

The Montclair High School Course Syllabus

Department: English

Course: Women's Literature

Level: 11 and 12

Credits: 2.5

Course Description:

Women's Literature is a one-semester Patterns course that introduces 11th and 12th grade students to the history, traditions, and forms of literature written by women in English. We will examine the effects of gender on literature and consider how gender intersects with race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, and other factors in shaping identity. We will also consider the multiple ways women writers have responded to being silenced throughout history. We will explore a rich and diverse range of writers and works to identify the recurrent images, themes, and styles of an evolving canon. Works of poetry, prose, drama, non-fiction, and film will be studied.

Standards:

NJSLS RL.11-12.

NJSLS RI.11-12

NJSLS.W.11-12.

NJSLS.SL.11-12

NJSLS.L.11-12

Anchor Text(s):

No anchor text; teacher chooses from wide variety of literature written by women

The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women: The Tradition in English is a useful source.

Text Title	Publisher/Author	Year/Edition	ISBN	Text Distribution
The Oxford Book of American Short Stories	Oxford University Press	1992	0-19-509262-7	
The Bluest Eye	Vintage; Toni Morrison	2007	978-0-307-27844-9	
The Woman Warrior	Vintage; Maxine Hong Kingston	1976	679-72188-6	

Supplementary Materials:

Multiple handouts: copies of short stories, poems, plays, essays, and articles.

Units of Study:

Gender and Identity; Voice and Silence; Images and Roles

Proficiencies:

By the end of this course, students will:

- Improve close reading and analytical strategies
- Employ a wide variety of writing strategies and techniques, which developing an individualized writing process
- Build vocabulary through context and focused study
- Gain historical perspective on women’s literature and the role of gender in creating literature
- Read and respond critically to a broad range of literature and non-fiction writing
- Use research skills to access, interpret, and apply information from a variety of sources
- Review and use MLA format to successfully integrate secondary sources into their writing
- Effectively cite appropriate textual evidence to support both informal and formal arguments in written and oral presentations
- Collaborate by sharing ideas, examples, and insights productively and respectfully in conversation and discussion

Evaluation & Assessment:

- Essays, tests, major projects 60%
- Class activities, quizzes, informal writing 40%