English 486/586 offers an in-depth study of the theoretical and practical accomplishments of writers and rhetors across diverse contexts. For the fall 2010 semester, this course employs feminist and rhetorical theory to enable viewers to analyze women’s rhetorics, films, as purposive texts that aim to influence their audiences ideologically. Students analyze texts that deliberately represent women, their lives and their visions of and for a just society. Throughout the course, we will revise our understanding of the following key terms: texts, rhetor, rhetoric, feminist, activist.

Required Course Texts:


A paper folder with brads for organizing and submitting your journals.

A three-ring binder for readings to be distributed throughout the course.

**Journals:** We will read a number of critical essays, feminist theory and rhetorical theory. For each individual reading, you will generate an academic journal. Journals are one-page, single-spaced, analytical discussions of the essay’s ideas. They are not summaries of the essay, but rather, critical responses to those ideas. In each journal, you select key quotes or claims made by the writer, introduce them in your journal, and then critically analyze them. The journal is not a formal writing assignment, so you do not need to use essay
form, but you need to employ MLA citation standards. The goal is to demonstrate an understanding of the essay, and to engage the essay’s ideas. Each journal is worth five points.

Course Writing Assignments: You will write two essays for the course. Your first essay will be a rhetorical analysis of some aspect of Wollstonecraft’s *Vindication*. For your second essay, you will choose between a selection from Well’s *Southern Horrors* or the film, *Far from Heaven*. Your third assignment is: The Collation Project. You will select a specific text published or delivered by a woman writer / rhetor and deeply research the text’s reception and criticism. You will gather a variety of researched essays on your writer and generate an analytical account of the state of that research from a feminist perspective. You will use the theoretical tools that we are reading within the seminar to account for the current state of that writer’s status in the field and do so by articulating a feminist perspective on your subject.

Accommodations: Students who have paper work on file with the Disabilities Office, MH 105, # 3354, and thus have needs that may prevent them from fully demonstrating their abilities should contact me ASAP, so we can discuss reasonable accommodations necessary to ensure their success in this course.

Attendance/Late Work: Attendance is required and expected. Your commitment to the course directly impacts your learning. If you need to be absent, call me before class, during office hours or leave me a voice mail. If you miss class, you are still responsible for keeping up with your work. Exchange phone numbers with a classmate, so you have additional contacts. At two double-block absences, you lose 3% points from your final grade. You may not pass if you miss class 3 or more times. An absence does not automatically qualify you to turn in late work. **Late work may only be accepted if you negotiate an alternate date before the due date passes.** Late essays are subject to a 5% deduction automatically.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Writing Assignments:</th>
<th>Weights</th>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 1: Wollstonecraft as First Feminist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 2: Ida B. Wells, First-Wave Feminist or <em>Far from Heaven</em>, Second-Wave</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 3: Collation Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journals/ Discussion:</td>
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<td>Attendance:</td>
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<td>Totals:</td>
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Tentative Reading and Writing Schedule

Week 1
August 25  Introduction to course. Feminist Methodologies
      Read: “Feminist Pedagogy,” Jarratt
      2 Journals

Week 2
Sept  1  Discuss Jarratt and Kirsch/Royster
      Read: “The First Feminists” Hole and Levine
      Read: Wollstonecraft Intro, CHS 1-2, 2 journals

Week 3
Sept  8  Discuss Wollstonecraft and Hole/Levine
      Read: Wollstonecraft CHS 3-6
      Read Guralnik and Myers, 2 journals

Week 4
Sept 15  Discuss Wollstonecraft, Guralnik and Myers
      Read: Wollstonecraft CHS 7-9
      Read Kaplan and Poovey, 2 journals

Week 5
Sept 22  Discuss Wollstonecraft, Kaplan and Poovey

Week 6
Assign First Feminist Essay # 1
Sept 29  Workshop on Essay #1
      Read: Ida B. Wells, Part One, Southern Horrors, Royster

Week 7
Oct  6  Workshop Essay #1
      Discuss Part One, Southern Horrors
      Read: Wells, Part II, “Southern Horrors” and “A Red Record”
      2 journals
      Oct  8  Essay # 1 due by 5:00 pm

Week 8
Oct 13  Discuss Wells, Part II, “Southern Horrors” and “A Red Record”
      Read: Olsen, “I Stand Here Ironing”; Chopin, “The Joy that Kills”
      2 journals

Week 9
Oct 20  Discuss Rich, Olsen, and Chopin
      Read: Rich, “When We Dead Awaken,” “Claiming an Education”, and “Taking Women Students Seriously”
2 journals

Assign Collation

Week 10
Oct 27  Discuss "When We Dead Awaken"
View Far From Heaven  Taking Rich to FFH
1 journal, applying Rich to FFH

Week 11
Nov 3  Discuss, Rich and Far From Heaven
Scene analysis

Week 12
Nov 10  Assign Essay 2: Adrienne Rich and Ida B. Wells
or Far from Heaven

Week 13
Nov 17  Workshop Essay 2
Read: Rhodes, CHS 1-3, 1 journal
Nov 18-19  Conferences
Nov 23  Essay # 2 due

Thanksgiving break November 24-26

Week 14
Dec 1  Discuss Rhodes, CHS 1-3
Read: Worsham, Rhodes, Ch 4

Week 15
Dec 8  Workshop on Collation Project

Finals Week
Dec 15  Workshop Collation Project
Dec 17  Collation Project due by 5:00 pm