

English 2353: Women in Literature—Spring 2013
3 Credit Hours / 48 hours per semester
16 Weeks: 1/14/2013 –5/17/2013
Lecture / Core Curriculum

Melissa Miller-Waters

TTh 9:30-11am

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Course Description:

The HCC Course Catalogue describes English 2353, a Core Curriculum Course, as “a comprehensive overview of the female literary tradition in English from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century. A critical study of how women have responded to culture and society, personal relationships, and their inner selves through a variety of literary genres.” English 2353 will introduce you to a robust cross-section of literature by female authors who write across genres (including plays, short stories, plays, poems, and nonfiction essays). Author Angela Carter has remarked that “a free woman in an unfree society will be a monster,” and we will investigate the many ramifications of her stipulation. Since gender is crucial to our identity, and since the category of *female* is defined in connection to that of *male*, we will examine many aspects of gender formation, identification, desire, sexuality, and representation.

Investigating texts by women writers properly demands that we do much more than read for the plot; we must pay close attention to their language (descriptions, metaphors, symbols, and so on) and the organizing structures they employ to relate events, ideas, and emotions. Therefore, this course is designed to move students into a scholarly discourse that stresses reading and interpreting rhetorically, engages in rigorous intellectual inquiry, and requires persuasive construction and effective presentation of written materials and oral presentations. Students will be expected not to merely parrot information but also to engage actively with the complex issues raised by course materials and to apply course concepts independently to new problems, contexts and texts.

Course Goals:

English 2353 is part of the Core Curriculum and, as such, emphasizes all of the Core Competencies: reading, writing, speaking, listening, critical thinking, and computer literacy. (See the HCC Student Handbook for a complete explanation of the Basic Intellectual Core Curriculum Competencies).

Academic Discipline/CTE Program Learning Outcomes:

- Write in appropriate genres to explain and evaluate rhetorical and/or literary strategies employed in argument, persuasion, and various genres
- Analyze various genres of writing for form, method, meaning, and interpretation.
- Employ research in academic writing styles and use appropriate documentation style
- Communicate ideas effectively through discussion
- Write in appropriate genres using varied rhetorical strategies

Student Learning Outcomes:

To successfully complete 2353, you will:

- Explain and illustrate stylistic characteristics of representative texts by writers of the female literary tradition in English from the Middle Ages to the present.
- Connect representative works of these writers to human and individual values in historical and social contexts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the works of writers from the female literary tradition in English.
- Analyze critical texts relating to the works of writers from the female literary tradition in English.
- Critique and interpret representative works of writers from the female literary tradition in English.

English 2353 fulfills a variety of your core curriculum components including Humanities, Cross/Multicultural Studies, and elective. Visit those sites for their Program and Student Learning Outcomes.

Prerequisite:

A passing grade in 1302 or its equivalent.

Required Texts:

Volume Two of the Third Edition of Gilbert and Gubar's *The Norton Anthology of Literature By Women: The Traditions in English*

The Sophomore Literature Study Guide

Recommended Texts:

A good, recent college dictionary

Current MLA Guidelines or a handbook that contains them

The New McGraw-Hill Handbook or an equivalent handbook

Academic Honesty:

All work you submit must be your own. If you consult any sources, whether oral or written, you must clearly distinguish between your words/ideas and theirs at all times. Students who plagiarize, collude, or cheat may face disciplinary action including the grade of 0 for the assignment, an F for the course, and/or dismissal from the college (see on-line student handbook). For more on plagiarism, see "Plagiarism" in *The New McGraw-Hill Handbook*, on the HCC Library site, or in the HCC Student Handbook.

Course Requirements:

- Reading. This is a literature course based in discussion: translation—lots and lots of reading and talking. You are expected to come to class having carefully read in an analytical manner the assigned texts (including biographical information about specific authors and the short introductions to the works). Your ability to participate thoughtfully in large and small group discussions will affect your professionalism grade (see below).

