

## ENGL 3924/WGST 3720

### Women's Literature: Suffrage Now!

Location: LANG 104  
Class Time: M/W 3:30-4:50  
Instructor: Dr. Adriane Bezusko  
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Office: AUSB 114  
Office Hours: M/W/F 11-11:50 or schedule an appointment on Navigate

#### Course Description

In this course we will examine a wide array of women's writing that shaped and was shaped by the suffrage movement in America from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We will discuss how women's intersectional identities influenced narratives of the right to vote as well as the right to work and freedom from marriage.

#### Course Objectives

Students in this course will be able to:

- Identify and define key features of the suffrage movement
- Develop close reading strategies to support analysis and arguments
- Synthesize information between key periods in women's suffrage literature

#### Course Materials

Kate Chopin. *The Awakening* (ISBN: 9780679783336)  
Charlotte Perkins Gilman. *Herland* (ISBN: 9781466318793)  
Fanny Fern. *Ruth Hall* (ISBN: 9781438282688)

Mary Chapman and Angela Mills. *Treacherous Texts: US Suffrage Literature, 1846-1946*. PDF on Canvas. Full text through the library.

#### Grade Scale Breakdown:

A = 90-100%  
B = 80-89.99%  
C = 70-79.99%  
D = 60-69.99%  
F = 59.99% and below

#### Assignment Overview

In-class activities/Quizzes/Discussion:	30%
Close Reading Essay 1:	20%
Close Reading Essay 2:	20%

Final Comparative Essay:	30%
Total	100%

### **In-class activities/Quizzes/Discussion (30% of final grade)**

Students are expected to actively participate in class discussion and collaborative activities. Contributions to discussion will be measured by, among other things, quality of insights, familiarity with the material, responsiveness to the ideas and comments of classmates in both open discussion and small group work, and willingness to take intellectual risks. You should carefully read each day's assignment *before* class ready to respond to the material at hand. Quizzes may be held at the beginning of class

### **2 Close Reading Essays (40%; 20% Each)**

In this essay you will scrutinize a text's internal complexities. Your analysis should strive for a deepened understanding or a nuanced analysis of the text's meaning (by looking at a particular passage, image, symbol or narrative technique). Your paper must make an argument and develop it with textual evidence. This essay should be between 700-1000 words (not including Works Cited entries or identifying information), typed and double-spaced in Times New Roman 12-point font and properly formatted in MLA citation style, quoting your chosen works appropriately. See formal assignment sheet on Canvas.

### **Final (Comparative) Essay (30%)**

In this essay you will develop connections between at least two of the texts that we have covered over the semester. Your essay should develop a thesis-driven argument about what we can learn about suffrage literature. Your essay should be between 1000-1300 words (not including Works Cited entries or identifying information), typed and double-spaced in Times New Roman 12-point font and properly formatted in MLA citation style, quoting your chosen works appropriately. Up to two academic (e.g. published in an academic journal) sources may be used but must be cited correctly in both in-text cites and Works Cited entries. See formal assignment sheet on Canvas.

## **Instructor Policies and Expectations**

### **Participation and Civility:**

We are all members of an academic community where it is our shared responsibility to cultivate a climate where all students/individuals are valued and where both they and their ideas are treated with respect. Therefore, I expect you to conduct yourself in a professional and respectful manner during all online interactions and class--related activities. I expect you to listen to and respect the viewpoints of others, even if you strongly disagree with them. When you do voice disagreement in your writing, do so in a civil manner. Remember that you are accountable for all of your actions in this course, including your submitted work, your grades, and your interactions with me and with other students.

Everyone will have multiple opportunities to participate in class. Participation can be many things, including all of the following:

- Participating actively in small group work, class meetings, and discussions
- Showing attention to others in discussion activities
- Completing assignments on time

## Attendance

We all play a significant role within the culture and learning of the class, and therefore it is important for us all to be in class regularly. **If you are absent for more than four (4) class sessions without making up the equivalent work, your final course grade will be reduced half a letter grade per absence. Seven (7) or more absences can result in failing the course.** Please check in with me [Adriane.bezusko@unt.edu](mailto:Adriane.bezusko@unt.edu) and [deanofstudents@unt.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@unt.edu) if you have an emergency or an extenuating circumstance, so that we can make arrangements.

## Late Policy

In-class activities/Quizzes/Discussion are designed to assess your preparation for class discussion. I will drop two grades in this category to account for general absences or missed readings. You are welcome to complete a 1-page close reading essay for up to 80% for missed or failed activities in this grade category.

Your close reading essays will have a one-day grace period. Essays turned in two days late will receive up to 90%, three days late up to 80%, four days late up to 70%.

Your final comparative essay is due on our scheduled final day and grades are due shortly thereafter. If you have an extenuating circumstance, please reach out to me.

## Using Canvas:

Announcements, discussions, assignments, and grades for this course will all be handled within UNT's CANVAS Learning Management System. You must be able to access CANVAS regularly in order to succeed in this course.

All students have access to CANVAS through their UNT accounts. For more information on using CANVAS, see <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701>. If you have any questions regarding your use of the Canvas learning management system, please contact the student help desk at: Email: [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu), Phone: 940-565-2324.

Please prepare a backup way to access: one of the labs on campus, another computer; the local library.

**Syllabus and Schedule Changes:** Instructors try to make their syllabi as complete as possible. However, during the course of the semester I may be required to alter, add, or abandon certain policies or assignments. Instructors reserve the right to make such changes as they become necessary. Students will be informed of any major changes in writing.

## UNT Policies

### ADA Policy

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable

accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

### **Emergency Notification & Procedures.**

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

### **Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences.**

The UNT Policy Manual defines plagiarism as: “(a) the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement and (b) the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.” (18.1.11). Students in all Freshman Writing courses need to be aware of the strict policies against plagiarism and academic honesty enforced by UNT and by instructors in the Department of English. **All writing must be original**, and all uses of other writer’s material must be acknowledged and clearly cited in any writing submitted for a grade. **If your instructor suspects plagiarism, you will automatically receive a zero on the paper or assignment, and will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity. Your instructor may also require you to meet with them to discuss the suspected plagiarism.**

The consequences for plagiarism at UNT are severe, and may include failure for the course, loss of scholarships, and in some cases dismissal from the university. Please talk with your instructor if you are unsure about whether or not something you are doing in your writing might be identified as plagiarism.

- For more information, please see: <https://vpaa.unt.edu/ss/integrity>

### **Artificial Intelligence AI Technology**

In this course, I want you to engage deeply with the materials and develop your own critical thinking and writing skills. For this reason, the use of generative AI writing tools (such as ChatGPT, GrammarlyGO, GPT-3, GPT-4, BERT, or others) is prohibited in this class. While these tools can be helpful in some contexts, they do not align with our goal of fostering the development of your independent thinking. Using GenAI to complete any part of an assignment, exam, or coursework will be considered a violation of academic integrity, as it prevents the development of your own skills, and will be addressed according to the Student Academic Integrity policy.

<https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003%20Student%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf>

**Course Schedule is Subject to Change**

Please check the reading schedule on Canvas for an up-to-date schedule with page numbers.

Week	Day	Readings
1	8.18	Introductions
	8.21	<i>Treacherous Texts</i>  Part I: Declaring Sentiments, “Introduction” and “Petition for Woman’s Rights” 10-19
2	8.25	Stanton and Douglass, “ <i>Declaration of Sentiments</i> ” and Sojourner Truth \ <i>Speech at Akron, Ohio, Woman’s Rights Convention</i> . 20-25
	8.27	<i>Laura Curtis Christine, Or Woman’s Trials and Triumphs</i> (26-40)