

WS 352
Fall 2005

WOMEN IN LITERATURE
Th 4:00-6:40 p.m.

AH 2132

Dr. Anne Donadey:

Office hours: Mon 1:00-3:30; Tu 12:30-1:30; and by appointment (Tel: 619/594-0815) in 308 BAM (Business Admin. and Math.)
e-mail address (the easiest way to reach me): adonadey@mail.sdsu.edu

Graduate Assistant:

Please go to the graduate assistant for questions about homework grades; go to Dr. Donadey for all other questions regarding the course.

The learning environment should be accessible to all. If you have a disability and need adaptations or accommodations, please register first with Disabled Student Services and come talk with me so we can set up appropriate accommodations.

Noisemakers (ringing cell phones, pagers, watches, etc.) will not be tolerated. Do remember to turn them off or set them to vibrate before entering the classroom.

Description: This general education course in the humanities features contemporary works by writers from the U.S., France, and different parts of Africa. Works were originally written in English or French, and will be read and discussed in English. Issues to be discussed include world feminisms, history, memory, and fiction, writing the self through autobiography, identity formation and (de)colonization, anti-racism struggle, female solidarity, relationships, and language in diverse culturally specific contexts.

Objectives: Students will develop an appreciation for contemporary world literature by women. They will develop a better understanding of the interconnections between issues of race, class, gender, and colonialism through studying their literary representations. In addition, students will become better readers of texts by honing their analytical, critical, and interpretative skills.

Texts required (all available for purchase at **KB Books**):

Aidoo, Ama Ata. *Changes: A Love Story* (Ghana, 1991)

Ba, Mariama. *So Long a Letter* (Senegal, 1981)

Butler, Octavia. *Kindred* (U.S., 1979)

Ernaux, Annie. *A Woman's Story* (France, 1987)

Dangarembga, Tsitsi. *Nervous Conditions* (Zimbabwe, 1988)

Mernissi, Fatima. *Dreams of Trespass* (Morocco, 1994)

One large exam book

Books have also been placed on 2-hour reserve in the library.

Films (screened in class):

Everyone's Child (Tsitsi Dangarembga, Zimbabwe, 1996)

Faat Kine (Ousmane Sembene, Senegal, 2000)

Islamic Conversations: Women and Islam (with Leila Ahmed, U.S., 1993)

Silences of the Palace (Moufida Tlatli, Tunisia, 1994)

Evaluation: Students will be graded on regular attendance and class participation (20%), homework assignments (40%), in-class activities (10%), and an in-class paper (30%).

There will be no extra credit activities—do not ask!

Assignment grading scale:

5=A: Outstanding achievement in both substance and style.

4=B: Very good work.

3=C: Average achievement, or very good achievement in only one area.

2=D: Below average achievement. Passing at a minimal level.

1 or 0=F: Failure to achieve class goals.

Attendance: I expect students to attend each class on time and to attend the entire class. We will only be meeting 14 times during the semester, so each class period will be crucial. I will call roll at the beginning of each class. If you are not in class when I call your name, or if you leave before the end of class, you will be counted as absent for that day. After your first absence, your attendance and participation grade will drop one letter grade per each subsequent absence. **Missing more than three classes will result in a failing grade for the course.** If you miss a class, get class notes and assignments from another student. **GET THE NAME, PHONE NUMBER, AND E-MAIL ADDRESS OF THREE CLASSMATES NOW:**

Class participation is absolutely essential to the success of the course. Students must come to class prepared to actively contribute to the class discussion. As you read each novel before class, take written notes on loose-leaf paper about various aspects of the novel (plot; structure; literary techniques; character development; themes...). Be sure you always come to class with your reading notes, as they will help you with class participation. If you have not participated during a class period but would like to increase your participation grade, you may turn in your reading notes for the day to Professor Donadey at the end of class (DO NOT turn in the notes you took during class, only the notes you took while reading before coming to class).

Assignments: written homework will generally be assigned at the end of the previous week's class for the following week. **WRITTEN HOMEWORK MUST BE TYPED UP AND SPELL CHECKED OR IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Late homework will be accepted during the week following the due date with a penalty of two full letter grades. After a week, no late assignments will be accepted.** Students

who were absent on the day the homework was assigned are expected to find out from me or other students what the assignment was and come to the next class ready. Students will also complete group in-class activities or take short quizzes (typically in the first five minutes of class). **There will be no make-up quizzes or in-class activities.** However, your lowest homework and class activity scores will be dropped.

In-class paper: you will write a paper on a given topic in class. Choices of topics will be given to you a week early so you can have time to prepare your argument and organize your ideas. On the day of the paper, bring a typed up paper outline and the novels on which you plan to write.

Academic Honesty:

You are free to discuss ideas and strategies for approaching assignments with others, but with the exception of in-class group work, students must complete their own work individually. Using other people's work in any form and passing it off as your own will result in disciplinary action. You must always give credit for ideas from other sources (including the Web), even if you are not citing word for word. My standard course of action is to report students whom I believe have cheated to the Judicial Procedures Office. In addition to the academic penalty (usually an F for the course), the Judicial Procedures Office may decide upon additional sanctions such as expulsion.

Conflicts/Issues:

Should you have any concerns about the course, please see me during my office hours or make an appointment and we will try to resolve the problem together. If you are not satisfied with the resolution after having discussed the issue with me, you may contact Dr. Bonnie Kime Scott, Chair of the Women's Studies Department, at 619/594-6460.

Thinking about a Major or Minor in Women's Studies? The program offers exciting courses, is committed to women's issues and social justice, and is adaptable to your interests and concerns. Women's Studies is not impacted! For more information contact Dr. Doreen Mattingly, 594-8033, mattingl@mail.sdsu.edu

Syllabus:

You must come to class having done the reading (R) to be discussed in class (D).

	<u>Before class:</u>	<u>In class:</u>
Sept. 1		Introduction and writing activity
Sept. 8	R <i>Kindred</i> 9-107	D <i>Kindred</i>
Sept. 15	R <i>Kindred</i> 108-188	D <i>Kindred</i>
Sept 21	Last day to add, drop, or change grading basis	
Sept 22	R <i>Kindred</i> 189-264	D <i>Kindred</i>