- Reading logs/quizzes. See my Learning Web or our Eagle Online site for reading log templates. Students should be prepared for quizzes on the days readings are due. Quizzes will be short (10-20 minutes) and may either be short answer or brief in-class writings.
- There will be three essay exams given over the course of the semester. None are comprehensive. Please bring a blue book to class for these exams. The exams may not be made up unless the student provides timely, written, verifiable documentation of a grave illness or other emergency to the instructor within 48 hours of the scheduled exam date.
- Oral presentations. Students are required to do one oral presentation. Instructions and sign-up sheets will be handed out early in the semester.
- One out-of-class project: it's both creative and analytical (you will have a choice between three different types of projects). This project will be discussed at length in class. I will provide guidelines that delineate the requirements and grading criteria for the assignment. In order to be accepted, the written portion of the project must be submitted to **Turnitin.com** as well as printed out and given to me in hard copy. We will discuss the procedures for submitting papers to **Turnitin.com** before the project is due. Furthermore, some sections of your project should be formatted according to MLA manuscript guidelines. See my Learning Web page or our Eagle Online site for general guidelines.
- Attendance. Your attendance is absolutely necessary to complete the course successfully. You should make every effort to attend class; should you have a problem with attendance, please come see me during office hours. It is your responsibility to keep updated on course information if you miss class, so please make arrangements to contact other students. Search parties formed as necessary.
- Students are expected to do their own work. If a student represents work that is not his or her own as if it were, that constitutes plagiarism. (See above).
- All class members are expected to treat each other in a courteous and professional manner. This class will mimic, in many ways, a "real-world" working environment, and students will be expected to participate professionally—be on time, arrive prepared to discuss assigned material, meet deadlines, collaborate, and work fairly. Professionalism includes all of these as well as regular attendance and willing participation in all facets of classroom life.
- Successful sophomore literature students will complete this class by demonstrating through their work their ability to respond critically to works of literature, to identify issues and themes in literature that address what it means to be human, to assess the influence of multicultural experiences shaped by and reflected in literature, and to analyze the effects of historical, political, social, economic and cultural forces on literature in survey courses.
- Online course evaluations. Students will be expected to participate in the **EGLS3 -- Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System**.

At Houston Community College, professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research-based questions related to instruction. The anonymous results of the survey will be made available to your professors and division chairs for continual improvement

of instruction. Look for the survey as part of the Houston Community College Student System online near the end of the term.

Grading:

Students will complete a variety of assignments, and each assignment will earn a letter grade. Course work will be weighted as follows:

Reading Logs/Quizzes	10%
Exams	60%
Creative Literary Project	20%
Oral Presentation	10%

All of these assignments will be discussed at length in class during the semester. Although I will provide handouts that delineate the requirements and grading criteria for these tasks, I expect students to keep up with assigned readings and to take notes while paying attention in class. Work that is off-topic or fails to follow instructions will not be accepted. *One letter grade will be deducted for each class period an out-of-class assignment is late.* Quizzes may not be made up. No extra credit, no curve. You receive the grade you earn.

A (90-100)	Exceptionally fine work, superior mechanics, style and content
B (80-89)	Above average work, achieves in areas listed above
C (70-79)	Average quality work, satisfactorily meets all requirements
D (60-69)	Below average work, noticeably weak in areas listed above
F (0-59)	Failing work, clearly deficient in areas listed above

Instructional Methods:

To fulfill my personal goal of assisting you in engaging with literature more thoughtfully and effectively, you will experience a variety of instructional methods. Although you will often be involved in collaborative activities—discussion, group work, peer reviews, and projects—I will give you very specific guidance about your written work. Furthermore, you will encounter several modes as you grapple with key course information and ideas, including face to face, online, film and audio.

Attendance and Withdrawal Policies:

Students are expected to attend class. In accordance with HCC policy, students with more than 6 hours of absences (4 classes) may be dropped for excessive absence, and a daily record of attendance will be maintained throughout the semester. It is the student's responsibility to keep updated on course information if he or she misses class, so please make arrangements to contact other students should this become necessary. Refer to professionalism grade.

NOTICE: The State of Texas has begun to impose penalties on students who drop courses excessively. For example, if you take the same course more than two times, you have to pay extra tuition. (Students who enroll for most credit CEU classes for a third or more times will be charged an additional \$50.00 per semester credit hour and \$3.00 per contact hours.) **In 2007, the Texas Legislature passed a law limiting new students (those starting college in Fall 2007) to**

no more than six total course withdrawals throughout their academic career in obtaining a baccalaureate degree. There may be future penalties imposed.

Please ask your instructor or counselor about opportunities for tutoring or other assistance prior to considering course withdrawal, or if you are not receiving passing grades. In consideration of the above law, I will not give “W” as a grade option unless you have submitted the withdrawal form yourself before the deadline for withdrawal. I will only give whatever grades you earn (A, B, C, D, or F). **If you stop attending the class, you need to officially withdraw yourself prior to the withdrawal deadline** (April 1). If you do not do so and simply disappear from class, you will receive an “FX” in the course.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: Receiving a W in a course may affect the status of your student Visa. Once a W is given for the course (after you have submitted a withdrawal form officially), it will not be changed to an F because of the visa consideration. Please contact the International Student Office at 713-718-8520 if you have any questions about your visa status and other transfer issues.

Electronic Devices:

Official HCC policy concerning camera phones, cameras, audio/tape recorders, video recorders and any other electronic device that is capable of recording the human voice or image declares that the “[u]se of recording devices, including camera phones and tape recorders, is prohibited in classrooms, laboratories, faculty offices, and other locations where instruction, tutoring, or testing occurs. Students with disabilities who need to use a recording device as a reasonable accommodation should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities for information regarding [such] accommodations.” As a student active in our learning community, it is your responsibility to be respectful of our learning atmosphere. To show respect to your fellow students and instructor, you will turn off your phone and other electronic devices and will not use these devices in the classroom unless you receive explicit permission. If such a device sounds or is used during class, it will be considered a disruption of the educational process (such as other forms of inappropriate behavior) and will be treated as such. If a student expects an emergency call, he or she must speak to the instructor to receive an exception to this policy.

Reasonable Accommodations:

Any student with a documented disability (such as physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, and so on) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Services Office for Northwest College at the beginning of the semester. Faculty members are authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Service Office. For Northwest College, the Accommodations Center is located at Town and Country in RC 12. Only those accommodations specified by the Center, in accordance with Texas law, may be provided. For questions, contact Donna Price at 713.718.5165 or the Disability Counselor at Northwest College, Mahnaz Kolaini, at 713.718.5422. To visit the ADA Web site, log on to www.hccs.edu, click Future Students, scroll down the page and click on the words Disability Information.

Tutoring and On-line Help:

You are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the free tutoring available to you in the Writing Center at Spring Branch. Tutors can help you organize and develop ideas for your

writing assignments and to work on problems in grammar and sentence structure. ***Tutors do not write, rewrite, edit, or correct papers for you, but they can help you to do the tasks better yourself.*** (However, neither the tutor nor any person—your mother, your high school teacher, your friend, and so on—other than your instructor is the final judge of your work.) Writing Center hours at the Spring Branch campus are M-Th 8am-8pm, F 8am-noon, S 10am-2pm, and it is located in room 703. The Writing Center at the Katy campus, located in room 321A, is open Mon 8am-7pm, Tues/Wed/Thurs 8am-2pm, and Fri 8am-noon.

On-line tutoring is available through askonline.net and the Northwest Writing Center. These are especially useful resources for evening and weekend students. You must, however, plan in advance and submit your work well before its due date in order to receive timely advice.

HCC Library: See pdf in Eagle Online if you need help finding your library barcode.

Spring Branch:

The HCC Libraries offer assistance in finding and documenting resources. If you would like help with research, you may contact the librarians, Melba Martin and Peggy Edwards, at melba.martin@hccs.edu or at peggy.edwards@hccs.edu, respectively, or call the library at 713-718-5655. The library is in room RC1.

HCC Student Services Information:

Student Services provides master's and doctoral-level counseling for the Northwest College student body. Counselors are available at each campus to assist students in creating class schedules, evaluating college transcripts, and completing degree/certificate plans. Student Services regular business hours are the same at both campuses: M-Th 8am-7pm, F-Sat 8am-1pm. Phone numbers: Spring Branch Campus, 713-718-5669; Katy Campus, 713-718-5751.

Additional Information:

<http://northwest.hccs.edu/northwest/campus-services>

Early Alert: HCC has instituted an Early Alert process by which your professor will “alert” you through counselors of concerns that you might fail a class because of excessive absences and/or poor academic performance.