

19th CENTURY WOMEN NOVELISTS

ENGLISH 3890F
Brescia University College
Fall 2017

Professor: Dr. Carolyn Weber

Email: cweber43@uwo.ca (please note email submissions of assignments are not accepted)

Class Time: Mondays 3:30-6:30pm

Class Location: St. James Bldg Room 302

Office Hours: Mondays 1:20-3:20pm or by appointment

Office Location: TBA

“After all, the true seeing is within.”

- George Eliot, *Middlemarch*

Course Description:

This course takes as its focus a handful of women writers from nineteenth-century Romantic and Victorian contexts, an age of intense intellectual excitement. Vast social, economic and political changes were afoot, alongside crises in philosophy and religion, as well as unprecedented advancements in science and technology. While our emphasis will be on English authors, one French author will be included (in translation) as a complement to our examination of their writing within the dynamics of such forces as revolution, reform, empire, gender, race and creativity. In our consideration of four seminal novels and one fascinating novella (published much later), we will pay particular attention to the ways these extraordinary women navigated the politics of production and public/private spheres while negotiating tensions between the proper lady and the woman writer. Film, art and music will supplement our class discussions.

Required Texts (hard copy only; electronic versions of required primary texts are not acceptable):

Jane Austen, *Persuasion* (Norton)

Mary Shelley, *Matilda* (Penguin; in short collection with Mary Wollstonecraft, *Mary and Maria*)

George Sand, *Indiana* (Oxford; translator Sylvia Raphael)

Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre* (Norton)

George Eliot, *Middlemarch* (Oxford)

Recommended: Alongside the above works, you may enjoy an informative but accessible contextual read, such as *Jane Austen's England: Daily Life in the Georgian and Regency Periods* by Roy and Lesley Adkins, or *What Jane Austen Ate and Charles Dickens Knew* by Daniel Pool.

We will consider scholarly biographies, theory, criticism and related sources such as acceptable websites in our class research and bibliographies.

Grade Distribution:

Your total grade for the course is evaluated out of 100% according to the following distribution:

Short in-class test papers on each work (5x5% each)	25%
Formal Essay with oral defence and discussion	25%
Participation including Formal Presentation	15%
Final Exam	35%

Learning Objectives:

This course will help students develop and hone all of Brescia's core competencies. Often these competencies overlap or blend; primary competencies are identified, however, in the following examples:

1. Students will develop confidence and clarity in verbally presenting and discussing ideas, and in formulating insights and organizing arguments based on close readings of the primary texts. (Communication)
2. Students will improve reading comprehension with attention paid to textual analysis and narrative devices. Students will be able to formulate insights and develop sophisticated scholarly arguments in response to literary theories and critical sources. (Critical Thinking)
3. Students will formulate insights and sophisticated scholarly arguments through the development of original theses, the practice of composition, the rigour of research and documentation, and the culminating production of a significant essay and presentation. (Inquiry and Analysis)
4. Students will be able to identify complex considerations of race and gender, and to situate themselves within an empathy of reading. Students will become better versed in the history of ideas, art and culture. Students will be able to recognize the historical context of very specific period and how its literary significance continues to influence us today. (Social Awareness and Engagement)
5. Students will be able to identify tensions within a text, as well as tensions a text raises within culture, and pose ways of addressing and resolving these tensions. Students will be able to positively respond to criticism and use it for the amelioration of their work. Students will provide helpful feedback to peers' work, and develop astute editing skills. (Problem Solving)
6. Students will demonstrate engaged literacy acumen alongside a keen sense of their own writing voice. (Self Awareness and Development)
7. Students will share and respond to ideas in a vibrant academic community with respect, confidence and social responsibility. Students will understand the specific set of challenges and circumstances that face a certain population, and the courage and discernment of the artistic voice in particular. Students will be able to extend such valuing to other communities of voices across various times, locations and demographics. (Valuing)

Assignments:

Assignments will be carefully explained in class with supporting documentation and appropriate OWL resources. Formal assignments, exams and due dates are established well in advance. Please arrive having read the book *in its entirety* for the first day it is listed on the syllabus unless otherwise noted in class (our final longer novel will be addressed in sections). It is your responsibility to bring any questions or concerns about an assignment to my attention before the deadline/exam date. Always bring your text to class, along with a pen and lined paper.

Short Test Papers

At the beginning of our discussion of each text, you will be asked to write a short but informed and sophisticated reflection on a specific question in class. We will then use these responses as points of departure for our class discussion.

Formal Essay

In this assignment, you will formulate and explore your own thesis topic resulting from themes and ideas we have examined throughout term. As the culmination of your course work and thought process, you will be expected to prepare a sophisticated argument demonstrating research competency along with the ability to enter an academic conversation with something important to say. You are encouraged to take advantage of the support offered to meet with me as well as for revision and discussion of your topic through preparatory steps. A grading rubric will be provided for the research paper.

Formal Presentation

Each student will take responsibility for giving a researched presentation on one of the course texts. Sign up and schedules for presentations will be established on our first day of class.

Final Exam

Learning how to think and write coherently and thoughtfully under pressure is a priceless skill. We will develop these skills with our short test papers throughout term in preparation for the longer exam essays at the end. The final exam is comprehensive. Preparation and review are provided for the final exam.

