ARTS2037: Reading Women Writers
Semester 2 2013

Course Convenor: Dr Fiona Morrison
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Tel 9385-5275, Webster Rm 311B

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>1pm</td>
<td>RC Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Rex Vowels</td>
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STUDENTS MUST ATTEND TWO LECTURES AND ONE TUTORIAL EVERY WEEK.

Seminars begin in Week 1. These are on Thursday at 1 (ASBus 215) and Thursday at 2 (ASBus 215). You can check your seminar enrolment online via myUNSW: [http://my.unsw.edu.au](http://my.unsw.edu.au).
Course Information

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Contacting the School

When contacting the course convenor, lecturers or tutors you must use your official UNSW email. We will only respond to emails from official UNSW addresses. You should also check your UNSW email address regularly, as communications from the School will only use this address.

Staff

Dr Fiona Morrison: Webster 311B, Tel. 9385 5275, email: f.morrison@unsw.edu.au
Dr Sean Pryor: Webster 213, Tel. 9385 7315, email: s.pryor@unsw.edu.au
Course Details

Credit Points: 6

Course description: This course introduces students to the work of major and adventurous twentieth and twenty-first century women writers. The course, which draws on the tradition of women’s writing since the Medieval and Renaissance periods, focuses on the genres of novel, poetry, drama and film. This course examines both women’s production and consumption of writing as well as specific representations of the figure of the woman writer herself. The selected texts allow for a wide range of issues to be explored, including formal innovation, identity formation and the interaction of gender, race and class within the practices of writing, reading and viewing.

Course Aims: The course aims to promote an understanding of women’s writing in relation to a range of intellectual, political and aesthetic contexts and along various trajectories of writing practice, production and consumption. The course encourages students to see women’s writing as a distinct literary tradition that operates in interesting and contested ways in the context of contemporary debates in feminism and the humanities more widely.

This course aims to help students develop their proficiency in reading literary texts with close attention as well as their capacity to identify and deploy critical and theoretical analysis in the formation of their arguments.

Student Learning Outcomes:
At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify many of the major literary and theoretical issues in women’s writing in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries
2. Analyse and discuss the ways in which these issues operate in literary texts from different parts of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries
3. Critically analyse texts within their cultural context
4. Engage productively with the contested issues introduced by this the course and collaborate with other students through structured discussion
5. Demonstrate a mastery of the key protocols of academic writing

Graduate Attributes:
This course will help students build graduate attributes by developing his or her:

1. Skills in literary analysis through the close reading of English texts
2. Ability to relate literary texts to the contexts in which they were produced
3. Ability to reflect upon his/her own practice as a literary critic within the discipline of English
4. Understanding of how texts are produced
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the protocols of academic knowledge construction

Syllabus and Rationale

There are two course modules, covering both literary texts and film. These modules indicate the importance of understanding different literary moments in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries as well as indicating the range of genres engaged by women writers in these periods.

• Section One: Modern to Mid-Century
• Section Two: Contemporary
You should purchase a copy of each of the following:

Prescribed Course Reader:
It is imperative that you acquire a copy of the Reader because it contains information that is crucial for the completion of assessment tasks as well as readings on set texts. A course bibliography will be made available on Moodle.

Prescribed Books:
Gertrude Stein, *Tender Buttons* (1914)
Virginia Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway* (1925)
Christina Stead, *Seven Poor Men of Sydney* (1934)
Toni Morrison, *Sula* (1973)

Prescribed Films are available online from UNSW library
George Stevens (dir.), *Woman of the Year* (1942)
Jane Campion (dir.), *An Angel at my Table* (1990)

The library has copies of these films so that students can easily access and watch them online.

