This course will examine contemporary themes and debates in feminist literary criticism and feminist literary theory. Recognizing these burgeoning fields of feminist scholarship as revolutionary to studies in the Humanities, and particularly, language, literature, and critical theory, this course will provide an overview of significant issues, strategies, and critical reading methodologies developed by feminist critics and theorists, both in relation to literary tradition and to a contemporary context of modernist and postmodernist thought.

Through the study of the writings of North American and French Feminist critics, we will discuss various topics of feminist analysis and its application, including the work of charting a “female tradition” of literature and criticism, defining “feminist” writing, exploring the sexual and racial politics of literary production, and sketching theories and frameworks of interpretation. We will also examine how issues of interest to feminist thought and politics have been addressed in the critical evaluation of literary works. Students will be encouraged to apply the principles and the strategies of critical and theoretical analysis to language and literature of interest to them.

**Required texts:**


Custom courseware package

**Course evaluation:**

- Brief assignment on readings (6 pages) 20%
- Short Analytical Essay (5-7 pages) 20%
- Research Essay (10-12 pages) 30%
- Class presentation on reading 20%
- Participation 10%