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ENG 2009G-004: Literature and Human Values; Love, Hate, and Obsession

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English 2009  Literature and Human Values;  Love, Hate, and Obsession

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The aim of this course overall is to introduce you to a wide range of classical and popular literature and film that focuses in some way on the ideas of love, hate, and obsession. As authors and artists tell us, much of our lives, what vexes them, what makes them beautiful, follows from who and what we love, hate, and obsess over; the rest probably follows from the degree to which we are the object of someone else’s love, hatred, and obsession. The books, stories, poems, and plays we’ll read and the films we’ll watch, I hope, will help us understand how this works.

Policies for the course are as follows. I expect regular attendance and will evaluate you on that. I also expect regular participation in class discussion, and will evaluate you on that. I also expect you to keep up with the reading, and will evaluate you on that. During the course of the term, you’ll be turning in a paper about every two weeks, ranging from personal responses to more developed essays. Written work will be evaluated on the basis of both content and expression; your ideas count, as well as your skill with the tools of writing.

Books for the course

Dorothy Allison, *Bastard out of Carolina*
Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*
Angela Carter, *Wise Children*
Jack Kerouac, *On the Road*
Michael Meyer, *Thinking and Writing about Literature*
Toni Morrison, *Beloved*