**Professor Narin Hassan**

**LMC 3212: Women, Literature and Culture**

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**Course Prerquisites:** ENG 1102

**Core Area Attributes:** Humanities

**Course Description**:

This course will examine female authorship and feminist criticism through a historical and cultural lens. Course readings will include major texts by British and American women authors of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (including Mary Wollstonecraft, Mary Shelley, Charlotte Bronte, George Eliot, Virginia Woolf, Charlotte Perkins Gilman) as well as contemporary writing by global women authors (including Margaret Atwood, Bapsi Sidhwa, Maxine Hong Kingston, Assia Djebbar and others) and critics who address the global and cultural politics of gender.  The course will examine the complexity and range of women’s writing as well as issues surrounding the relationship of gender studies to race, nationality, sexuality and class.

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Textual/Visual Analysis: Students will learn to read, analyze, and interpret not only cultural projects such as film, literature, art, and new media, but also scientific and technical documents.
2. Interpretive Frameworks: Students will become familiar with a variety of social, political, and philosophical theories and be able to apply those theories to creative and scientific texts, as well as to their own cultural observations.
3. Literary/Film/Narrative art Inquiry: Students will be aware of the traditions and conventions of literature, film and other forms of narrative art, and they will be able to analyze these traditions and conventions in specific cultural contexts.
4. Historical analysis: Students will study literary and cultural texts within an historical framework to become familiar with various forces shape artistic and commercial production. They will learn to interpret history actively, rather than passively accepting archival information.

Course requirements: Two exams, one final essay, short assignments and presentations, quizzes, active participation.   
Reading will approximate 150 pages per week (more for novels, less for critical material).

**Reading list:**

Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid’s Tale*

Mary Elizabeth Braddon, *Lady Audley’s Secret*

Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre*

Assia Djebbar: *Fantasia: An Algerian Cavalcade*

Kaysen, Suzanne, *Girl, Interrupted*

Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*

Bapsi Sidhwa: *Cracking India*

Electronic reserve readings

**Course requirements**: Two exams, one final essay, presentations, quizzes, active participation and discussion.

Reading will approximate 150 pages per week (more for novels/memoirs, less for critical material).

Attendance and Participation: 25%

(this component includes regular attendance,

participation, a discussion

leader session, short in class assignments and quizzes)

2 Exams (25% each) 50%

Final paper and presentation (paper 20%/presentation 5%) 25%

**Course Expectations:**

Be Here!

The first expectation is that you come to class prepared, on time, and ready to work. The attendance and participation requirement requires you to attend class sessions, come to class prepared with readings in hand, contribute to discussion, listen to and respect your peers, and keep up with the reading and class activities. Your grade will drop if you repeatedly miss class, arrive late, come unprepared without the assigned readings, or do not engage with class material and class discussion. Your grade will also be negatively impacted if you miss or have unsatisfactory quizzes and discussion leader sessions.

Absences will limit your contribution to the course and in turn impact the attendance and participation component of your grade. Three late sessions count as one absence. More than eight absences result in automatic failure of the course. You are responsible for finding out about what readings and assignments you have missed due to absences. You cannot make up quizzes and in-class assignments missed due to an absence. These will receive a grade of "0." Exceptions to this attendance policy are made only in the case of medical emergencies and extended hospitalization, for which I require documentation.

Reading and preparation:

I will expect you to complete all reading assignments before class, bring the reading to class and arrive prepared to discuss readings thoughtfully and intelligently. Active participation and regular attendance is a crucial component of this class. I expect our class environment to be one of lively debate where we can challenge and respect the opinions and comments of others, and where we can all be prepared to discuss these texts.

Your role as discussion leader: You will be asked to sign up as a discussion leader for one class session. This is your opportunity to initiate and facilitate our discussion for the beginning of class that day. As a discussion leader you should be fully prepared to discuss the reading and to share your responses to it with the class. You may distribute and pose questions to the class to facilitate our analysis of the reading, select particular passages that you see as relevant or interesting, make connections to other texts we have read, and/or bring in additional material to share with the class that relates to the reading.

