WL 103W-3 Pre-Modern Literature: Visions of Love

**Semester:** FALL 2017 (1177)  
**Instructor:** Dr. Azadeh Yamini-Hamedani  
**Location:** Burnaby  
**Course Code:** B-HUM/W

**COURSE DESCRIPTION** What does the wealth of world literature teach us about love? From Plato’s Diotima, who argues that love of the particular can transform into a philosophy of seeing beauty in the world, to Dante’s Beatrice, whose image becomes a heavenly signpost, to Rumi and Hafez’s poetics of love as a religion, we will look into the ways in which love encapsulates the sublime. Exploring the tie between lover and beloved, we will see what happens when love faces social conflict, death and madness, beauty and metamorphosis, the ineffable and the inception of the poetic.

Readings will include Plato’s *Symposium*, Ovid’s “Echo and Narcissus” from the *Metamorphosis*, Dante’s *La Vita Nuova* and the *Divine Comedy*, Guillaume de Lorris and Jean de Meun’s *Romance of the Rose*, Nezami’s *Leyla and Majnun*, along with poetry by Rumi and Hafez.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES** By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Critical thinking and analytical writing skills
- Learning how to close-read
- Writing a thesis paper
- Working on presentation and public speaking skills

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

**ASSIGNMENTS/EVALUATION**

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art Project</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper (1st draft)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper (final draft)</td>
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This course is designated B-HUM and meets the Breadth-Humanities undergraduate degree requirements.

This is a writing intensive (W) course. Students will receive specific guidance on how to craft a written argument. The assignments are designed to teach critical thinking and writing skills that are of use not only in other Humanities courses, but in courses in other disciplines as well.

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