

ENGL 3330 / WGST 3330: Studies in Women and Literature
Prerequisite: ENGL 2110 or 2110H, 2120 or 2120H, 2130, or 2130H, or 2060
Credit Hours: 3
Fall Semester 2009

Dr. Theresa Thompson, Professor, Department of English

Contact information: **Office:** West Hall 212; **Phone:** 333-5946; **E-mail:** tthompson@valdosta.edu
Course Website: <http://www.valdosta.edu/~tthompson>
Office Hours: Wednesday 1-2 p.m. and by appointment.

Catalog Description: An examination of selected topics in literature by or about women.

Course-Specific Description:

“Any human anywhere will blossom in a hundred unexpected talents and capacities simply by being given the opportunity to do so.” Doris Lessing (1919-, Nobel Prize winning author)

“Human beings are more alike than unlike, and what is true anywhere is true everywhere, yet I encourage travel to as many destinations as possible for the sake of education as well as pleasure.” Maya Angelou (1928-, autobiographer, inaugural poet, poet laureate)

“Man is not the enemy here, but the fellow victim.” Betty Friedan (1921-2006, author of The Feminine Mystique)

“There are years that ask questions and years that answer.” Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960, novelist, anthropologist)

“The truth will set you free. But first, it will piss you off.” Gloria Steinem (1934-, founder of New York Magazine, founding editor and publisher of Ms. magazine, women’s rights activist)

This course facilitates the following VSU General Education Outcomes:

Students will demonstrate cross-cultural perspectives and knowledge of other societies.

Students will express themselves clearly, logically, and precisely in writing and in speaking, and they will demonstrate competence in reading and listening.

Students will demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultural heritages in the arts, the humanities, and the social sciences.

Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze, to evaluate, and to make inferences from oral, written, and visual materials.

Students will demonstrate knowledge of principles of ethics and their employment in the analysis and resolution of moral problems.

Course-Specific Education Outcomes:

Students will demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of literature produced by women of diverse nationalities, ethnic and religious backgrounds, and socio-economic levels during the twentieth-century.

Students will demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of feminist / gender literary terms and theories.

Student will demonstrate basic knowledge of the mythological, biological, sociological, and psychological frameworks involved in contemporary narratives across economic, racial, cultural, religious, political and geographic boundaries.

Students will gain some understanding of what it means to identify as a woman and what it means to be a woman in the modern world.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Karin Boye. Kallocain. Trans. Gustaf Lannestock. University of Wisconsin Press, 1940.

Doris Lessing. The Grass Is Singing. Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 1950.

Janet Frame. Faces in the Water. George Braziller, 1961.

Simone de Beauvoir. A Very Easy Death. Pantheon Modern Writers Series. 1965, 1985.

Gayl Jones. Corregidora. Beacon Press. 1975.

Angela Carter. Wise Children. Penguin, 1991.

Leslie Marmon Silko. Gardens in the Dunes. Scribner Paperback Fiction, 1999.

Three (or more) exam Blue books—available at the VSU Bookstore.

REQUIRED COURSE WORK:**Daily Double-Entry Reading Journal: 30%**

Journal entries must use the template / format provided at the following website—NO EXCEPTIONS: http://www.valdosta.edu/%7etthompson/ppts/4300/double-entry_journal.pdf
Journals are collected at the beginning of every class and they must discuss—as the template indicates—the reading assigned for that day on the reading schedule below.

If you do NOT submit a journal, you are ABSENT that day. Even a blank journal is better than no journal. This is how I take attendance.

Three In-Class, Closed Book Exams: Except under dire circumstances, no make-up exams will be given. Be present for the exams, and do not be late.

Two, in-class, closed-book, 75 minute exams: 20% each (total of 40%)

One comprehensive, in-class, closed-book, two-hour final exam: 30%

The final exam will be held as listed on the university examination schedule. Your course section, with its exam date and time, is given on the assignment schedule below.