Papers and final project:

You will be asked to write one research based final paper (8-10 pages) in this class. Your final paper will be on a research topic of your choice related to course material. You will be asked to organize a formal presentation related to this research. This will involve some group work and development of visual aids. I will ask you to submit a paper proposal and preliminary bibliography before your paper is due and you will receive feedback on both these assignments. We will also review research strategies in class and I will share information about relevant research resources as you develop your topics. In your paper I expect you to introduce and develop a clear thesis, support a sustained argument with evidence, address and respond to relevant critical arguments and debates, and revise and edit for clarity, cohesion and presentation.

Exam/Quizzes: You will have one midterm exam in this class and one final. They will cover material from our reading and discussion. In addition to the exams, you will have short quizzes over the course of the semester—some may be unannounced.

Additional issues:

**Honor Code**: all work you turn in for this class must be your own work, with all outside references sources properly cited and acknowledged. All written assignments for this course will be turned in through the anti-plagiarism program "Turn It In" (http://www.turnitin.com).

The "Student Conduct Code of Rules and Regulations" (Georgia Institute of Technology General Catalog Section XIX) states "Academic misconduct is an act that does or could improperly distort student grades or other student records" and offers the following descriptive list:

--possessing, using or exchanging improperly acquired written or verbal information in the preparation of any essay, laboratory report, examination, or other assignment included in an academic course;

--substitution for, or unauthorized collaboration with, a student in the commission of academic requirements;

--submission of material that is wholly or substantially identical to that created or published by another person or persons, without adequate credit notations indicating authorship (plagiarism);

--false claims of performance or work that has been submitted by claimant;

--alteration or insertion of any academic grade or rating so as to obtain unearned academic credit;

--forgery, alteration, or misuse of any institute document relating to the academic status of the student.

The Code continues, "While these acts constitute assured instances of academic misconduct, other acts of academic misconduct may be defined by the professor." Consult the Honor Code outline at http://www.honor.gatech.edu/ or in the General Catalog to remember your primary commitment to academic honesty. Students who engage in academic dishonesty may receive a 0.0 on the assignment or fail the course, In addition, the instance will be reported to the Dean of Students who may take further action.

**Students with Disabilities**: Please make an appointment to see me if you need to discuss special accommodations for a documented disability or special need. Students with disabilities should also contact Access Disabled Assistance Program for Tech Students (ADAPTS) to discuss reasonable accommodations. For an appointment with a counselor call 404-894-2564 (voice) /404-894-1664 (voice/TDD) or visit Suite 210 in the Smithgall Student Services Building.

**Course Outline**:

Week One: Introductions: Overview of the course. Wollstonecraft, Burney, Montagu (ER)

Week Two: The Rise of the Woman Novelist: Bronte, Jane Eyre. Selections from Gilbert and Gubar, *The Madwoman in the Attic* (ER) and Federico (ed.) *The Madwoman in the Attic after Thirty Years*

Week Three: The Rise of the Woman Novelist Cont./Gender and Domesticity in the Nineteenth Century: Bronte, *Jane Eyre* (cont.) and selections from Eliot, Barrett Browning, Satthianadhan

Week Four: Women Writers and Sensational Texts: Braddon, *Lady Audley’s Secret*

Week Five: Braddon, cont. Reviews of female authors/sensation fiction

Week Six: Revising Narratives/Gender, Modernism and Empire: Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*

Week Seven: Complete Rhys. Midterm Exam.

Week Eight: Madwomen revisited: *Girl, Interrupted*.

Week Nine: Writing Women’s Lives: Djebbar, *Fantasia*

Week Ten: Gender and Nationality: Sidhwa, *Cracking India*

Week Eleven: Break/Catch up week/Final paper proposals due

Week Twelve: Gender and Body Politics/Speculative fiction: Atwood, *The Handmaid’s Tale*

Week Thirteen: Finish Handmaid’s Tale. Short selections on Reproductive technologies

Week Fourteen: Presentation planning, second exam

Week Fifteen: Presentations

Week Sixteen: Final paper due