

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
The City University of New York

Department of ENGLISH

Title of Course:	Course Number	ENG 353
<b>ENGLISH 353: WOMEN IN LITERATURE</b>	Class Hours per Week:	3
	Lab Hours:	0
	Credits:	3

A. Description

English 353 focuses on the contributions of women literary artists from a variety of cultures and ethnic groups. It examines how some writers have both reflected the prevailing female stereotypes of their age and background, and also imagined the "New Woman." Enrollment is open to both women and men.

B. Prerequisites and/or Corequisites

English 201 or English 121

C. Student Outcomes

Students will

- Discuss course content in a range of critical contexts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of themes and genres of course texts.
- Critique the complexities and differences among course texts.

D. Required Texts and/or Supplementary Materials

Recommended readings include the following:

Alice Walker, *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens*

Maxine Hong Kingston, *No Name Woman*

Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre*

Paule Marshall, *Brown Girl, Brownstones*

Poems by Sylvia Plath, Adrienne Rich, Anne Sexton, and Gwendolyn Brooks

Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Susan Cahill, ed., *Women and Fiction: Short Stories by and about Women*

Kate Chopin, *The Awakening*

Madame de Lafayette, *The Princess of Cleves*

Amy Tan, *The Joy Luck Club*  
*The Norton Anthology of Women's Literature*, ed. Gilbert and Gubar  
Tsi-Tsi Dangarembqa, *Nervous Conditions*  
Tillie Olsen, *Yonnandio*  
George Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss*  
Marilyn Robinson, *Housekeeping*  
Nella Larsen, *Passing*  
Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*

#### E. Evaluation and Requirements of Students

Students will be required to read several novels, a variety of short stories, and some poetry and nonfiction prose. Quizzes may be given regularly on important readings, or students may be asked to keep a journal in which they record their responses to the readings. There will be a midterm and a final examination, and there will be either a long paper or a series of short essays have been planned, written, revised, and edited. Oral reports and small group discussions may be included in the classroom participation. Final grades will be based primarily on written work, but participation also counts.

#### **College Attendance Policy**

At BMCC, the maximum number of absences is limited to one more hour than the number of hours a class meets in one week. For example, you may be enrolled in a three-hour class. In that class, you would be allowed 4 hours of absence (not 4 days). In the case of excessive absences, the instructor has the option to lower the grade or assign an F or WU grade.

#### **Academic Adjustments for Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. BMCC is committed to providing equal access to all programs and curricula to all students.

#### **BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement**

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC's web site, [www.bmcc.cuny.edu](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu). For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

#### F. Outline of Topics

Weeks 1-3: Introduction: Why We Didn't Write, and Why We Must

- A. Virginia Woolf, "A Room of One's Own," "Professions for Women"
- B. Alice Walker, "In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens"
- C. Selected Readings on the Significance of Women's Writings

Weeks 4-6: Love and Relations with Men

- A. Maxine Hong Kingston, *No Name Woman*; Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre*
- B. Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
- C. Selected Poems and Stories

Weeks 7-9: Women's Traditional Roles: Wifhood, Motherhood

- A. Judy Syfers, "I Want a Wife"
- B. Tillie Olsen, "I Stand Here Ironing"
- C. Kate Chopin, *The Awakening*
- D. Amy Tan, *The Joy Luck Club*

Weeks 10-12: Women and Violence

- A. Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye* or *Sula*
- B. Adrienne Rich, "Rape"; Margaret Atwood, "Rape Fantasies"
- C. Joyce Carol Oates, "Where Are You Going? Where Have You Been?"

Weeks 13-14: Self-Actualization

- A. Anzia Yeziarska, *Bread Givers*
- B. Final Examination