This sample unit outline is provided by CHC for prospective and current students to assist with unit selection.

Elements of this outline which may change with subsequent offerings of the unit include Content, Required Texts, Recommended Readings and details of the Assessment Tasks.

Students who are currently enrolled in this unit should obtain the outline for the relevant semester from the unit lecturer.
Unit Name | Women Writers
---|---
Unit Code | EL275
Awards | Bachelor of Education (Secondary) - English teaching area  
Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Education (Secondary) - English major
This unit is able to be undertaken towards other CHC awards according to course rules and the meeting of prerequisite requirements, as applicable.
Core/Elective | Elective
Prerequisite | 20 credit points of 100-level EL units
Mode | Internal
Delivery/Contact hrs | Class contact 33 hours  
Engagement with unit materials 44 hours  
Assignment preparation 63 hours  
Total 140 hours
Unit Rationale | The study of women’s writing and of women writers, from its beginnings in Classical Greece to its varied forms in the late twentieth century, reveals some basic differences between male and female writers in relation to the subjects they choose and the styles in which they write. Because the disciplines of literary history and literary criticism have been largely male dominated and have in the main failed to recognise women writers and women readers as legitimate participants in the writing and reading processes, feminist literary historians and critics have seen women’s writing as a political process because it is affected by both a theory of literature and a theory of society. Feminist criticism has therefore been strident in its defence of women’s writing as a form of literature equally as important and as aesthetically skilled as that of men.
This unit will provide students with knowledge and understanding of women’s writing and of women writers and women readers from historical, literary, philosophical and theological viewpoints. The women writers who will be studied in some depth span the periods from the nineteenth century through to the present day, and will include poets and Australasian writers. This unit will give students knowledge not only of what quality texts are available for female readers, but how women write and how their texts appeal (or do not appeal) to different sorts of readers.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this unit, students will have provided evidence that they have:

1. Discussed the historical development of women’s writing in the Western world.
2. Understood the difficulties that women writers and women readers have experienced in the area of literature.
3. Appreciated the emphases and basic tenets of feminist literary history and criticism, and considered the possibility of a Christian approach to these disciplines.
4. Discussed significant themes, issues, concerns and approaches among women writers.
5. Reflected on the contribution of women writers to various genres.
6. Analysed in some depth the works of specific women writers.
7. Written at an appropriate tertiary standard (with special attention to correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, usage, sentence structure, logical relations, style, referencing and presentation).
Content:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>The nature and history of women’s writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Women as Writers and Women as Readers</td>
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<td>4-6</td>
<td>19th century women writers</td>
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<td>7-8</td>
<td>Women Poets</td>
</tr>
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<td>9-10</td>
<td>Australian women novelists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Women playwrights</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Christian women writers</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Set Text Requirements:

- Bronte, C Jane Eyre (any edition).

Recommended Readings:


Assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
<th>Topic/s</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes assessed</th>
<th>Week Due</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Paper (1000 words)</td>
<td>A paper dealing with the nature of women’s writing</td>
<td>1-5, 7</td>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper (1500 words)</td>
<td>Term Paper on a topic to be negotiated between the lecturer and student</td>
<td>1, 4, 6-7</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment (2000 words)</td>
<td>A critical review of the contributions made by Australian women writers</td>
<td>1-7</td>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Unit Overview:

This unit approaches the subject of women’s writing (and, consequently, women’s reading) from historical, literary, philosophical and theological viewpoints through an examination of the history of women writers’ struggles to gain recognition from the male literary establishment; and through an analysis of women’s writing - its genres, styles, plots, themes, characterisations. In addition, it encourages reflection on how the writing of women (and the reading of women) differs from men’s writing and reading. At the same time, the students will be expected to reflect on and discuss the dominant philosophy behind today’s women’s writing (feminism) and to speculate on the formulation of a feminine Christian literary theory.