

**Name of the Course: Gender Issues in the Literature of the Early Twentieth Century**

**Lecturer's Name: Ron Ben-Tovim**

**Office Hours:** Thursday 16-17

**Course Description:** The early twentieth century proved to be a watershed moment for change in the West, ushering the formation of the modern world. Increased industrialization, the aftermath of World War I, the waning of Empire, and a new stress on women's and minorities' rights all left an indelible mark on the English-speaking world. In our readings this semester we will study how those sudden changes also brought on a new understanding of gender, gender roles, and genders expectations. Readings will include literary and theoretical texts, both contemporary to the period as well as those grappling with the ongoing discussion of gender in our time.

**Keywords:** Modernism, Gender Studies, Virginia Woolf, Ernest Hemingway, African American Literature, Zora Neale Hurston

### **Reading List**

Virginia Woolf, *Jacob's Room*

Ernest Hemingway, *A Farewell to Arms*

Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

*The list is subject to change, further critical readings will be assigned during the course.*

### **Course Requirements**

Five Short Responses - 20%

Midterm Assignment - 30%

Final Exam - 50%

## **Schedule**

1.3 Introduction: Into the World

4.3 Gender and the Signifier

8.3 Wilde and Freud

11.3 Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper"

15.3 "The Yellow Wallpaper"

18.3 James Joyce, "A Mother"

22.3 HD, "The Wise Sappho," and selections from "Notes on Thought and Vision"

25.3 Kathrine Mansfield, "Bliss," "The Man Without Temperament"

**29.3 Passover Break**

**1.4 Passover Break**

5.4 Mansfield, Introduction to Woolf

8.4 Virginia Woolf, *Jacob's Room*

12.4 **15.4 Independence Day**

19.4 *Jacob's Room*

22.4 *Jacob's Room*

26.4 *Jacob's Room*

29.4 Gertrude Stein, "Melanchta"

3.5 "Melanchta"

6.5 Ernest Heminway, *A Farewell to Arms*

10.5 *A Farewell to Arms*

13.5 *A Farewell to Arms*

**17.5 Shavuot Break**

20.5 *A Farewell to Arms*

24.5 *A Farewell to Arms*

27.5 Select Poetry

31.5 Zola Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

3.6 *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

7.6 *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

10.6 *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

14.6 *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

17.6 **Conclusion**