

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY CHANNEL ISLANDS

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

PROGRAM AREA: HUMANITIES, ENGLISH

1. Catalog Description of the Course

ENGL 456 Fiction by Women Authors

Three hours lecture per week

Prerequisite: ENGL 220 or ENGL 250

Examines both the development of contemporary fiction by women and its relationship to the established canon. Explores aesthetics and themes in the fiction of women of different ethnicities and classes. Analyzes the social and historical context of those literary productions. Raises relevant critical questions about the female literary tradition.

2. Mode of Instruction.

	Units	Hours per Unit	Benchmark Enrollment
Lecture	3	1	25
Seminar	_____	_____	_____
Laboratory	_____	_____	_____
Activity	_____	_____	_____

3. Justification and Learning Objectives for the Course.

This course is an elective in the English major.

Learning Objectives:

- By examining the expression of gender identity in literature, students will learn about the centrality of gender roles in defining individual, social, and political life. They will learn about the discourse on gender that has been a major academic focus of the last twenty years.
- Students will learn to think critically about cultural and literary assumptions inherited from a history of ethnically varied but rigidly constructed sex role assignments.
- Using close textual analysis, critical theories, and historical perspectives in the study of fiction, students will demonstrate an increased understanding of literature.
- Students will improve written expression by completing essay exams and term papers.
- Students will cultivate analytic thinking and verbal articulation through class discussions.

4. Is this a General Education Course YES NO - X

If Yes, indicate GE category:

A (English Language, Communication, Critical Thinking)	
B (Mathematics & Sciences)	
C (Fine Arts, Literature, Languages & Cultures)	
D (Social Perspectives)	
E (Human Psychological and Physiological Perspectives)	

5. Course Content in Outline Form.

Course Content: A sampling of short stories and novels will provide students with a sense of scope, development, aesthetic,

and ideas in women's 20th century fiction. Works might include those mentioned in the following sample schedule:

- Week 1: Willa Cather, *My Mortal Enemy* (1926)
- Week 2: Katherine Anne Porter, "Flowering Judas" (1930)
- Week 3: Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937)
- Week 4: excerpts from, Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar, *No Man's Land: The Place of the Woman Writer in the 20th Century*
- Week 5: Carson McCullers, *Member of the Wedding* (1946)
- Week 6: Flannery O'Connor, "A Good Man is Hard To Find" (1953)
- Week 7&8: *Native American Women Writers*, ed. with an introduction by Harold Bloom (1998)
- Week 8: Tillie Olsen, "As I Stand Here Ironing" (1961) and excerpts from *Silences* (1965)
- Week 9: Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye* (1970)
- Week 10 & 11: *Reading Black, Reading Feminist: A Critical Anthology*, ed., Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
- Week 12: Maxine Hong Kingston, *Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts* (1976)
- Week 13: Sandra Cisneros, *The House on Mango Street* (1984)
- Week 14: Week 13: Rachael Blau du Plessis, *Writing Beyond the Ending: Narrative Strategies of 20th Century Women Writers*
- Week 15-: Review, discussion, conclusions

6. References.

- Patricia Meyer Spacks, *The Female Imagination*. NY: Random House. (1972)
- Elaine Showlater, *A Literature of Their Own*. Princeton University Press. (1977)
- Toril Moi, *Sexual/Textual Politics: Feminist Literary Theory*. NY: Routledge. (1985)
- Alice Walker, ed., "I Love Myself When I Am Laughing...And Then Again When I'm Looking Mean and Impressive: A Zora Neale Hurston Reader". NY: The Feminist Press. (1989)
- Amy Ling, *Women Between Worlds: Women Writers of Chinese Ancestry*. Elsevier Science. (1990)
- Shari Benstock, ed., Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth: A Case Study in Contemporary Criticism* NY: St. Martin's Press. (1994)
- Diane Herndl and Robyn Warhol, ed., *Feminisms: An Anthology of Literary Theory and Criticism*. Rutgers UP (1997)

7. List Faculty Qualified to Teach This Course.

Jacquelyn Kilpatrick, Renny Christopher, Camilla Griggers, Joan Peters

8. Frequency.

a. Projected semesters to be offered: Fall _____ Spring ___x___ Summer _____

9. New Resources Required.

- a. Computer (data processing), audio visual, broadcasting needs, other equipment
- b. Library needs
- c. Facility/space needs

10. Consultation.

Attach consultation sheet from all program areas, Library, and others (if necessary)

11. If this new course will alter any degree, credential, certificate, or minor in your program, attach a program modification.

Jacquelyn Kilpatrick/Joan Peters

December 12, 2002

Proposer of Course

Date