Although the main focus will be on materials read and discussed since the second exam, the final exam requires students to incorporate and synthesize information and theories provided from this entire course's texts, movies, and lectures into their responses.

All exam questions develop from information gained from assigned readings and introductory materials (whether or not assigned, but which any good student will read anyway), movies, lectures, and group discussions.

No early exams will be given, as per university policy. No make-up exams will be given either.

If a conflict exists between my final exam schedule and your final exam schedule, you must talk to me well in advance of the exam date and time as listed on my reading and exam schedule.

All exams require short answer, identification, and essay questions.

All exams are closed-book, but you may bring one page—notebook-size, written on one-side only—of notes.

Exam grades are determined according to

the accuracy and relevance of your written responses;

evidence of a demonstrable knowledge and comprehension of all assigned readings, class discussions, and lectures;

and strong evidence of your ability to think critically and syncretically and to develop your complex thoughts into straightforward, clear, written analytical assertions and arguments.

And of course, all exams require you demonstrate college-level Standard Received English grammar, spelling, and punctuation skills. NO exceptions here.

Extra Credit: If you struggle to do the work assigned, then get tutorial help. Do NOT ask for extra work to improve your grade. If you do the reading, attend classes, and study for the exams, you can pass this class. Attempting extra work when you can't do the assigned work well is a bad idea. **Do not ask for extra credit.**

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION are required, but do not guarantee a passing grade. Self-induced problems are NOT valid excuses for missing class or tardiness.

ALL absences—whether excused or unexcused—count the same: you are absent and cannot make up class work you have missed. **Special circumstances** are dealt with on a case-by-case basis. **Please do NOT assume you won't get sick or have a family emergency. DO THE MATH BEFORE MISSING CLASS and take accidents into account.**

1. We meet two days per week.
2. There are fifteen weeks, thirty classes, and a final exam day.
3. If you miss **four** classes—two weeks—I will **lower** your grade one full grade (A becomes a B, for example).
4. If you miss **five** classes, I will lower your grade two full grades.
5. If you miss **six** classes you will receive an **F** for the entire course.
6. If you attend class, but have not done the assigned reading, you will be considered non-participating and may be counted absent.
 - a. You still **MUST** turn in a note card—even if it is blank—or you will be counted absent.

If a truly serious problem arises unexpectedly, or already exists, that you feel necessitates special consideration to excuse your absence, please speak to me privately and immediately. However, the above rules may still apply. Emergency consideration is reserved for students who, otherwise, have not missed any classes, who always arrive early or on-time, who always have done the assigned reading journals, and are demonstrably industrious, hardworking, and dedicated to receiving a quality education.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE POLICIES:

Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability should contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in **Farber Hall**. **Phone: 229-245-2498 (V/VP), 229-219-1348 (TTY); Fax: 229-245-3788; Email: access@valdosta.edu**. They will notify me about your situation and how I should accommodate your learning needs.

Struggling Scholars

The Student Success Center is located in Langdale Residence Hall and is available to all students. The SCC provides free professional and academic advising, peer tutoring in core courses, and campus job information. Phone: 229-333-7570 or email: ssc@valdosta.edu.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

If you do not understand what constitutes Academic Dishonesty, PLEASE read your VSU Student Handbook. The policy is quite clear and thorough in its discussion of all possible variants. Ignorance regarding what constitutes academic dishonesty is no excuse. I will discuss suspected cheating, including plagiarism, before taking punitive action. If you find yourself wrongly accused, it is easy enough to demonstrate your innocence. Only the guilty need tremble with fear.

WHY do I punish cheaters? Academic dishonesty represents an inexcusable moral defect, a revolting negation of basic human integrity. So be aware that **academic dishonesty** of any sort **will result in an F for the entire course**.

I will fail a person for cheating even if the offender chooses to drop the class. VSU Drop / Add Policy says: "...**a student may not exercise this right to withdraw to avoid sanction for academic dishonesty.**" Such a student receives a Withdraw Failing, and that F remains on the student's permanent record. **So, do not cheat, plagiarize, or otherwise demonstrate a lack of moral integrity.**

READING ASSIGNMENTS: Bring the correct volume of text to every class. Come prepared to discuss the assigned reading for the day. Participation requires a book, a journal, and your ability to participate.

