

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: ENGL 4420	Course Title: Women's Writings	Date of Offering: F'20
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Course Instructor: Christine Bold	Course Format: Seminar
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Brief Course Synopsis: Women's Narratives of the U.S. West

The U.S. West is one of the world's most masculinized cultural and symbolic geographies. As represented in writing and film, it has served a national mythology—dubbed “regeneration through violence” by Richard Slotkin—whose consequences still reverberate. This course asks: what have women writers and film-makers made of this landscape, actual and symbolic, and what might their work tell us about larger questions of gender, sexuality, region, nation, history, and genre? We will discuss a diversity of women's western voices—Indigenous, Black, Latina, and Euro American—as we read them in fiction, non-fiction, and film

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Essays (2-3, for a total of 5,000 words): 60%

Oral and poster presentations (2-3 presentations posted on CourseLink, live discussion on Zoom): 30%

Seminar participation (responses posted on CourseLink followed by live discussion on Zoom): 10%

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

Sarah Winnemucca (Northern Paiute), *Life among the Piutes: Their Wrongs and Claims* (1883) <http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/winnemucca/piutes/piutes.html>

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

B. M. Bower, *Chip of the Flying U* (1906) <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/9267/9267-h/9267-h.htm>

Mourning Dove (Humishuma) (Okanogan), *Cogewea, The Half Blood* (1927)

Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* (1987)

Annie Proulx, *Close Range: Wyoming Stories* (1999)

Brokeback Mountain, dir. Ang Lee (2005)

Judy Blunt, *Breaking Clean* (2002)

Critical writings by Annette Kolodny, Gloria Anzaldúa, Patricia Limerick, Victoria Lamont, and others.

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018: 20th/21st century

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

Synchronous: 1 x 1 hour formal seminar meeting per week by Zoom; virtual “office hour” appointments by Zoom; presentations, responses, and other assignments will be managed through CourseLink, with follow-up discussion and feedback on Zoom.

*Students who registered at the University of Guelph after Fall 2018 must fulfill the “new” major and minor requirements. Students who registered at the University of Guelph prior to Fall 2018 must fulfill the requirements of the Calendar in effect when they first enrolled unless they have filed a Schedule of Studies Change Request to change to the 2018-2019 calendar. For more information, please consult the major and minor checklists at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/sets/undergraduate/english/current-student-information>.