Student Feedback
Student Feedback is crucial to the successful design and implementation of this course. I have taken feedback about assessment and reading loads from ARTS2037 in 2011 and 2012 and folded the recommendations for improvement into the curriculum and assessment schedule for 2013. I look forward to further feedback (informal and formal) about this course in late October.
# Course Schedule - ARTS2037: Reading Women Writers

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week beginning</th>
<th>Lecture (Wed 1pm, Thurs 10am)</th>
<th>Tutorial (Thurs 1 or 2)</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Module One: Modernist to Mid-Century</strong></td>
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| 1. July 29 | i. Introduction to course  
ii. Feminist Literary Theory  
Dr Fiona Morrison | Introduction |  |
| 2. Aug 5 | Gertrude Stein, *Tender Buttons*  
Dr Fiona Morrison | Stein | Reading and research log 1.1 due |
| 3. Aug 12 | Virginia Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway*  
Dr Fiona Morrison | Woolf | Reading and research log 1.2 due |
| 4. Aug 19 | Christina Stead, *Seven Poor Men of Sydney*  
Dr Fiona Morrison | Stead | Reading and research log 1.3 due  
Essay questions available |
| 5. Aug 26 | George Stevens (dir.), *Woman of the Year*  
Dr Fiona Morrison | Stevens |  |
| 6. Sept 2 | Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*  
Dr Fiona Morrison | Rhys |  |
| 7. Sept 9 | Reading week | |  |
| **Module Two: Contemporary** |
| 8. Sept 16 | Toni Morrison, *Sula*  
Morrison |  |  |
Dr Fiona Morrison | Hejinian | Essay due Thurs 26.09 |
| **SEPT 30** | MID-SEMESTER BREAK |  |  |
| 10. Oct 7 | Jane Campion (dir.), *An Angel at my Table*  
Dr Fiona Morrison | Campion |  |
Dr Fiona Morrison | Collins |  |
Dr Sean Pryor | Riley |  |
| 13. Oct 28 | No lectures | No tutorials | Take home questions available Friday Nov. 1 and assessment is due Monday Nov 10. |
Assessment
The general expectations of assessment in this course include detailed reference to set literary texts, the provision of a clear argument, clear and straightforward writing, the inclusion of a bibliography that has been correctly formatted and a paper that has been obviously proofread. Standard aspects of essay presentation, such as italicising titles and indenting quotations of longer than 4 lines are expected as a matter of course. Consultation with secondary sources and criticism will be increasingly important as you progress through second and into third year courses. Plagiarism will attract a mark of ‘0’.

1. Assessment Task 1 - Research and Research Log (25%)

*Three cumulative due dates* apply to assessment 1 (Weeks 2, 3, 4).

Your log has to be submitted at the beginning of seminars on Thursday August 8, Thursday August 15 and Thursday August 22 (Word limit per piece: 500-600 words).

Your task is to read all the primary and secondary material set for Weeks 2-4 and set out *three* elements in a *log format*:

1. The first element is to provide a short *personal evaluation* of the set primary text for the relevant week (250 words). This means forming a subjective assessment of your reading in clear, rational and reasonable prose. Criteria for this will be available in the Course Reader.
2. The second element is to provide an *annotated bibliographic entry* on an associated theoretical reading included in the ARTS2037 Course Reader (250 words). An annotated entry objectively assesses the nature, structure and relevance of the argument asserted in your secondary reading.
3. The third element is to find *two complementary references* for either primary or secondary reading. You will provide a correct citation of these references, set out in MLA bibliographic style. Please avoid all references from sociology and focus instead on literary studies.

The Course Reader will contain information about annotated bibliographic entries and MLA bibliographic style to assist you with this assignment.

The *reading and research task* assesses your ability to:
- identify a number of theoretical and historical issues in feminist literary theory and related aspects of women’s modernist writing;
- practise reading and writing in a structured way, in step with the required tutorial prep;
- practise identifying your own position on primary texts as a basis for constructing engaged and appropriate arguments about literature and literary periods;
- assess critically the focus and relevance of a small range of secondary material;
- demonstrate an understanding of the protocols of academic research and writing;
- use appropriate formats including correct referencing to present your work.