Complete ALL reading and journals must be completed prior to start of class where listed below.

AUGUST

18th, T: Introduction to course syllabus and requirements.

20th, R: Karin Boye, Kallocain, pp. vii-56. Dialogic journal due at start of class. No exceptions.

25th, T: Karin Boye, Kallocain, pp. 56-135. Dialogic journal due at start of class. No exceptions.

27th, R: Karin Boye, Kallocain, pp. 136-193. Dialogic journal due at start of class. No exceptions.

SEPTEMBER

1st, T: Doris Lessing, The Grass Is Singing, pp. 1-114. Dialogic journal due at start of class. No exceptions.

3rd, R: Doris Lessing, The Grass Is Singing, pp. 115-167. Dialogic journal due at start of class. No exceptions.

8th, T: Doris Lessing, The Grass Is Singing, pp. 168-243. Dialogic journal due at start of class. No exceptions.

10th, R: **FIRST EXAM. Bring blue exam booklet and two pens.**

15th, T: Movie: The Snake Pit (1948), adapted from the autobiographical novel of Mary Jane Ward. Quiz at end of class.

17th, R: Movie: The Snake Pit (1948), adapted from the autobiographical novel of Mary Jane Ward. Quiz at end of class.

22nd, T: Janet Frame, Faces in the Water, pp. 9-124. Dialogic journal due at start of class. No exceptions.

24th, R: Janet Frame, Faces in the Water, pp. 124-176. Dialogic journal due at start of class. No exceptions.

29th, T: Janet Frame, Faces in the Water, pp. 177-254. Dialogic journal due at start of class. No exceptions.

OCTOBER

1st, R: Movie: The Children's Hour, adapted from Lillian Hellman's play. Quiz at end of class.

6th, T: Movie: The Children's Hour, adapted from Lillian Hellman's play. Quiz at end of class.

8th, R: Gayl Jones, Corregidora, pp. 3-56. Dialogic journal due at start of class. No exceptions.

13th, T: Gayl Jones, Corregidora, pp. 56-132. Dialogic journal due at start of class. No exceptions.

15th, R: Gayl Jones, Corregidora, pp. 133-185. Dialogic journal due at start of class. No exceptions.

FALL BREAK

22nd, R: Simone de Beauvoir, A Very Easy Death, pp. 9-106. Dialogic journal due at start of class. No exceptions.

27th, T: **SECOND EXAM. Bring blue exam booklet and two pens.**

29th, R: Angela Carter, Wise Children, pp. 1-109. Dialogic journal due at start of class. No exceptions.

NOVEMBER

3rd, T: Angela Carter, Wise Children, pp. 110-162. Dialogic journal due at start of class. No exceptions.

5th, R: Angela Carter, Wise Children, pp. 163-232. Dialogic journal due at start of class. No exceptions.

10th, T: Movie: Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee. Film adaptation of Dee Brown's historical chronicle.

12th, R: Movie: Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee. Film adaptation of Dee Brown's historical chronicle.

17th, T: Leslie Marmon Silko, Gardens in the Dunes, pp. 13-114. Dialogic journal due at start of class. No exceptions.

19th, R: Leslie Marmon Silko, Gardens in the Dunes, pp. 117-197. Dialogic journal due at start of class. No exceptions.

24th, T: Leslie Marmon Silko, Gardens in the Dunes, pp. 201-330. Dialogic journal due at start of class. No exceptions.

THANKSGIVING BREAK

DECEMBER

1st, T: Leslie Marmon Silko, Gardens in the Dunes, pp. 330-427. Dialogic journal due at start of class. No exceptions.

3rd, R: Leslie Marmon Silko, Gardens in the Dunes, pp. 431-477. Dialogic journal due at start of class. No exceptions.

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, December 9th, 2:45-4:45 p.m.