**Course Name**

370/3.0 Writing Lives: Feminism and Women's Writing

**Contact Hours**: Wednesdays: Class 2:30-5:30  
**Office Hours**: 5:30-6:30

**Course Description**

Using feminist, trans and queer theory, critical race, disability studies, literary and cultural criticism, this course explores women’s writing in a wide range of genres, with emphases on memory and self-narration and the ways in which subjects located or rejected as ‘women’ contend with binary, racialized and classed frames of gender. As such we will examine the ways in which “woman” and “women” have been positioned in relationship to the personal, the private, the domestic, the human and inhuman, and the popular and how such positioning has been resisted, embraced and transformed in personal records and private communications, strategies of public address, formulations of experience and claims to knowledge, narratives of struggle and oppression, utopian and dystopian fantasy—in short in active if not simply intentional articulations of women, girls, female assigned and feminine gendered persons as agents, victims, enemies, citizens, insurgents, outcasts, chattel, lovers, beloveds, kin, class and collectives. This will entail engaging with writing in a variety of literary and para-literary genres, including memoir, diary, epistolary novel, blog, graphic novel, performance monologue, novel, short story and poetry.

**Required Course Materials**

*NB: This is a tentative list and subject to revision*

- *Ms. Marvel Vol 1: No Normal* (graphic novel/comic by G. Willow Wilson)
- *Skim* (graphic novel by Mariko and Jillian Tamaki)
- *Rue Ordener, rue Labat* (memoir by Sarah Kofman)
- *The Heart’s Traffic* (verse novel by Ching-in Chen)
- *Disintegrate/Dissociate* (poetry by Arielle Twist)
- *Cooking in Heels: A Memoir Cookbook* (by Ceyenne Doroshow)
- *Fierce Femmes and Notorious Liars* (by Kai Cheng Thom)
- *The Woman Who Owned the Shadows* (Paula Gunn Allen)

**Course Objectives**

Upon completing the course students will be able:

- To understand and discuss relationships between feminist movements and theory and women and non-binary people’s writing
- To describe the evolution of women’s and non-binary people’s writing
- To summarize and analyse the difference genre and form make within gendered writing practices, and ways in which gender may effect genre
- To creatively and critically respond to women’s and non-binary people’s experimental and experiential writing

**Course Evaluation**

- Participation in Class Discussion: 10% weekly
- Entry Ticket/Attendance: 10% weekly
- Group Presentation: 20% date tba
- Short Response Paper: 20% date tba
- Creative Journal or Critical Analysis Paper: 40% date tba

**Topics in Course Outline**

- The use of autobiography and memoir to articulate marginalized perspectives;
- The binary formulation of gender in writing; transgender and writing ‘beyond the binary’;
- The formation of the sexed self as a subject of discourse; generic crossings between scientific, personal and “fictional” narrative forms;
- Racialized constructions of gender and genres of biography;
- The meaning of life writing;
- Relations between the erotic, the traumatic and the “limits of representation”;
- Categories of truth, fiction and fantasy as rough matter for individual and collective self-representation and construction;
- The work of melancholy, idealization, memory in women’s writing.