WRTG 3020: Contemporary Women Writers
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Course Description: In this writing course we will examine the under-explored tradition of post-WWII mythological poetry by women. The poets whom we will study (Adrienne Rich, Margaret Atwood, Eavan Boland, Rita Dove, and Anne Carson) engage in cultural politics both by subverting and reaffirming the foundational stories of the Western literary tradition. Greek myths offer some of literature’s strongest and most eloquent female characters, and yet they provide the model for misogynist representations of women in the arts. Post-WWII mythic revision is partly a response to the male high modernist’s (particularly Pound’s and Eliot’s) return to a Greek heroic ideal. The women we will study respond to these sets of texts: the original Greek, the male modernist poets’ interpretations of the myths, and previous mythic revisions by women. They do so in ways that have entered into political and social discourses about literary authority, femininity and masculinity, and oppression and violence. The more recent poets include theoretical questions central to race, post-modern, and age studies. Through your writing and research we will investigate this transatlantic literary dialogue between generations of poets and study the tradition’s centrality to 20th-century literature and feminist theory.

Goals: WRTG 3020 is a course in argumentation that will enhance your understanding of academic writing and give you practice in producing it. You will learn how to:

***identify, evaluate, construct, and organize effective arguments about literature
***distinguish description from analysis and argument
***read critically
***produce a clean, efficient writing style
***recognize that academic writing is dialogic, addresses an audience, and anticipates the thinking, the questions, and the possible objections of readers
***understand writing as an ongoing process that requires multiple drafts and various strategies for developing, revising and editing texts

Materials and Textbooks: For this class you will need:
Adrienne Rich’s Dream of a Common Language
Eavan Boland’s In a Time of Violence
Rita Dove’s Mother Love
Anne Carson’s Autobiography of Red
A course packet of readings available at the CU Bookstore
A folder in which you will submit papers

Daily access to email

Coursework: You will be graded on the following:
Paper I: Paper One (25%)
Paper II: Paper Two (25%)
Paper III: Paper Three (35%)
Reading responses, peer reviews, group work (15%)
Attendance, participation, preparation (10%)

Grades: Your final semester grade will be based on 3 papers, several writing responses, daily assignments/peer reviews, and attendance/participation. Participation is based on how much and how well you contribute to discussions compared with your classmates. Please note that if you consistently fail to fulfill any of the class work assignments, you may fail the course. Do not throw away any drafts, notes, papers or research materials you produce during the semester, until you receive a final grade.

Attendance: You are expected to be punctual, to attend class daily, and to participate in all in-class editing, revising, and discussion sessions. If you have more than five absences you will fail the course. Three tardies count as one absence. Failure to be prepared for class may also be counted as an absence. For
your attendance grade, two absences are a B, three a C, four a D, five an F. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to contact a classmate for the information and assignments you missed.

Format of Final Papers: Peer-reviewed drafts and final drafts of all out-of-class papers must be typewritten. Double space your papers and use 1 inch margins and 12 point font.

Late Assignments and Drafts: Papers, drafts, and other out-of-class assignments will be turned in at the time they are due. Late final drafts turned in one day (24 hr. period) late will receive a loss of a full letter grade, a class day late will be a loss of two letter grades. No work will be accepted more than one class day late. No class work or quizzes can be made up! If you cannot attend class on the date an assignment is due, arrange to have a classmate or friend drop it off during scheduled class time. There is no makeup of in-class work including peer reviews and quizzes.

Scholastic Honesty and Plagiarism: Turning in work that is not your own or any other form of scholastic dishonesty will result in a major course penalty. If any part of a paper up to two sentences is plagiarized, you will receive a zero on the paper with no possibility for a rewrite. If any more than two sentences is plagiarized, you will fail the course and the incident will be reported to the Honors Council. All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include cheating, plagiarism, academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. I will report all incidents of academic misconduct to the Honor Code Council. Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Additional information may be found at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorecode/.

Writing Center: If you want additional help with your writing, the Writing Center (Norlin E-156) is a great place to go to brainstorm ideas, improve your thesis or essay organization, or work on writing skills. You need to make an appointment in advance. Check the Writing Center website for information on hours and services: http://www.colorado.edu/purr/writingcenter.html

Disabilities: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, or www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices.

Religious holidays: Campus policy requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled assignments or required attendance. See policy details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/religion.html.

Sexual harassment: The University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment applies to all students, staff, and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Sexual Harassment at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the OSH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed may be found at http://www.colorado.edu/sexualharassment/.
Dr. Veronica House
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W January 17 Introduction
READ for next class: T.S. Eliot's “Tradition and the Individual Talent” and Adrienne Rich's “When We Dead Awaken: Writing as Re-Vision” — both readings in packet
***think about Rich's view of tradition versus Eliot's

M 22 Opening lecture on High Modernism / Introduction to Adrienne Rich and "Diving into the Wreck"
READ for next class: Rich's Of Woman Born — excerpted chapters in packet; "Homeric Hymn to Demeter" (in packet)

W 24 Discuss reading / Lecture on "Homeric Hymn"
READ for next class: and Dream of a Common Language Parts One and Two

M 29 Discuss Rich Parts One and Two
Close reading assignment on D.C.L. Part Three

W 31 Finish Rich discussion
READ for next class: Odyssey excerpts and Tennyson's "Ulysses" — in packet

M February 5 Lecture on The Odyssey and "Ulysses"
READ for next class: Atwood's "Circe/Mul Poems" — in packet
Close reading assignment

W 7 Atwood discussion
READ excerpts from Ostriker's "Thieves of Language" — in packet

M 12 Finish Atwood discussion
Assign PAPER ONE / writing strategies—revision handout

W 14 questions in class
For next class: Revise draft of paper using revision worksheet
Bring 2 copies of paper to next class

M 19 peer reviews
For next class: Revise draft of paper using revision worksheet and peer comments
Bring 2 copies of paper to next class

W 21 peer reviews
Finish paper revisions (you should do multiple drafts)

M 26: PAPER ONE DUE in class
Introduction to Autobiography of Red
READ for next class: Anne Carson's Autobiography of Red to p. 38

W 28 Discuss Autobiography
Assign Paper Two
READ for next class: Autobiography to p. 107
Choose your topic—begin to find your sources
Bring a typed list of your sources in MLA format to turn in for next class

M March 5 Discuss Autobiography
Help with research and paper questions
READ for next class: finish Autobiography

W 7 Discuss Autobiography
Ask paper questions or work in groups
For next class: Write paper two -- bring 2 copies to next class

M 12 Peer reviews
For next class: revise draft of paper two based on peer comments
bring 2 copies of draft to next class

W 14 Peer reviews
Passive Voice/wordiness worksheet and work with your own papers
For next class: Finish paper two

M 19 PAPER TWO due in class
Finish Autobiography discussion

SPRING BREAK