

Fall 2003
Thu 12:30-2
Rm 238

Office: 203
Office hrs: Tue 11-12

AM-341.30 Contemporary American Women Writers Enikő Bollobás

This course explores the output of contemporary women writers in its diversity and particularity. Reading one text a week from Joyce Carol Oates, Marge Piercy, Margaret Atwood, Toni Morrison, Maxine Hong Kingston, Audre Lorde, Alice Walker, Rita Dove, Louise Erdrich, Lorri Moore, Octavia Butler, and Barbara Kingsolver, we will identify them as representative texts of neorealist, feminist, postmodern, ethnic, and multicultural fiction, as well as metafiction and science fiction.

Providing copies of the novels has been the most difficult task. Five copies of each novel, generously supplied by the Kellner Foundation, have been placed on reserve in SEAS Library for six-hour loan (they can all be read in six hours). In addition, students responsible for that week's presentation can borrow my own personal copy. Some novels are also available in xeroxed copies. Obviously, students are encouraged to check other libraries in the city.

Course requirements: (i) reading assignments (all students must read one novel/week), (ii) class participation, (iii) one presentation (ca. 10-15 minutes to introduce the novel and the novelist, to identify the main issues raised in the novel), (iv) in-class final test covering all the texts.

Assessment: class participation+presentation 50%, final test 50%

Syllabus

September 11 Orientation

September 18 Joyce Carol Oates, *Black Water*

Presentation: _____

September 25 Marge Piercy, *Woman on the Edge of Time*

Presentation: _____

October 2

Margaret Atwood, *Surfacing*

Presentation: _____

The Handmaid's Tale

Presentation: _____

October 9

Toni Morrison: choose one of the following three novels:

Tar Baby

Presentation: _____

Beloved

Presentation: _____

Sula

Presentation: _____

October 16

Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior*

Presentation: _____

October 30 Audre Lorde, *Zami*

Presentation: _____

November 6 Alice Walker, *The Temple of My Familiar*

Presentation: _____

November 13 Rita Dove, *Through the Ivory Gate*

Presentation: _____

November 20 Louise Erdrich, *Love Medicine*

Presentation: _____

November 27 Leslie Marmon Silko, *Ceremony*

Presentation: _____

December 4 Octavia Butler, *Parable of the Sower*

Presentation: _____

December 11 Barbara Kingsolver, *The Bean Trees*

Presentation: _____

December 18 In-class final test