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Required Texts:
William Shakespeare’s *The Taming of the Shrew*, Signet Classics
Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*, Oxford World Classics
Dashiell Hammett’s *The Maltese Falcon*, Vintage
Maxine Hong Kingston’s *The Woman Warrior*, Vintage
Margaret Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale*, Bantam

Course Description:
This class investigates philosophical, mythical and religious origins of sexism and develops the way these create a gendered perspective in all societies. The class analyzes definitions of sexism and implications of biological differences. We will investigate the consequences of sexism and efforts to create alternatives through a study of women and men in the arts (art, music, language, literature and popular media). If nothing else, this class should get you to realize that sexism is perspective.

Final grades will be determined in the following manner:

- Formal Papers: 50%
- Weekly Journals: 20%
- Participation: 30%

Formal Papers:
This category consists of two (2) essays, four to five (5-6) pages long. Essay assignments will be handed out early and must conform to MLA standards (i.e., usage of in-paper citation when quoting). Papers must be handed in on time. One grade will be deducted for every day that a paper is late. I will not accept papers that are more than a week late.

All essays must be typed, double spaced, and have 12 point font. Essays should include a proper heading comprising your name, my name, the name of the course, and the date that the paper is due.

You may revise your first major assignment for a higher grade. I will not take emailed papers.

Weekly Journals:
Students are expected to hand in ten (10) journals, one (1) page long. Journals must be typed and must re-act to the literature we are covering in class. Please remember that summary is not the same as a reaction. Your journal must argue something. Journal topics are open. However, if you are looking for a topic to write about, some questions you could answer in your journals are:
1. What themes do you notice in the readings being covered?
2. What is the argument of a particular short story? Do the characters play a part in the story’s argument?
3. What confused you about the readings? Is the author purposely trying to confuse you?

I will not take emailed journals. Journals are due at the end of each week. I will not accept journals if they are more than 3 days late. Points will be taken off for late work.

**Participation:**

Participation is big and can mean the difference between an “A” and a “C” if you are not careful. Participation is based on how often you choose to comment on the materials being covered. If you cannot verbalize an argument, it will be even tougher to write about one! That being the case, share your ideas! Coming to class is not enough. You need to get involved; discussion is one way to do this.

Participation is also based on attendance. Students are allowed two (2) excused absences. Missing three (3) classes could severely alter your grade. Missing four (4) classes results in automatic failure. Should you need to miss a class, let me know ahead of time. This is a good rule to follow for any class. Also – be sure to come to class on time! Coming to class late also impacts your participation grade.

Finally, participation is also based on whether or not you choose to hand assignments in. It is also based on assignment timeliness.

This syllabus is a binding contract between student and instructor. If you disagree with any aspect of this outline, you should drop the course immediately.

**Weekly Schedule – Students are responsible for the reading on the dates assigned**

Aug. 31st: First Day / Class Introduction / “sexist songs”

Sept. 2nd: sexist songs

Sept. 7th: Labor Day, No class

Sept. 9th: sexist songs

Sept. 14th: sexist songs

Sept. 16th: Shakespeare, Taming, Induction and Act I

Sept. 21st: Shakespeare, Act II and III

Sept. 23rd: Shakespeare, Acts IV and V

Sept. 28th: Yom Kippur, No class
Sept. 30th: No Class

Oct. 5th: Stoker, pgs. 1-53

Oct. 7th: Stoker, pgs. 54-103

Oct. 12th: Stoker, pgs. 103-173

Oct. 14th: Stoker, pgs. 173-254

Oct. 16th: Stoker, pgs. 254-378

Oct 21st: Hammett, pgs. 1-60

Oct. 26th: Hammett, pgs. 61-112

Oct. 28th: Hammett, pgs. 112-150

Nov. 2nd: Hammett, pgs. 150-217

Nov. 4th: Kingston, pgs. 1-16

Nov. 9th: Kingston, pgs. 17-54

Nov. 11th: Veteran’s Day, No class

Nov. 16th: Kingston, pgs. 57-160

Nov. 18th: Kingston, pgs. 163-209

Nov. 23rd: Paper #1 Due

Nov. 25th: Thanksgiving Recess

Nov. 30th: Atwood, pgs. 1-62

Dec. 2nd: Atwood, pgs. 62-132

Dec. 7th: Atwood, pgs. 132-183

Dec. 9th: Atwood, pgs. 183-226

Dec. 14th: Atwood, pgs. 226-293

Dec. 16th: TBA

Dec. 21st: Last Class / Last Paper Due