

Women on the Fringe

Course:

Women on the Fringe
01:050:325:80
Tues 6:00-8:45pm
Spring 2011
BCC

Instructor:

Alex Warner
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732-213-3284
Office hours:
Tues 4:45-5:45

Overview:

Through the use of historical narratives, literature, and film, *Women on the Fringe* examines the lives of American women who deviate from prescribed norms of social and feminine behavior from the time of the Civil War to the present. In particular, we will focus on the 20th Century, and explore themes such as education, madness, prostitution, religion, adultery, criminality, drug addiction, political protest, labor, lesbianism, queerness and transsexuality.

Requirements:

Being an upper level course, there will be a significant amount of reading and in-class work for this course, as well as several written assignments. Students are expected to both attend and participate in all class meetings, arriving prepared by having completed the readings and any written assignments.

Required Reading:

Cairns, Kathleen. Hard Times at Tehachapi
(University of New Mexico Press; ISBN: 0826345727)

Houston, Jeanne Wakatsuki & James D., Farewell to Manzanar
(Dell Publishing; ISBN : 0553272586)

Lorde, Audre. Zami: A New Spelling of My Name (Crossing Press; ISBN: 0895941228)

Moody, Anne Coming of Age in Mississippi (Laurel; ISBN :0440314887)

Yeziarska, Anzia. Breadgivers (Persea Books: ISBN : 0892550147)

And EITHER:

Friedan, Betty. The Feminine Mystique (Laurel; ISBN: 04403247971)

Plath, Sylvia. The Bell Jar (Harper; ISBN: 0061148512)

All other articles and chapters will either be available online or copied for you for a nominal fee and distributed in class.

Grading:

Your grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Attendance & CP:	20
Reaction Papers:	20
Quizzes:	20
Research Project:	20
Final Paper:	20

Attendance & Class Participation: Beginning 1/25, attendance will be taken at each class meeting. Because there are only 10 formal class meetings, students who have more than two unexcused absences will automatically fail the course. Since this is an upper-level class, it will involve a fair amount of reading as well as in class discussion. Students will receive points per each class meeting based on their individual contribution to the academic environment as well as involvement in group work. Excused absences include documented medical or legal appointments, serious personal emergencies or religious observances. Students who miss class for any of these reasons should notify me via email ahead of time (or if not possible, shortly thereafter and no later than 48 hours after class) of the reason for their absence. That said, please do not come to class when you are ill or have been exposed to someone else who is sick. You will be delaying your recovery and infecting your classmates and me.

Quizzes: At the beginning of each class meeting there will be an in-class quiz. These open-notebook quizzes will generally cover the readings assigned for that day, though sometimes may include material covered in the previous class session. Quizzes will be graded on a scale of 0-10, and averaged for 20% of your grade.

Reaction Papers: Over the course of the semester, you will write TWO three page reaction papers responding to the readings for that week. These papers should include your observations, thoughts and ponderings on the material you read, connecting them to the ideas and themes of the course. These papers are due the class meeting for which the readings are assigned. In order to be able to give you useful feedback, you must complete at least one of these assignments by March 8th.

Research Project: Either individually or in small groups, each student will research a woman or group of women NOT specifically covered by the course. During the class meeting of April 26th, you will present your findings in a class presentation. At that time, you will also pass in a short research paper, including both narrative and source materials. More details will be handed out in class on February 15th.

Final Paper: Students will write a 6 to 8 page paper in which they weave together both theoretical and factual material they have learned throughout the course. The final assignment will be handed out in class on April 19th and the paper will require the use of both secondary and primary sources along with the students' analysis. This assignment is due at noon on Thursday, May 5th.

Class Policies and Suggestions:

- Arrive on time, prepared for the class meeting.
- Turn off your cell phone—no calls, texts, web searching, etc. during class.
- Print out all written assignments ahead of time. Late assignments will be graded down one half a grade per business day. Unless otherwise specifically indicated, emailed assignments will not be accepted.
- Please, don't cheat. If you do, you will be turned into the Department and your Dean and you will fail this class.

Date Topic	Readings (due for class meeting)	Assignment/other info
1/18 Introduction		
1/25 The 19 th Century	Smith-Rosenberg OR Duggan; Perkins Gillman	
2/1 The New Century	Breadgivers	
2/8 The Teens	Watch Iron Jawed Angels	One page reaction to film and how it contributes to your understanding (counts as quiz)
2/15 The 20s and 30s	Selections from Hard Times at Tehachapi	
2/22 WWII	Farewell to Manzanar	
3/1 After WWII	Watch If These Walls Could Talk I & II	
3/8 Protestors of the 50s and 60s	Selections from Coming of Age in Mississippi & article about communism	
3/15	SPRING BREAK	
3/22 Feminism	Selections from Feminine Mystique OR Bell Jar	
3/29 Research Week	Individual Meetings	
4/5 Sex Radicals	Zami “Thinking Sex”	
4/12 Research Week	Work on Research Projects	
4/19 The 80s-Today	Selected Articles TBD	
4/26 PRESENTATIONS		