English 471:  
Modern Women’s Fiction, British and Irish  
Winter 2021

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Course Description:  
The turn of the twentieth century was a turning point for women’s writing. This was also a time of 
great social change, and women writers held vastly different views of the changes happening 
around them. Some actively campaigned for greater equality of opportunity; others did not. Some 
tried to write in new, experimental styles; others did not. As more and more women started writing 
and publishing, women’s writing became more and more varied. This course aims to show some of 
that variety. We will read authors who write about very different types of female experience. They 
write about women of different backgrounds, different ages, and different sexual orientations; they 
focus upon different problems, and propose different solutions to those problems. They do not 
come together into one harmonious whole but show us a dazzling variety of perspectives and 
voices.

Proposed Assignments:  
- short essay
• midterm test
• research paper
• final exam

**Proposed Authors:**
• May Sinclair
• Virginia Woolf
• Elizabeth Bowen
• Radclyffe Hall
• Djuna Barnes
• Jean Rhys
• Sylvia Townsend Warner