

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code:	Course Title: Topics in Women's Writings:	Date of Offering:
ENGL 6611	Women Writing in Native Space	F'20

Course Instructor: Christine Bold	Course Format: Seminar
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Brief Course Synopsis: Women Writing in Native Space

This course asks what we can learn from the ways in which women writers of different cultures, periods, and genres have written their stories into Turtle Island (North America)—in this case, mostly in what is now known as the United States. The framing concept for our readings and discussions is “Native space,” as elaborated, reconstructed, and digitally mapped by Lisa Brooks (Abenaki). Our readings begin on the east coast in 1682, with a “captivity narrative” by a Puritan settler, and in 2018, with the re-mapping of that narrative from Indigenous perspectives by Professor Brooks and her students. Then we will move very selectively through voices from the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries, including Seneca playwright-performer Go-won-go Mohawk, African American novelist Pauline Hopkins, Anishinaabe novelist Louise Erdrich, and Chicana writer Gloria Anzaldúa. We will end on the west coast, on the shores of the Columbia River, as written by Asian Canadian poets Rita Wong and Fred Wah. The schedule is designed so that we first read primary and critical works together then students develop individual or collaborative research projects with ongoing feedback from the group.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Brief postings and responses on CourseLink (to readings and each others' presentations), as well as follow-up discussion on Zoom, throughout the semester, for a total 30% of final grade.

Short essay (1,000 words), for 10%.

Presentation of individual research project proposal): no grade

Presentation of research project-in-progress presentation), for 20%.

Research Essay (5,000 words), for 40%.

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)\

1. Mary Rowlandson, *The Sovereignty and Goodness of God [...] a Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson* (1682). The most readable version is available as an e-book through UG Lib., in the volume *Puritans among the Indians*, ed. Alden T. Vaughan and Edward W. Clark (1981). Many other open-access editions are available online.

- Lisa Brooks, "Turning the Looking Glass on King Philip's War: Locating American Literature in Native Space," *American Literary History* 25.4 (2013): 718–750. Available online through UG Lib.
- Lisa Brooks, "Awikhighawôgan ta Pildowi Ôjmowôgan: Mapping a New History," *The William and Mary Quarterly* 75.2 (2018): 259-94. Available online through UG Lib.
- Cassandra Hradil and Lauren Tuiskula, "Mary White Rowlandson's Removes," story map, online at <http://arcg.is/1Cr53KU>

2. Go-won-go Mohawk, playscripts and cabinet cards, 1889-1907, with commentary by contemporary Indigenous artists. Available online through CourseLink.

3. Pauline Hopkins, *Winona: A Tale of Negro Life in the South and Southwest* (1902) <http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/hopkins/winona/winona.html>

4. Louise Erdrich, *Tracks: A Novel* (Harpercollins, 1988). TBA whether e-book will be available through UG Lib.

5. Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* (Aunt Lute Books, 1987), esp. Introduction, chs. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7. TBA whether e-book will be available through UG Lib.

6. Rita Wong and Fred Wah, *beholden: a poem as long as the river* (Talonbooks, 2018) and interactive digital version at <http://www.riverrelations.ca/new-page>

Information about mode of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous/other details):

Synchronous: 1 x 1.5 hour formal seminar meeting per week by Zoom (with a one-week pause for research essay development in the second half of the semester); virtual "office hour" appointments by Zoom; presentations, postings, responses, and other assignments will be managed through CourseLink, with follow-up discussion and feedback on Zoom.