

# ENGL 208 - INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S WRITING

## SPRING 2023

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*Portrait of Virginia Woolf" by Gisèle Freund*

### **Course Description**

English 208 studies texts by women writers from a range of time periods and samples many kinds of writing: prose fiction, nonfiction, poetry, drama, and graphic literature. We will consider a number of interrelated issues: What does it mean to be a woman according to this text, this writer, this era, this cultural context? How does gender enable, hinder, or define the work of the writer? What subject matter does the writer address and with what intimacy or authority? How does the writer conceive of and represent space, time, and history? Should (and how) can we reconceptualize the category of “women writers” to include queer authors? In this course, we will explore gender as one among multiple intersecting and interacting social, cultural, and economic identities.

### **Proposed Texts:**

Readings will include prose fiction by Toni Morrison, Jean Rhys, Hisaye Yamamoto, Margaret Atwood, Miriam Toews, and Carmen Maria Machado; plays by Susan Glaspell; poetry by Emily Dickinson, Sylvia Plath, Joy Harjo, and Audre Lorde; graphic literature by Jillian Tamaki and Marjane Satrapi; and selected criticism, theory, and commentary by women theorists, critics, creative writers, and performance artists including Alicia Elliott, Virginia Woolf, Judith Butler, Luce Irigaray, Laura Mulvey, Simone Weil, and Annie Sprinkle.

### **Proposed Assignments:**

Two essays; Four reading reports; Final exam