Spring 1-15-2013

ENG 3903-001: Women, Language and Literature

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English 3903-001: Women, Language and Literature  
Topic: Love/Death in Non-Western Women’s Literature  
Spring 2013

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Office hours: TR 2:00-3:30 p.m. and W 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Course Description:
In this course, we will explore the correlations between love and death in women’s literary works from India, China, and the Middle East. Some of the questions we will discuss include: Are love and death interchangeable terms in these literary works? Do the women characters in these works die assenting to love, or is it the other way round? In other words, does love slash death, or is it slashed by death? Are there any social, religious, and/or psychological factors that compel them to choose death over life? Do transgressions of any kind configure the link between their love and death? What is the nature of their love, or the need for it? How does it inform us about the cultural impact on their life?

Course Requirements:
Active preparation and class-participation – 10%
Mid-term exam – 25%
Final exam – 25%
One research paper, 5-6 pages – 30%
One class-presentation – 10%

Text Required:
Eileen Chung. *The Golden Cangue*
N.J. Dawood, (trans.). *Tales from the Thousand and One Nights*
Anita Desai. *Cry, the Peacock*
Popati Hiranandani. *The Pages of My Life*
Tarif Khalidi, (trans.). *The Qur’an*
Zhang Jie. “Love Must Not Be Forgotten”
Nawal El Saadawi. *Woman at Point Zero*
Hanan Al-Shaykh. *The Story of Zahra*
Arundhati Roy. *The God of Small Things*

Course Policies:
Discussion (participation) is an important component of this course. Your presence in class is important for everyone, but especially for you. Three unexcused absences will bring your final grade down by 1%. Three late appearances equal one unexcused absence.
Papers are due at the beginning of the class on the day they are due. For each day that the paper is late, the letter grade will fall by one full grade: an ‘A’ essay due on Friday will be an ‘F’ by next Thursday. ALWAYS MAKE COPIES AND BACK UP YOUR WORK!

**Plagiarism Policy** (English Department)
Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism – “The appropriation or imitation of the language, of ideas, and/or thoughts of another author and representation of them as one’s own original work” (Random House Dictionary of the English Language) – has the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

**Information for Students with Disabilities**
If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

**Tentative Syllabus.**

**Week 1**
1/8 – Introduction to the course

**Week 2**
1/15 – Nawal El Saadawi’s *Woman at Point Zero* (Please bring Tarif Khalidi’s (trans.) *The Qur’an* to the class)

**Week 3**
1/22 – continued, Hanan Al-Shaykh’s *The Story of Zahra*

**Week 4**
1/29 – continued, N.J. Dawood’s (trans.) *Tales from the Thousand and One Nights*

**Week 5**
2/5 – continued, Review for the midterm exam

**Week 6**
2/12 – Midterm exam
Week 7

2/19 – Zhang Jie’s “Love Must Not Be Forgotten” and Eileen Chung’s *The Golden Cangue*

Week 8

2/26 – continued, Anita Desai’s *Cry, the Peacock*

Week 9

3/5 – continued, Popati Hiranandani’s *The Pages of My Life*

Week 10

3/19 – Conferences for the research paper and class presentation

Week 11

3/26 – Popati Hiranandani’s *The Pages of My Life* (continued), Arundhati Roy’s *The God of Small Things*

Week 12

4/2 – Research paper due at the beginning of class, Arundhati Roy’s *The God of Small Things* (continued)

Week 13

4/9 – continued

Week 14

4/16 – Class presentations

Week 15

4/23 – Theorizing Love/Death in Non-Western Women’s Literature, Review for the final Exam