

**Carleton University
Fall 2016
Department of English**

**ENGL 2108A: Women and Literature:
What Do Women Want?**

Prerequisite: second-year standing Precludes additional credit for ENGL 2902 {1.0} (no longer offered).

Monday and Wednesday 10:05-11:25

**Canal Building 2104
(Please confirm on Carleton Central)**

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Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00-12:00, or by appointment**

The question “What do women want?” has been variously the basis of the Wife of Bath’s Tale in Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*, a major 19th-century social movement, and the title and plot of an unfortunate 2000 romantic comedy starring Mel Gibson and Helen Hunt. Not surprisingly, women writers have also addressed this question in their fiction. Aphra Behn, the first English woman to make her living by her pen, incorporated the desires of women into many of her plays and novellas. Both the amatory fiction and the thinly concealed conduct book fiction by female novelists of the 18th century continued this trend, as did the writers who followed, regardless of whether or not they identified themselves as feminists.

This course looks at some of the things girls and women want, apart from or in addition to love and/or marriage, as conveyed in women’s writing of primarily the 19th and 20th centuries. The desire for social status or standing, material wealth, power, and meaningful work have all motivated the female subjects of women writers whose works we’ll be reading, deepening and complicating the stereotypical romance plot. Not all of their female subjects are wise or balanced or even likeable, but their fiction gives both realistic and nuanced answers to the central question of the course.

Required texts:

Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre* (Oxford)
Braddon, Mary Elizabeth. *Lady Audley’s Secret* (Broadview)
Kogawa, Joy. *Obasan* (Penguin)
Hansberry, Lorraine. *A Raisin in the Sun* (Signet)
*Haywood, Eliza. “Fantomina”

- *Gilman, Charlotte . “The Yellow Wallpaper”
- *Glaspell, Susan. “A Jury of Her Peers”
- *Oates, Joyce Carol. “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been”

*Internet links to the short fiction will be provided.

These books are available at Octopus Books, 116 Third Avenue.

Evaluation:

Attendance and participation	10%
Early feedback entry	5%
Critical journal	30%
Term test	20%
Final exam	35%

Please read this carefully:

1. **Attendance Policy:** Class attendance is mandatory, and attendance will be taken. Excused absences must be medically documented. Absences for work reasons will not be excused. Students who attend only part of a class will be counted as absent from that class. Everyone has two “free” unexcused absences. The third unexcused absence will result in 2 points being deducted from the attendance mark; the fourth unexcused absence will result in 3 additional points being deducted from the attendance mark; the fifth unexcused absence will result in the loss of the whole attendance mark. Participation in class discussions will factor into the overall attendance/participation mark.

2. **Critical Journal:** A course as narrowly focused as this one allows students to follow literary and social trends and to track changes and continuities with some degree of accuracy despite the relatively small number of texts consulted. Students will complete a critical journal comprised of entries on each of the four major texts (*Jane Eyre*, *Lady Audley’s Secret*, *Obasan*, and *A Raisin in the Sun*), and on **one** other text. Each entry must be 300-400 words in length, and all entries must focus on the **same single topic** taken from the list of topics provided at the end of the course outline. The finished journal must contain an Introduction of 300-400 words that summarizes your findings on the topic you’ve chosen and states or at least suggests a plausible thesis. Obviously, if you draft your entries throughout the course, the final journal will be largely a matter of editing your entries and writing a short introduction.

NB: No secondary sources are required for the journal.

PROTOCOL: Written assignments are to be handed in at the beginning of the class on the day that they are due; however, for those “crunch” times, papers may be submitted after class via the Drop Box in the English Department. In order to be accepted, papers must be date-stamped with the due date, which means they have to be in the drop box by 8:00 a.m. on the following day. **IF YOU USE THE DROP BOX, YOU MUST PUT MY NAME ON THE FRONT SHEET. OTHERWISE, THE ESSAY MAY WELL GO ASTRAY. ESSAYS LOST DUE TO FAILURE TO INCLUDE MY NAME WILL BE COUNTED AS LATE PAPERS, REGARDLESS OF THE DATE STAMP.**

3. **Mandatory Early Feedback Assignment:** The first journal entry on *Jane Eyre* is due on October 3. This entry will be marked and graded, but the grade will not factor into your journal mark. Instead, you may use the comments and corrections to revise this entry for your final journal submission and to use it as a guide to your written work in the course.
4. **Late papers** must be accompanied by valid medical documentation in order not to be penalized. Late papers will receive a penalty of 2% per day. Papers more than a week late will receive a grade of 0. Rewrites of papers are not an option. Essays must conform to the stated word count requirement, must answer the essay question, and must discuss only texts read in this course. Papers that are too short or too long by more than 50 words may be penalized.

