

Feminist Fictions Spring 2022

LIT 4930 Section O6A5

MWF 3:00-3:50

MAT 0113

Professor: Dr. Tace Hedrick

Office: 4326 TUR

Office Hours: 1:45-2:45 MW

Email: Canvas

Attention! Important Notes:

- I often notify the class about a change in the syllabus or an assignment through Canvas Announcements. For you as students to get notifications right away from Canvas, go to Canvas-Account-Notifications-Announcements and set it to “Notify Immediately.”

Another Important Note: In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.
 - You are **expected** to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
 - Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.
- If you're sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website](#) for more information.
 - Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.
 - If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.

Required Texts:

<i>Her Smoke Rose up Forever</i>	1972-1981 James Tiptree, Jr.
<i>Rubyfruit Jungle</i>	1973 Rita Mae Brown
<i>For colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow was enuf</i>	1975 Ntozake Shange
<i>The Color Purple</i>	1980 Alice Walker (Mariner Books, First Edition)
<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>	1985 Margaret Atwood
<i>A Mercy</i>	2008 Toni Morrison
<i>Americanah</i>	2013 Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Course Description:

We will be reading some of the better-known United States feminist narratives published from around 1973 through the first decades of the twenty-first century. These may include Rita Mae Brown's classic lesbian text *Rubyfruit Jungle*, Ntozake Shange's *For colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf*, Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, and more. We will be looking at critical and historical scholarly work as well as at the intersections of race, class, genre, and sexuality in these novels. Narrative style, and the re-shaping of several of these feminist texts into movies or network shows, will help us understand how narrative has and continues to both mirror and shape the concerns of feminism over the last fifty years. One of the overarching questions of the course will ask how issues faced in previous decades of feminist movement are both the same and different today. Attendance, weekly reading notes, short reading quizzes, and three take-home exams (essay style) will be required.

- **Weekly quizzes:** We'll be reading one book every two weeks. On Mondays (usually) there will be a brief reading quiz (five easy questions). Every reading quiz will cover the whole book. You will have had to read all of the reading in order to do well on the quiz. If you miss a quiz, you won't be able to make it up. The lowest score on your quizzes will be dropped.

Number of points per quiz: 5

- **Discussion with notecards.** Every "Discussion with Note Cards" day (unless otherwise noted) bring one or two 5X8 notecards, with your name on them, and discussion points, to class. These can be questions or, more importantly, points you want to make about themes, motifs, politics, or otherwise. Each question or point should be illustrated by choosing an image, or two or three sentences, that you think are important to one or more overarching idea or concept in the work you are discussing. These will be turned in at the end of that two-week session. They will not be graded, **but if you miss 3**, you'll lose 1 point on your end-of-semester score.
- **Discussion.** "Discussion" means first and foremost addressing your question or point on your cards to the class. The class must first try to answer each question and/or point with each other before I enter into the mix.
- **Take-Home Exams:** There will be three take-home essay exams, where I will provide a number of prompts, from which you choose one. The essay exam should be at least five

good, solid paragraphs, at least three sentences each, and contain **many quotes** in order to illuminate your argument. It should be written in 12 pt. Times Roman font, single space, no double spaces between paragraphs.

Number of Points per Exam: 12

Schedule:

January

W	5	Introduction to Course and Syllabus
F	7	“Desiring Revolution” Course Reserves Discussion with Note Cards
M	10	Reading Quiz <i>Her Smoke</i>
W	12	<i>Her Smoke</i> “Love is the Plan, the Plan is Death”; The Girl Who Was Plugged In”; “The Women Men Don’t See”; “Houston, Houston, Do You Read?”
F	14	Discussion with Note Cards
M	17	Holiday
W	19	Reading Quiz <i>Rubyfruit Jungle</i>
F	21	Discussion with Note Cards
M	24	<i>Rubyfruit Jungle</i>
W	26	“Lesbian Bastard Heroes” Course Reserves
F	28	Discussion
M	31	Reading Quiz <i>For colored girls</i>

February

W	2	<i>For Colored Girls</i>
F	4	Discussion with Note Cards Take-Home Exam Prompts
M	7	Take-Home Exams Due <i>For Colored Girls</i> Movie sections
W	9	Discussion with Note Cards
F	11	“Black Feminist Communalism” Course Reserves
M	14	Reading Quiz <i>The Color Purple</i>
W	16	Discussion with Note Cards
F	18	“Sifting Through the Controversy” Course Reserves
M	21	<i>The Color Purple</i>
W	23	Discussion with Note Cards
F	25	Watch the movie at home; segment in class on treatment of “Mr.”

M	28	Reading Quiz <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>
March		
W	2	Discussion with Note Cards
F	4	Watch episode of Hulu's <i>Handmaid's Tale</i>
M	7	Spring Break
W	9	Spring Break
F	11	Spring Break
M	14	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>
W	16	"No Light Without Shadow" Course Reserves
F	18	Discussion
M	21	Reading Quiz <i>A Mercy</i>
W	23	Discussion with Note Cards
F	25	Take-Home Exam
M	28	<i>A Mercy</i> Take-Home Exam Due
W	30	Discussion
April		
F	1	"Playing in the Dark" Course Reserves
M	4	Reading Quiz <i>Americanah</i>
W	6	Discussion with Note Cards
F	8	TBA
M	11	<i>Americanah</i>
W	13	Discussion with Note Cards
F	15	Take-Home Exam
M	18	Take-Home Exam Due
W	20	Last Day of Class

CLASS POLICIES

Students with disabilities: Please consult with me as soon as possible so that I can make appropriate accommodation for you.

Electronics in the Classroom: Please turn off all Bluetooth and handheld devices, and cell phones.

Class Deportment: You are now adults and must be expected to behave as such. However, to remind everyone:

- If you are more than 15 minutes late, do not come to class. Coming in this late is hugely disruptive.
- If you are too tired or sick to pay attention in class, please do not come.
- Do not read other material in class—such as anything on your phone.
- If you cannot come prepared for class discussion, please do not come.

Late Policy: For every 3 times that you are late 10 minutes or more to class, I will deduct 2 points from your total score at the end of the semester.

Absences: I allow three unexcused absences. **Each unexcused absence** after the first 3 will result in the **loss of 2 points** from your total end-of-semester score.

Late Papers: Late exams will not be accepted unless you have a legitimate (for example, doctor's) excuse.

Special Needs Accommodations: If you need academic accommodations for special needs, you must first contact the Disability Resource Center at 392-8565 (accessuf@dso.ufl.edu; 0001 Building 0020 [Reid Hall]) to verify the disability and to establish eligibility for accommodations. You should schedule an appointment with me within the first two weeks of the semester to make appropriate arrangements.

Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)
Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>
Academic Resources

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Student Complaints Campus: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf

On-Line Students Complaints: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>

Grading Rubric:

A= excellent; unusually outstanding; good writing (**one or less writing errors per page**) and **original thinking**: that is, thinking critically beyond what you have read and discussed in class. You use reading and class discussion, as well as other sources if needed, to back up your ideas so that you are not just giving an opinion but an informed argument. You think of yourself as a writer interested in her ideas and interested in sharing them.

B= above average; only a few (**on average, two or so per page**) writing errors, a standard (not original) argument for the subject, though you should work harder on contributing your own ideas about the subject.

C= average based on general class performance; several writing errors (**on average, 3-4 per page**); you understand the subject but you tend to repeat and/or merely summarize what has already been said in the readings or in class discussion.

D= below average; you don't understand the subject and/or you have enough writing errors that your argument cannot be followed.

F= incomplete or failing to meet the requirements of the assignment