Course Policies:

- **All work must be your own original work.** All campus guidelines regarding plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct will be followed. (We will discuss things like Google in class. See, too, *A Note on Plagiarism* below.)
- **All work must conform to assignment guidelines.** A style sheet and proper documentation guidelines will be provided for the final paper. Papers must adhere to MLA or Chicago formats.
- **Submission of Work:** *Take full responsibility for your work, the first time around.* Other than drafts for workshops or appointments, I do not accept re-writes or offer extra-credit incentives/work. An important part of handing in your work is actually *handing in your work*. It is your responsibility to edit, print and ensure the receipt of your work *on time* and in *professional stylistic form*. Hand in all work in class, in person. Do not slip your paper under my office door. Except by prior arrangement due to extenuating circumstances, ***email submissions are not accepted.***
- **Attendance:** Regular attendance is expected, as is prepared and thoughtful engagement. Attendance will be recorded. For every unexcused absence, 1% will be docked from your participation grade (up to 5%). After five unexcused absences, you will receive zero for your attendance grade and may be referred to your Academic Advisor. Excused absences include those resulting from documented illness or deemed extenuating circumstances. Please see the University policy on attendance at the end of this document.
- **Late policy:** All formal assignments are due at the beginning of class on the designated date. A penalty of 5% per day for up to three days applies to late work; a grade of zero will apply by the fourth day. Honouring a deadline offers many life skills which complement the academic ones offered by this course. Moreover, negotiating different due dates is unfair to your peers who have managed their time and commitments to make the original deadline. When missing tests and assignments worth 10% or more, students must meet with an academic advisor to provide documentation for accommodation.
- **Please turn off all electronic devices:** With the exception of art, music or film supplementation as provided by the professor, this is an “unplugged” classroom. Use of electronic devices such as laptops, cell phones and the like are prohibited in class without prior consent of the professor. ***To avoid temptation, please put your cell phone away.*** Students are expected to pay full attention to class discussion and lectures, and to use pen and lined paper for class exercises unless otherwise directed. Please bring hard copies of texts to class, unless the in-class use of a digital version or website has been approved by the professor. As a baseball fan, I operate by a “three-strikes-

you're-out" policy: students receive two warnings against being distracted by devices during class. Upon the third infraction, you will be asked to leave the class and you will be docked the missed class as though it were an absence.

- **Responsible Communication:** Life happens, and while I hold high expectations for my students, I also aim to be fair. The more we can practice responsible and proactive communication, the more we can work out viable and just solutions in a way that is fair to your peers and helps ensure a rich learning experience for all. *Enjoy!*

A Note on Plagiarism

Plagiarism occurs when a person falsely presents someone else's ideas as his/her own work. This misrepresentation constitutes theft. It is unethical, dishonest, and ultimately destructive – it shows disrespect toward your peers, your instructor, your institution, and the intellectual community with which you are in dialogue. But most significantly, it whittles away at your own integrity and self-worth. Earning a degree is an achievement of the whole person – it reflects a development in spiritual, intellectual and ethical maturity. If you are tempted to breach the premise of trust on which our academic conversation and growth are based, you will suffer severe professional as well as personal consequences. Plagiarism will be addressed thoroughly in class; please also consult university resources. If any doubts remain, however, please see me *before* you hand in a piece about which you are confused.

Schedule of Classes and Assignments

Monday, September 11th

- Introduction to course
- Sign up for presentations
- Introduction to 19th century contexts

Monday, September 18th

- Continued Introduction to 19th century
- Jane Austen, *Persuasion*

Monday, September 25th

- Jane Austen, *Persuasion*
- **Short Test Paper**

Monday, October 2nd

- Mary Shelley, *Mathilda*
- **Short Test Paper**

Monday, October 9th - THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS (READING WEEK OCT 9-13)

Monday, October 16th

- George Sand, *Indiana*
- **Short Test Paper**

Monday, October 23rd

- George Sand, *Indiana*

Monday, October 30th

- Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
- **Short Test Paper**

Monday, November 6th

- *Jane Eyre*

Monday, November 13th

- *Middlemarch*

Monday, November 20th

- *Middlemarch*
- **Short Test Paper**

Monday, November 27th

- *Middlemarch*

Monday, December 4th - LAST DAY OF CLASS

- **ESSAYS DUE**
- Essay defences and round table discussion
- Review for exam

FINAL EXAM DETAILS: TBA

2017-18 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation must be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated. Documentation shall be submitted as soon as possible to the student's Academic Advisor indicating the period of illness and when the student should be able to resume academic responsibilities. Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded from: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf. The student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is not adequate to support a request for academic accommodation.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at:
<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg117.html>

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official dates <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg7.html>). You should consult with the course instructor and the

Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg130.html>)

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Student Academic Appeals under Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg112.html>).

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices (http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/evaluation_undergrad.pdf and http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/finalgrades.pdf).

6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

7. SUPPORT

Support Services

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>.

Mental Health and Wellness

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about mental health and wellness at Brescia at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental_Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Sexual Violence

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.