2. Assessment Task 2 – Essay (40%)

Due Date: Thursday September 26, by 4 pm (Week 9). Word limit: 2,000-2,500 words. Questions available August 19, all things being equal. The major essay will ask for a comparison of two authors from weeks 2-8 of ARTS2037.

The *essay* assesses your ability to:
- identify a number of theoretical issues in women’s writing and analyse critically two literary texts to locate the significance and operation of these issues;
- formulate a critical approach to these texts in discussion and through the appropriate use of scholarly resources and develop an argument that negotiates various aspects of these
problems and offers an original approach;
• provide close reference to the relevant texts to support and extend claims;
• demonstrate an understanding of the protocols of academic research and writing;
• use appropriate formats including correct referencing to present your work.

3. Assessment Task 3 – Take Home assignment (35%)
Questions available: November 1 (end Week 13). Assignment due: Monday November 10 by 4 pm. The take home assignment will assess work you have undertaken on the final four texts of the course.

The Take Home assignment assesses your ability to:
• identify a number of theoretical issues in women’s writing and analyse critically literary and film texts to locate the significance and operation of these issues;
• provide close reference to the relevant texts to support and extend claims;
• formulate a critical approach to these texts in discussion and through the judicious and appropriate use of scholarly resources.

Assessment Summary

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assessment Task</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Learning Objectives</th>
<th>Graduate Attributes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading and Research Log</td>
<td>1,000-1,500</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Cumulative: August 8, 15 and 22</td>
<td>1, 3, 4, 5</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>2,000-2,500</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Sept 27</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 5</td>
<td>1, 2, 4, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take Home Exam</td>
<td>1,000-1,500</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Nov 7</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 5</td>
<td>1, 2, 4, 5</td>
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Teaching and Learning Information

This course is taught through lectures and seminars. Moodle is used as a support tool for ARTS2037 (see below) and students are expected to access the UNSW library as a key resource for study. A Course Reader will be provided.

Lectures: There will be two one-hour lectures each week. The lectures are designed to introduce students to the issues and texts of the course by providing contextual information, introduction to theoretical issues relating to the text and some close discussion. Lectures also model for students the ways information is organized and presented in the discipline of English. The lecture format is important in that it demonstrates formal modes of presenting a structured argument as well as a basis for students’ own work and reflection. Lectopia recordings (when they work) and PowerPoint slides may be provided via Moodle to support the lectures and for revision, not as a substitute for lecture attendance.

Tutorials: The weekly tutorial requires students to engage actively and continuously with the lecture and reading material and develop their own critical responses. It also gives students the opportunity to express their critical opinions, negotiate ideas and develop group cohesion in conversation. This will occur through structured and informal class discussion and collaborative work in small groups. Attendance at and participation in tutorials is central to the development of critical thinking and analytic skills, and is thus mandatory.

Moodle: Moodle will contain course announcements, a list of questions for consideration in tutorials, links to recorded lectures (Lectopia, when this works), links to relevant web resources and a link to Turnitin, which is a mandatory tool when submitting assessment work.

Class Attendance: Students are required to attend 80% of all classes. Attendance will be taken in both lectures and tutorials in S2 2013. Failure to meet with attendance requirements without proper certification will result in failure of the course (Unsatisfactory Fail). It is the students’ responsibility to keep track of their attendance. If you experience a prolonged illness or misadventure that prevents you from meeting the 80% attendance requirement you should contact your course convenor immediately. You may be advised to withdraw from the course.

If you are more than 10 minutes late, you are deemed not to have attended. It is your responsibility to ensure your name has been marked off at each class. Explanation of absences, or requests for permission to be absent from forthcoming classes, should be addressed to your course convenor and should be accompanied by a medical certificate or other relevant documentation. See also http://my.unsw.edu.au/student/resources/Policies.html.

