

Contemporary Women's Writing HL3024
Lecturer: Dr Wernmei Yong Ade
Semester 2 AY 2019-2020

The goal of this course is to promote critical engagement with, and appreciation of, the works of women writers of fiction post-1970. To this end, this course explores a range of contemporary women's writing, primarily focusing on these texts as exemplary of "women's writing". We will thus be dealing with the politics of gender identity, female desire, sexuality, and how these intersect with class, race, nation and other ideological formations. We will also address the texts as exemplary of contemporary writing, dealing with narrative language and structure, new experimental forms of writing, postmodern reality, as well as the construction of the shattered/ split postmodern subject.

Course Schedule:

Wk	Texts
Week 1	Muriel Spark, <i>The Driver's Seat</i>
Week 2	Toni Morrison, <i>Sula</i>
Week 3	Elfriede Jelinek, <i>The Piano Teacher</i>
Week 4	Fairy Tales Re-visioned I Angela Carter, <i>The Bloody Chamber</i> Emma Donoghue, <i>Kissing the Witch</i> Anne Sexton, <i>Transformations</i>
Week 5	Fairy Tales Re-visioned II Angela Carter, <i>The Bloody Chamber</i> Emma Donoghue, <i>Kissing the Witch</i> Anne Sexton, <i>Transformations</i>
Week 6	Jeanette Winterson, <i>Written on the Body</i>
Week 7	Amanda Lee Koe, <i>Ministry of Moral Panic</i>
Week 8	RECESS WEEK
Week 9	Jessica Hagedorn, <i>Dogeaters</i>

Wk	Texts
Week 10	Bernadine Evaristo, <i>Girl, Woman, Other</i>
Week 11	Sharnush Parsipur, <i>Women Without Men</i>
Week 12	Han Kang, <i>The Vegetarian</i>
Week 13	Overview and Exam Briefing

Method of Instruction

3-hour seminar

Student Assessment

2,800 – 3,000 word term essay: 40%

Class participation: 10%

Closed-book examination: 50%

Core texts to purchase:

Note: the NTU bookstore will not stock these texts. You will have to purchase them on your own. I highly recommend Book Depository. They do take at least two weeks to deliver so please place your orders early.

Angela Carter, *The Bloody Chamber*

Muriel Spark, *The Driver's Seat*,

Emma Donoghue, *Kissing the Witch*

Elfriede Jelinek, *The Piano Teacher*

Toni Morrison, *Sula*

Jessica Hagedorn, *Dogeaters*

Jeanette Winterson, *Written on the Body*

Bernadine Evaristo, *Girl, Woman, Other*

Amanda Lee Koe, *Ministry of Moral Panic*

Han Kang, *The Vegetarian*