

WMNS 370, Writing Lives: Feminism and Women's Writing**Mondays 2:30pm Mac-Corry D 216****Professor Jane Tolmie****Office: Mac-Corry D 507, ex 79070****jane.tolmie@queensu.ca****Office hrs Monday 10-12 & by appointment**

The course will examine women writers' creative works in a variety of genres, including memoir, diary, semi-autobiography, graphic novel, biography, novel, short story and poetry. Topics to be considered: the use of autobiography and memoir to position marginalized perspectives; cultural reliance on constructed categories of woman/womanhood; intersecting discourses of race and class; gender and violence; strategies of resistance; canon-formation; interrogation of high and low forms of artistic production; the meaning of life writing; the functions of truth and fiction in autobiographical genres; representations of trauma; mimesis and memory.

Course Requirements:

Oral participation, attendance, oral exercises 15 %

Breakdown:

Regular attendance is essential as the class meets only 1x/wk.

5% attendance + 5% for oral participation = 10 %

Every week 3 or 4 students (+/- depending on final class size) will be responsible for **helping me to lead discussion** on the primary and secondary readings for that class. Sign-up takes place in the first class.

Prepare a half-page (single-spaced, to be handed in) list of comments, key passages, and questions about the texts for the day and be ready to discuss your list with the class. 5%

Response essay 6-7 pages, MLA format, Times New Roman 12-point 20 %

Research paper 6-7 pages, MLA format, Times New Roman 12-point 20 %

Final poster assignment 45 %

Details of this assignment are posted on the WMNS 370 website. *There will be a free graphic layout class and tutorial on poster production in Power Point.*

Course Policies:

Submit assignments in class or to the Women's Studies Drop Box around the corner from the Main Office door, Mackintosh-Corry D504, before 4 pm on the due date (or they may be stamped for the next day).

Late papers: ask in advance about extensions, 3% docked a day for late work incl. weekends, max 10 days then 0%

Plagiarism: Queen's policy on academic integrity may be found outlined in detail in the Arts and Science Calendar at <http://www.queensu.ca/calendars/artsci/pg4.html>. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty are extremely serious academic offenses and carry penalties ranging from failure in an assignment to expulsion from the university.**Required Course Materials: Available at the Campus Bookstore***370 course pack* – available at end of January (all critical readings online until Feb)*Be Good, Sweet Maid: The Trials of Dorothy Joudrie.* Audrey Andrews*Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic.* Alison Bechdel*A Really Good Brown Girl.* Marilyn Dumont*The Diary of Young Girl.* Anne Frank*We Have Always Lived in the Castle.* Shirley Jackson*The Bell Jar.* Sylvia Plath*The Female Man.* Joanna Russ*Lucky.* Alice Sebold*Skim.* Jillian Tamaki, Mariko Tamaki

*The final poster project will cost approx. 30 dollars for professional printing, payable at the time the final CD is submitted in class (in 2008 it was 27 dollars/student). The exact cost will be announced in advance; it depends on the number of posters submitted to MedPrint. Please factor this expense into your planning for the class. If it is a problem please let me know.

Further readings will be distributed in class from time to time. The syllabus and early class readings are available online. Go to <http://www.queensu.ca/wmns/JaneTolmie.html> and click on the 370 syllabus. **Always bring both the primary and the secondary readings to class.**

Schedule of classes.

05-Jan-09

Introduction: The Nature of the Beast

12-Jan-09

Representing Trauma: *Lucky*. Alice Sebold

Reading Rape Stories: Material Rhetoric and the Trauma of Representation. Wendy S. Hesford

19-Jan-09

Coming Out, Graphically: *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*. Alison Bechdel

Autographic Disclosures and Genealogies of Desire in Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home*. Julia Watson

FYI only (not required reading): Online archive of *Dykes to Watch Out For* available at:

<http://www.planetout.com/pno/entertainment/comics/dtwof/archive/splash.html>

FIRST PAPER ASSIGNMENT DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS.

26-Jan-09

White Judges: *A Really Good Brown Girl*. Marilyn Dumont

Canaries in the Mines of Citizenship: Indian Women in Canada. Joyce Green

02-Feb-09

Fairy tales and Violence: *Be Good, Sweet Maid*. Audrey Andrews

PAPER ONE DUE FRIDAY BY 4 PM.

The Battered Woman Syndrome Revisited: Some Complicating Thoughts Five Years after R. v. Lavallee. Martha Shaffer

The Necessity of Differences: Constructing a Positive Category of Women. Marilyn Frye

09-Feb-09

Nazi Germany and Living After Death: *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Anne Frank

Writing Herself against History: Anne Frank's Self-Portrait as a Young Artist. Rachel Feldhay Brenner

16-Feb-09 reading week

23-Feb-09

Special Event: Guest reader and speaker: Susan Olding

"Mama's Voices" from *Pathologies: A Life in Essays*. Susan Olding.

"Writing and Motherhood." Susan Rubin Suleiman.

Selected poems from *White Ink: Poems on Mothers and Motherhood*.

See <http://www.susanolding.com/>

SECOND PAPER ASSIGNMENT DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS.

02-Mar-09

Semi-autobiography: *The Bell Jar*. Sylvia Plath

The Feminist Discourse of Sylvia Plath's the Bell Jar. E. Miller Budick

1-PAGE TOPIC PROPOSAL FOR FINAL POSTER PROJECT DUE.

09-Mar-09

A Paean to Agoraphobia: *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*. Shirley Jackson

A Faithful Anatomy of Our Time: Reassessing Shirley Jackson. Angela Hague

16-Mar-09

Sex Wars: *The Female Man*. Joanna Russ

War, language and gender, what new can be said? Framing the issues. Anita Taylor and M.J. Hardman.

PAPER TWO DUE FRIDAY BY 4 PM.

23-Mar-09

Feminist Science Fiction: Short Stories

“No Woman Born.” C.L. Moore

“The Women Men Don’t See.” James Tiptree Jr.

“And I Awoke and Found Me on the Cold Hill Side.” James Tiptree Jr.

“(Re)Reading James Tiptree Jr.’s “And I Awoke and Found Me Here on the Cold Hill Side.” Wendy Pearson

30-Mar-09

When Comics Grow Up: *Skim*. Jillian Tamaki, Mariko Tamaki

Open letter at <http://www.comicbookresources.com/?page=article&id=18800>

Girls will be Girls. Jessica Taylor

FINAL PROJECT CDS DUE FRIDAY BY NOON. NO EXCEPTIONS DUE TO PRINTING REQUIREMENTS.

EXHIBIT OF FINAL PROJECTS: THROUGHOUT FINAL EXAM PERIOD. LOCATION AND DETAILS TBA.

Guidelines for Citing Sources using MLA Style

MLA handbook for writers of research papers

On reserve in Stauffer Library – call number LB2369.G53 2003

Online MLA Guides:

Research and Documentation Online

http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/p04_c08_o.html

Owl at Purdue: MLA Formatting and Style Guide

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>

Tip:

Manage your references as you do your research with RefWorks Online Citation Manager

<http://library.queensu.ca/libguides/refworks.htm>