WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM

SPRING 1989

DAPHNE MARLATT
Lec. Tue. 1:30-3:30
Sem. Tue. 3:30-4:30

W.E. 303-3/823-5
WOMEN'S WRITING IN CANADA AND FEMINIST THEORY

Is there any relationship between women's writing in Canada and American and French feminist critical theory? What are the differences between Quebecoise writing and Anglophone women's writing? Have Canadian women writers sought new forms to express women's experiences not traditionally considered "literary" material? How does a feminist writer engage with a literary language shaped by patriarchal concerns?

This course will look at three decades of contemporary Canadian women's writing through three notions of rupture with mainstream/"malestream" literary tradition. In doing so, we will also look at some of the feminist theory coming out of France and North America during those decades.

Students will be expected to do their reading before each class and to actively participate in class discussion. Please note that the texts are not large and are available in reasonably priced paperback editions.

REQUIRED READING

I Breaking the Silence: 1960's inscription of women's "real"

Laurence, Margaret, Stone Angel (McClelland & Stewart)
Blais, Marie-Clair, The Manuscripts of Pauline Archange
(McClelland & Stewart)

- also, assigned readings (1 or 2 chapters) from:
Olson, Tillie, Silences
de Beauvoir, Simone, The Second Sex (on reserve in library)

II Breaking the Form: 1970's innovations in form and style

Thomas, Audrey, Mrs. Blood (Talonbooks)
Atwood, Margaret, Power Politics (Univ. of Toronto Press)

- also, assigned readings (1 or 2 chapters) from:
Daly, Mary, Gym/Ecology (on reserve in library)
Wittig, Monique Lesbian Body (on reserve in library)

III Breaking the Symbolic Order: 1980's re-visioning of Western culture

Marchessault, Jovette, Lesbian Triptych (Women's Press)
Tostevein, Lola Lemire, Double Standards (Longspoon Press)

- also, assigned readings (1 or 2 chapters) from:
Brossard, Nicole, The Aerial Letter (on reserve in library)
Moi, Toril, *Sexual/Textual Politics* (on reserve in library)

**RECOMMENDED READING** (Required reading for graduate students)

- in their entirety:
  Olsen, Tillie, *Silences* (Dell)
  Moi, Toril, *Sexual/Textual Politics* (Methuen)

- and, selections from:
  Marks, Elaine & de Courtivron, Isabelle, *New French Feminisms*
    (Schocken)

**ASSIGNMENTS**

*Undergraduate:*

20% Mid-term paper (8-10 pages)

20% Paper to be presented in class (5-7 pages)

25% Class participation

35% Final research paper (15-20 pages)

**Prerequisites:** 60 credit hours

*Graduate:*

Recommended reading for undergraduate students is required reading for graduate students. In addition, graduate students will be asked to write a longer final research paper of 25-30 pages. Distribution of credit will be the same.

V.S. 303-3 MAY BE DESIGNATED AS 3 UPPER DIVISION ENGLISH CREDITS AND V.S. 823-5 MAY BE DESIGNATED AS ENGLISH 402-5 CREDIT, FOR STUDENTS WHO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR THIS FROM THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT.