

**Carleton University  
Fall 2018  
Department of English**

**ENGL 2108A: Women and Literature:  
Heroines of Their Own Lives**

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

**Lecture: Monday/Wednesday 13:05 – 14:25**

**Location: 3101 Canal Building  
(Please confirm location on Carleton Central)**

**Instructor: Dr. P. Whiting  
Email: [patricia\\_whiting@carleton.ca](mailto:patricia_whiting@carleton.ca)  
Office: DT 1810**

**Phone: 613-520-2600 ext. 6702  
Office Hours: Monday 2:30-3:30 or by appointment**

Sometimes, we tend to think that the strong, decisive woman is a modern concept and to attribute our modern ideas of female assertiveness and agency to the ongoing Women's Movement. Literature, however, shows us that take-charge women and girls are nothing new. Literature also shows us that, for women who determine to take control of their lives, female assertiveness and agency are and never have been unambiguously positive. Working with texts from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, we will read the stories of famous and lesser known literary heroines who are variously motivated by curiosity, romance, ambition, and necessity and will examine the triumphs, surprises, and perils of female agency.

Sharpening students' skills in close reading and critical thinking is a key aspect of the course. A critical journal with frequent feedback will allow students to work on developing proficiency in their writing.

**Required texts (tentative):**

\*Braddon, Mary Elizabeth. *Lady Audley's Secret*. Broadview  
\*Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*. Broadview  
\*Dacre, Charlotte. *Zofloya*. Broadview  
\*Levy, Amy. *Romance of a Shop*. Broadview  
Petty, Ann. *The Street*. Mariner  
Hansberry, Lorraine. *A Raisin in the Sun*. Vintage

**These books are available at Octopus Books, 116 Third Avenue. The Broadview texts marked with an asterisk (\*) will be packaged together and sold at a discounted price.**

## Evaluation:

Attendance and participation	10%
Journal entries (x6)	30%
Journal introduction	10%
Reading quizzes (best 5 of 6)	20%
Final exam	30%

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

## 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 small number of texts consulted. Students will complete a critical journal comprised of entries on each text.

Each entry must be double-spaced and 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. At the end of the term, you will hand in all your marked entries and 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 for your journal. **Be sure to keep your marked entries.** Going over or under the word count by more than 15 words will result in a reduction in grade for that entry. Please include the word count at the end of each entry.

The entries and the Introduction are to be submitted *before* the beginning of class on days designated on the syllabus. Papers may also be submitted in the Drop Box in the English Secretariat on the 18<sup>th</sup> floor of Dunton Tower. 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 morning after the due date. **IF YOU USE THE DROP BOX, YOU MUST PUT MY NAME ON THE FRONT SHEET. OTHERWISE, THE ESSAY MAY GO ASTRAY. PAPERS THAT GO ASTRAY FOR THIS REASON WILL BE COUNTED AS LATE PAPERS.**

These papers need not be “academic” in terms of a formal essay, but they may **not** refer to the reader....ever!...nor may they be opinion-based. Rather, they should be thoughtful, focused, and well-written, demonstrating substantive knowledge of the text being discussed (in other words, you must demonstrate that you have finished and thought about the text).

Each entry is worth 5 points toward the final grade, and the Introduction is worth 10 points. **Students must hand in all six entries and the Introduction to be eligible to write the final exam.**

**NB: No secondary sources are required for the journal.**

**3. Quizzes:** The quizzes will be held at the beginning of the class on designated days. They will cover past lecture material as well as the readings assigned for that day. Quizzes will last 15-20 minutes and may not be made up without medical documentation.

**4. Early Feedback Assignment:** The first journal entry on *Zofloya* is due on September 19, and is intended to be used as a guide to your written work in the course. You have the option to rewrite the *Zofloya* entry for marks for your final journal. **Both the marked and revised entries must be turned in with the final journal.**

**5. 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. Except in the case of the *Zofloya* entry, rewrites of entries 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. Entries that are too short or too long by more than 15 words may be penalized.

**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.**

**6. 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.**

**7. 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.

**The Fall term exam period is December 9-21 (including Saturdays and Sundays). The Registrar's Office generally releases the December exam schedule in October. 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:** 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;
- ☐ submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- ☐ using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- ☐ using another's data or research findings;
- ☐ failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- ☐ handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

The policy can be found at: <http://carleton.ca/fass/wp-content/uploads/Academic-Integrity-Sept-2017.pdf>

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**

Please contact your instructor 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, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

### **Religious obligation**

Please contact your instructor 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, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

### **Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. [carleton.ca/pmc](https://carleton.ca/pmc)

### **Survivors of Sexual Violence**

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](https://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

### **Accommodation for Student Activities**

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

## **Syllabus**

Sept. 5 – Introduction

Sept. 10 – *Zofloya*; Elements of Fiction and Introduction to Women Writers

Sept. 12 – *Zofloya*

Sept. 17 – *Zofloya*

\*Sept. 19 – *Zofloya*; ***Zofloya* ENTRY DUE**

Sept. 24 – *Jane Eyre*

\*Sept. 26 – *Jane Eyre*

Oct. 1 – *Jane Eyre*

Oct. 3 – *Jane Eyre*

**Oct. 8 – THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS**

Oct. 10 – *Jane Eyre*; ***Jane Eyre* ENTRY DUE**

\*Oct. 15 – *Lady Audley's Secret*

Oct. 17 – *Lady Audley's Secret*

**Oct. 22-26 – READING WEEK**

Oct. 29 – *Lady Audley's Secret*

Oct. 31 – *Lady Audley's Secret*; ***Lady Audley's Secret* ENTRY DUE**

\*Nov. 5 – *The Romance of a Shop*

Nov. 7 – *The Romance of a Shop*

Nov. 12 – *The Romance of a Shop*; ***Romance of a Shop* ENTRY DUE**

\*Nov. 14 – *The Street*

Nov. 19 – *The Street*

Nov. 21 – *The Street*

Nov. 26 – *The Street*; ***The Street* ENTRY DUE**

\*Nov. 28 – *A Raisin in the Sun*

Dec. 3 – *A Raisin in the Sun*

Dec. 5 – *A Raisin in the Sun*; ***A Raisin in the Sun* ENTRY DUE**

Dec. 7 – Review; **INTRODUCTION DUE, ALONG WITH MARKED ENTRIES**

**\*Asterisks designate reading quizzes**

**FINAL EXAM TO BE ANNOUNCED**

**Journal topics**

Material/ consumer goods

Reputation (the public estimation in which a person is held by society generally)

Power/ power relations

Meaningful work

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

Female friendship

Education (in a formal sense, not life education)

Female agency

