

## **Feminist Fictions Fall 2023**

LIT 4930 Section 8THC  
Tues Period 7 (1:55-2:45)  
Thurs Period 7-8 (1:55-3:50)  
MAT 0113  
Professor: Dr. Tace Hedrick  
Office: 4326 TUR  
Office Hours: 12:45-1:40 T Th  
Email: Canvas

### **Attention! Important Note:**

- 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.”

### **Required Texts:**

*Her Smoke Rose up Forever* 1972-1981 James Tiptree, Jr.  
*Rubyfruit Jungle* 1973 Rita Mae Brown  
*Fear of Flying* 1973 Erica Jong  
*For colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow was enuf* 1975 Ntozake Shange  
*The Color Purple* 1980 Alice Walker (Mariner Books, First Edition)  
*The Handmaid’s Tale* 1985 Margaret Atwood  
*A Mercy* 2009 Toni Morrison

### **LIT 4930 Feminist Fictions 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, short reading quizzes, and three in-class exams (essay style) will be required.

- **Reading quizzes:** We’ll be reading one book about every three days, and occasionally watching movies and television. When we finish each book, there will be a brief reading quiz (five easy questions). Every reading quiz will cover the whole book. You will have had to do all the reading in order to do well on the quiz. If you miss a quiz, you won’t be able to make it up; however, the lowest score on your quizzes will be dropped.

**Number of points per quiz: 5**

- **Discussion Questions:** Occasionally I will ask you to come up with discussion questions. These can be questions or, more importantly, points you want to make about a theme, a motif, or politics, or otherwise. Each question or point should be illustrated by choosing one image, or two or three sentences from the text, that you think are important to one or more overarching idea or concept in the work you are discussing.
- **In-Class Exams:** There will be three in-class essay exams, where I will provide a number of prompts, from which you choose one. The essay exam should be **at least** three-four pages, with good, solid paragraphs (at least three to four sentences each) and contain **many brief quotes** in order to illuminate your argument. It should be written in 12 pt. Times Roman font, double space, no quadruple spaces between paragraphs. These will be worth 75% of your final grade. You can upload them to Canvas.  
**Number of Possible Points per Exam: 12**
- Unless you ask me specifically to make more comments, I will put a minimum of comments on these exams, mostly explaining the grade I've given. These exams are worth 50 percent of your final score.  
**Number of Possible Points per Exam: 12 (A)**

**Schedule:**

**August**

Th	24	Introduction to Course and Syllabus
T	29	“Desiring Revolution” <b>Course Reserves</b>
Th	31	<i>Her Smoke</i> Introduction; “The Women Men Don’t See”

**September**

T	5	<i>Her Smoke</i> “Houston, Houston, Do You Read?”
Th	7	<b>Reading Quiz #1</b> <b>Finish:</b> <i>Her Smoke</i> “Love is the Plan, the Plan is Death,” “The Girl Who Was Plugged In”
T	12	<i>Rubyfruit Jungle</i> pp. 2-71 “Lesbian Bastard Heroes” <b>Course Reserves</b>
Th	14	<i>Rubyfruit Jungle</i> pp. 72-152
T	19	<b>Reading Quiz #2</b> <b>Finish:</b> <i>Rubyfruit Jungle</i> pp. 153-end
Th	21	<b>Exam #1</b>
T	26	<i>Fear of Flying</i> pp. 5-126
Th	28	<i>Fear of Flying</i> pp. 127-291

**October**

T	3	<b>Reading Quiz #3</b> <b>Finish:</b> <i>Fear of Flying</i> pp. 293-425
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Th 5 *For colored girls* pp. ix-30

T 10 **Reading Quiz #4**  
**Finish:** *For colored girls* pp. 31-end

Th 12 **Exam #2**

T 17 “Black Feminist Communalism” **Course Reserves**

Th 19 **Movie** *For Colored Girls*

T 24 *The Color Purple* Preface, pp. 1-79

Th 26 *The Color Purple* pp. 80-187  
 “Sifting Through the Controversy” **Course Reserves**

T 31 **Reading Quiz #5**  
**Finish:** *The Color Purple* pp. 188-end

**November**

Th 2 **Movie** *The Color Purple*

T 7 *Handmaid’s Tale* Introduction, pp. 9-122

Th 9 *Handmaid’s Tale* pp. 125-241

T 14 **Reading Quiz #6**  
**Finish:** *Handmaid’s Tale* pp. 242-350

Th 16 Watch episode of Hulu’s *Handmaid’s Tale*  
 “No Light Without Shadow” **Course Reserves**

T 21 *A Mercy* pp. 3-100  
**Thanksgiving Break**

Th 23 **Thanksgiving Break**

T 28 **Reading Quiz #7**  
**Finish:** *A Mercy* pp. 100 -end

Th 30 **Exam #3**

**December**

T 5 **TBA**

**CLASS POLICIES**

**Electronics in the Classroom:** Please turn off cell phones.

**Class Deportment:** You are 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 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, or anything other than the texts we are discussing on your laptop.
- 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 three will result in the **loss of 1 point** from your total end-of-semester score.

**Late Exams:** 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf)  
*On-Line Students Complaints*: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>

### **Grading Rubric for Exams:**

**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