Students should consider withdrawing without penalty from this course if they have missed the initial two lecture/tutorial sets (i.e. the first two weeks).
Essential Information for Students

All essential information including information about student rights and responsibilities, essay submission procedures, equity and diversity, plagiarism, and attendance can be found at: https://sam.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policies-guidelines/

Writing
In preparing the written assignments, you should consult the English Essay Handbook: https://sam.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/english-students/ for formal requirements in presenting and submitting written work. You will also find the following website useful in locating material particularly relevant to English in the Library: http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/content.php?pid=28489&sid=208065

Submission of Work
A valid attempt at all assessments must be submitted to successfully pass any SAM course. Failure to fulfill all requirements of the course will result in Unsatisfactory Fail.

Students must submit a hard and soft copy of their work by 4pm on the due date. Only hard copies will be marked; electronic versions will only be accessed as evidence during appeals and disputes.

•Hard copies are to be submitted into the locked assignment boxes outside the School Office, Room 312, Level 3, Robert Webster Building. A signed School Assignment Coversheet must be securely attached, with your details clearly marked. This is a significant document, since it indicates that you have read and understood the UNSW policy on plagiarism.

•Electronic versions of assignments must be submitted TWICE.
  1. Firstly the essay must be emailed to sam.assessment@unsw.edu.au. You will receive an auto response acknowledging the receipt of the assignment. It is your responsibility to keep a copy of the assignment and the acknowledgment email.
  2. A softcopy of the work is to also be submitted via Turnitin on the Moodle site for the course, as this submission provides a crucial opportunity for plagiarism checking.

Late work
If your assessment is submitted after the due date, a penalty of 3% per day (including Saturday, Sunday and public holidays) will be imposed for up to 2 weeks. For example, if you are given a mark of 72 out of 100 for an essay, and your essay were handed in two days late, it would attract a penalty of 6% and the mark would be reduced to 66. If the same essay were handed in seven days late (i.e. a penalty of 21%) it would receive a mark of 51. NB. If your assignment is not submitted within 2 weeks of its due date, it will receive ‘0’ marks.

Extension Procedure

[**Please apply for extensions when you are unwell, and not retrospectively**]

In the case of illness and misadventure you may apply to the course convenor for an extension of the due date. The extension procedure is as follows:
1. Collect a yellow extension form from outside the School Office and present it, together with relevant documentation (e.g. medical certificate) to your course convenor.
2. The course convenor will assess the application and if the extension is granted, decide on a new submission date and sign the yellow extension form.
3. A copy of the application will be emailed to your student account to be printed and submitted with your completed assignment by the new submission date.


**Special Consideration**
In cases of illness or misadventure affecting a number of different courses, you may make formal application for Special Consideration. Should you choose to do so, you should apply as soon as practicable after the problem occurs and within 3 working days of the assessment due date. Application must be made on the Request for Special Consideration form available from UNSW Student Central. [https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/SpecialConsideration.html](https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/SpecialConsideration.html)

**Academic Honesty and Plagiarism**
Definitions and examples of plagiarism can be found on the Learning Centre's Plagiarism & Academic Integrity website ([http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism/index.html](http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism/index.html)) and in Annexure A of the Student Misconduct Procedures. Needless to say that at any level of tertiary study plagiarism is a very serious instance of academic misconduct and attracts severe penalties.

**Other Useful Websites**

**The Learning Centre**: [http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au](http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au)

**UNSW Student Resources**: [http://my.unsw.edu.au/student/resources/Policies.html](http://my.unsw.edu.au/student/resources/Policies.html)

**Library Services**: [http://info.library.unsw.edu.au/web/services/undergraduates.html](http://info.library.unsw.edu.au/web/services/undergraduates.html)

**Writing**: SAM Essay Handbook at: [https://sam.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/english-students/](https://sam.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/english-students/) or consult The Learning Centre’s writing guides at [http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/olib.html#1](http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/olib.html#1)


**Student Equity & Disabilities Unit**: [http://www.studentequity.unsw.edu.au/content/Services/Disabilityservices](http://www.studentequity.unsw.edu.au/content/Services/Disabilityservices)