Paper topics are distributed only in class, not via CULearn or e-mail.

Note: If one of your assignments is lost, misplaced, or not received by the instructor, you are responsible for having a backup copy that can be e-mailed immediately upon request.

5. **Extensions:** Extensions on papers may involve a penalty. All extensions must be arranged by e-mail at least 24 hours in advance of the due date. **No exceptions will be made to this arrangement.**
6. **E-Mail Protocol:** You are encouraged to work with me on your journal entries and to send me the thesis of your finished journal. Please identify the course in the subject line; otherwise, your e-mail may be deleted without being read. Please do not send attachments.

I DO NOT ACCEPT PAPERS BY E-MAIL. YOU MAY E-MAIL AN ESSAY TO ME ONLY UNDER ALL THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES AND CONDITIONS:

1. If you have printer problems at the last minute
2. If you e-mail me the finished essay by the beginning of the class on the day it is due.
3. If you come to that class and inform me of the problem.
4. If you bring a hard copy of the essay to my office within 24 hours of the due date.

7. In-class assignments and examinations: In-class assignments and examinations must be written on the date indicated on the syllabus and may not be made up unless a student has a valid doctor's certificate.

The Fall term exam period is December 10-22 (including Saturdays and Sundays). The Registrar's Office states that it will make the December exam schedule available on Oct. 7. Do not make travel plans until the exam schedule has been released. Exams will not be rescheduled for students who take on other commitments during the exam period.

8. Collaboration: Although you are encouraged to talk with each other about assignments and to review each other's work, all assignments written for evaluation are to be the original work of individual students.

9. **Plagiarism:** See statement on Academic Integrity in the Undergraduate Calendar at

<http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/academicintegrity/>

Plagiarism is a serious matter and can be grounds for expulsion from the University. Plagiarism often occurs because a student is not sure where to draw the line between common knowledge, paraphrase, and direct quotation -- and indeed, the distinctions are sometimes hard to make. The rule of thumb is this: All direct quotations have to be contained by quotation marks and their sources cited in proper MLA documentation style; all paraphrases have to be clearly indicated as such, and their sources also cited. When in doubt about whether a point that you are making is common, shared knowledge in the public domain or the "intellectual property" of another author, either contact me for clarification or err in the direction of documentation.

Please note that I hand over ALL cases of suspected plagiarism to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for investigation.

10. REQUEST FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION:

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 services 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 PMC at 613-520-6608 or 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 the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). 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 (if applicable).

Syllabus

Sept. 7 – Introduction

Sept. 12 – Elements of Fiction and Women Writers

September 14 – “Fantomina”

Sept. 19 – *Jane Eyre*

Sept. 21 – *Jane Eyre*

Sept. 26 – *Jane Eyre*

Sept. 28 – *Jane Eyre*

Oct. 3 – *Jane Eyre*; **Early Feedback Assignment Due**

Oct. 5 – *Lady Audley’s Secret*

Oct. 10 – THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS

Oct. 12 – *Lady Audley’s Secret*

Oct. 17 – *Lady Audley’s Secret*

Oct. 19 – *Lady Audley’s Secret*

Oct. 24 – 28 – FALL BREAK

Oct. 31 – *Lady Audley’s Secret*

Nov. 2 – **TERM TEST**

Nov. 7 – *A Raisin in the Sun*

Nov. 9 – *A Raisin in the Sun*

Nov. 14 – *A Raisin in the Sun*

Nov. 16 – *A Raisin in the Sun*

Nov. 21 – *Obasan*

Nov. 23 – *Obasan*

Nov. 28 - *Obasan*

Nov. 30 – *Obasan*

Dec. 5 – “The Yellow Wallpaper”; “A Jury of her Peers”

Dec. 7 – “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?”

Dec. 9 – Review; **CRITICAL JOURNAL DUE**

Journal topics

Social status or social standing

Material goods

Reputation

Power

Meaningful work

Home (in a spatial sense of a place to live)

Female friendship

Education (in a formal sense)