



ENGL 231 - Literature and Sexuality Course Outline

Approval Date: 05/14/2020

Effective Date: 08/13/2021

SECTION A

Unique ID Number CCC000619082
Discipline(s) English
Division Language and Developmental Studies
Subject Area English
Subject Code ENGL
Course Number 231
Course Title Literature and Sexuality
TOP Code/SAM Code 1501.00 - English Language and Literature, General / E - Non-Occupational
Rationale for adding this course to the curriculum Representations of gender, sexuality, and the erotic traditional components of literary arts. This course offers opportunity to explore how texts speak to contemporary social, political, and cultural issues surrounding sex, identity and orientation.
Units 3
Cross List N/A
Typical Course Weeks 18
Total Instructional Hours

	Contact Hours
Lecture	54.00
Lab	0.00
Activity	0.00
Work Experience	0.00
Outside of Class Hours	108.00

Total Contact Hours 54

Total Student Hours 162

Open Entry/Open Exit No

Maximum Enrollment 25

Grading Option Letter Grade or P/NP

Distance Education On-Campus

Mode of Instruction Hybrid
Entirely Online
Online with Proctored Exams

SECTION B

General Education Information:

SECTION C

Course Description

Repeatability May be repeated 0 times

Catalog This course explores literary representations of sexuality and the erotic.

Description Students will read and analyze texts that both reflect and challenge queer and normative identities, with attention to cultural and political issues surrounding sex, gender, and orientation.

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SECTION D

Condition on Enrollment

1a. Prerequisite(s)

- ENGL 120 with a minimum grade of C or better or
- ENGL 120B with a minimum grade of C or better

1b. Corequisite(s): *None*

1c. Recommended: *None*

1d. Limitation on Enrollment: *None*

SECTION E

Course Outline Information

1. Student Learning Outcomes:

- A. Demonstrate through explication, interpretation, and analysis an understanding of literary texts that investigate issues of sex, gender, orientation, and the erotic.
- B. Demonstrate through explication, interpretation, and analysis the relationship between literary representations of sexuality and their literary, historical, thematic, and contemporary social contexts.

2. Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Evaluate representations of sexuality and gender with the literary tradition and recognize their common tropes and motifs
- B. Recognize and understand major themes surrounding sexuality and gender in literature
- C. Demonstrate an understanding of how sexuality and gender in literature reflects historical contexts, particularly the social, artistic and political movements.
- D. Analyze and compare innovative texts responding to considerations of biological sex, queer and normative gender identifications, the fluidity of sexual desire, eroticized power dynamics, and sensuality in the literary arts.
- E. Demonstrate familiarity with major literary theories and social movements informing representations of sexuality and gender.
- F.

3. Course Content

The approach to the course content may be historical, topical/thematic or genre based, but should include readings addressing each of the areas below with attention to important representations of sexuality and gender in the literary tradition including queer, questioning perspectives. Texts should be examined for their literary constructions as well as their relation to socio-historical themes, motifs, and social movements. Lessons should focus on American Literature and contemporary LGBTQ community issues, though may include other English language texts and significant literary and critical texts in translation.

1. Gender, Sexuality, and Eroticism in the Literary tradition--may include Classical Western Tradition (e.g. Sappho, Catullus, Oedipus Rex); British Renaissance (Shakespeare's stage and Elizabethan gender roles, Romance and Chivalric Love); other World Traditions (African folklore, 16th century Japanese Haiku).

2. Colonial eroticism--understanding power dynamics and the eroticized other in colonial and postcolonial texts (Edward Said *Orientalism*).

3. 18th and 19th Century Women's writing and Male Perspectives: in particular American and British works that inform and challenge sexual norms and gendered roles (Byron's Don Juan; Jane Austen's novels; the figure of Oscar Wilde; queer perspectives on Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson).

4. Modernism, First Wave Feminism, and Transgressive Sexuality (e.g., Gertrude Stein *Tender Buttons*, H.D. *Helen in Egypt*, W. H. Auden, Ernest Hemingway *The Sun Also Rises*, Steinbeck "The Chrysanthemums," Sui Sin Far *Mrs. Spring Fragrance*, Langston Hughes).

5. 1960s Sexual Revolution, Second Wave Feminism, and the rise of LGBTQ communities (Simone de Beauvoir, Amstede Maupin *Tales of the City*, James Baldwin, Gore Vidal, Myra Breckinridge, Allen Ginsburg *Howl*) *écriture féminine*, Stonewall riots.

6. Late 20th Century Queer Theory, body as liminal space, gender deconstruction (e.g., Jeanette Winterson *Written on the Body*, Ursula K. Le Guin *The Left Hand of Darkness*)

7. 21st Century and Millennial perspectives; same sex marriage and trans identities (e.g., Joseph Cassara *The House of Impossible Beauties*, Octavia Butler *Lilith's Brood*, Rosanne Gay *Bad Feminist*).

4. Methods of Instruction:

Discussion: discuss textual representations of sexuality and gender discuss American social movements that challenge and affirm social norms

Lecture: introduce literary traditions and tropes of gender and sexuality and gender

Online Adaptation: Activity, Directed Study, Discussion, Individualized Instruction, Journal, Lecture

6. Methods of Evaluation: Describe the general types of evaluations for this course and provide at least two, specific examples.

Typical classroom assessment techniques

Exams/Tests -- exams on literary devices, artistic traditions, social movements, etc informing representations of sexuality and gender

Quizzes -- quizzes on literary devices, artistic traditions, social movements, etc informing representations of sexuality and gender

Research Projects -- analysis of significant text or author engaging gender issues or sexuality

Papers -- in-class and out-of-class essays that analyze literary works, writers, and/or their socio-political historical contexts

Oral Presentation --

Projects --

Additional assessment information:

Literary analysis, explication, and interpretation should form a significant portion of the course grade.

Letter Grade or P/NP

7. Assignments: State the general types of assignments for this course under the following categories and provide at least two specific examples for each section.

A. Reading Assignments

Read James Baldwin's "Giovanni's Room" and Hemingway's "The Sun also Rises" and consider how they represent early and late 20th century masculinity.

Read the selections from Sappho--consider how they relate to and diverge from the depictions of women in the modernist poems of H.D. and Virginia Woolf's "A Room of One's Own"

B. Writing Assignments

C. Other Assignments

D.

8. Required Materials

A. EXAMPLES of typical college-level textbooks (for degree-applicable courses) or other print materials.

Book #1:

Author: Baldwin, James

Title: Giovanni's Room

Publisher: Vintage

Date of Publication: 2013

Edition:

Book #2:

Author: Winterson, Jeanette

Title: Oranges are Not the Only Fruit

Publisher: Grove Press

Date of Publication: 1997

Edition:

Book #3:

Author: Vidal, Gore
Title: Myra Breckinridge
Publisher: Penguin Random House
Date of Publication: 2019
Edition:

Book #4:

Author: Atwood, Margaret
Title: The Handmaid's Tale
Publisher: Penguin Random House
Date of Publication: 2017
Edition:

Book #5:

Author: Diaz, Junot
Title: This Is How You Lose Her
Publisher: Riverhead Books
Date of Publication: 2013
Edition: reprint

B. Other required materials/supplies.