment. You can also send me a message by e-mail (not CuLearn; I check my e-mail more regularly), and I will do my best to respond promptly. **Please use your Carleton e-mail account when contacting me.** University policy stipulates that we are required to discuss course-related matters using university accounts.

### **Essays (60%)**

There will be two major writing assignments in the course. The first short response essay assignment will ask you to compare and contrast two of the works we have previously discussed in class. The analytical essay assignment will ask that you engage with two secondary sources in addition to one primary text of your choice. I will provide a set of prompts for the analytical essays, and/or a list of secondary texts for you to work with. I will also circulate a separate handout giving an idea of what I look for on essay assignments.

#### **Essay Format:**

Please prepare and submit your essays as follows:

- No duotangs or covers;
- Pages stapled in left corner;
- Double spacing, 12 point Times New Roman font; do not insert extra space between paragraphs;
- All pages numbered, except the first page
- Title page unnecessary; provide heading information on first page according to MLA guidelines;
- **Use MLA citation style;**
- **Provide Works Cited section according to MLA guidelines;**
- Please keep a copy of your paper
- Hard copy submissions only, please.

### **What is the MLA?**

The MLA is the Modern Language Association, an international organization founded to promote the study and teaching of language and literature. The MLA publishes the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, now in its 7th edition. This book is our format bible and will be essential for you not only in this course but in all your English courses. It teaches you how to do things like present names and titles of works correctly, quote from sources, prepare a works cited list at the end of your paper, and use, evaluate, and document online sources. If you haven't already picked up a copy of the *MLA Handbook* you are **strongly** urged to do so. It is not available online, however, this website offers a helpful overview of the basics of MLA style: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

## About Participation (10%)

**This course will combine lecture and discussion.**

Class participation will be evaluated as follows:

- Did you attend class regularly?
- Have you read the assigned texts?
- Did you arrive with questions and comments about the reading?
- Did you respond to or engage with other students in class discussion?
- Did other students and/or the professor learn from your contributions?

## Attendance policy

Class attendance is mandatory. I take attendance at the beginning of every class. If you arrive to class late and/or forget to sign the attendance sheet, it will appear as an unexplained absence on your record. You are allowed **four unexplained absences** per term. More than four unexplained absences per term will result in a grade of zero for the participation assignment. In extreme cases of unexplained absenteeism, I will begin to deduct grades from your final essay. **Excused absences** are any medically documented absences; I need to keep a copy of your note. Absences for work reasons and family vacations will not be excused.

Note: If you have a bad cold, stay home and use that as one of your four unexplained absences—**you do not need to e-mail me to tell me that you have a cold.**

It is also extremely important that you come to class *prepared*: this means bringing the primary text to class with you (hard copies or on your electronic device), and questions/comments for discussion.

## Using laptop computers and other electronic devices in class

When you use laptops and other electronic devices in class for non-course related activities you become a distraction to other students and to me. Please respect the classroom space and refrain from texting, surfing, playing games, etc. during class. I will speak to you directly if I notice problems.

## 2108 Reading Schedule

The reading schedule is subject to minor changes throughout the semester, and will be announced in advance in class.

<b>Friday, September 5</b>	<b>Course requirements and orientation</b>
<b>Wednesday, September 10</b>	Woolf, "Shakespeare's Sister" (Ares)
<b>Friday, September 12</b>	Woolf Atwood, "The Landlady" (Ares)
<b>Wednesday, September 17</b>	Atwood, "Who do you think you are?" (Ares) "Nobody to nobody." (Ares) Dickinson, "I'm Nobody! Who are you?" (Ares)
<b>Friday, September 19</b>	Munro, "Who Do You Think You Are?" (Ares)
<b>Wednesday, September 24</b>	Truth, "Ain't I a Woman?" (Ares) Coyote and Spoon, <i>Gender Failure</i> (Ares)
<b>Friday, September 26</b>	MacDonald, <i>Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)</i>
<b>Wednesday, October 1</b>	MacDonald <b>Response essays due in class</b>
<b>Friday, October 3</b>	Rossetti, "Goblin Market" (Ares)
<b>Wednesday, October 8</b>	Prince, <i>The History of Mary Prince</i>
<b>Friday, October 10</b>	Prince, <i>The History of Mary Prince</i>
<b>Wednesday, October 15</b>	Levy, <i>The Long Song</i>
<b>Friday, October 17</b>	<i>The Long Song</i>
<b>Wednesday, October 22</b>	<i>The Long Song</i>
<b>Friday, October 24</b>	<i>The Long Song</i>
<b>Wednesday, October 29</b>	Fall break; classes suspended
<b>Friday, October 31</b>	Fall break

<b>Wednesday, November 5</b>	Brontë, <i>The Tenant of Wildfell Hall</i>
<b>Friday, November 7</b>	<i>Tenant</i>
<b>Wednesday, November 12</b>	<i>Tenant</i>
<b>Friday, November 14</b>	<i>Tenant</i>
<b>Wednesday, November 19</b>	Bechdel, <i>Fun Home</i>
<b>Friday, November 21</b>	Bechdel
<b>Wednesday, November 26</b>	Jordan-Fenton and Pokiak-Fenton, <i>Fatty Legs</i>
<b>Friday, November 28</b>	Rich, "Diving into the Wreck" (Ares) Dickinson, "They shut me up in Prose" (Ares) Brand, "On Poetry" (Ares)
<b>Wednesday, December 3</b>	Dickinson, "I dwell in Possibility" (Ares) "Sweet Mountains" (Ares) "A solemn thing—it was" (Ares) "She rose to His Requirement" (Ares) Wordsworth, "Grasmere—A Fragment" (Ares)
<b>Friday, December 5</b>	Review